

Subject: Re: SVCA Financial Plan Input

Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2003 20:16:41 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

CC: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Bill Maurer <billm@millsoft.ca>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Eric Andersen <eric_g_andersen@hotmail.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>, Pat Higgs <patroberta@telus.net>, Bill Tracey <wrtracey@telus.net>

Hi Liz - I agree that the SVCA's budget submission is excellent. The photos in particular really work to clearly identify the problem. A few of the requests, however, like the sidewalk repairs and hedge trimming (but excluding the relocation of the power poles) is really just general maintenance outside of the Capital Budget. I have on several occasions over the years simply called or e-mailed Engineering on behalf of the Edgemont Community Association and requested that over grown shubbery be cut back from sidewalks or roadsides. In the case of trails I just notify the Parks Department. In each instance the work was completed in a day or so. Municipal maintenance crews rely on community associations to assist them in identifying throughout the year particular locations that require work.

The SVCA's ideas for better communication between the District and the CA's is well thought out. But again, some of the suggested procedure already exists. For example, from the Edgemont Community Association's perspective, anything that is proposed in Upper Capilano -- from redevelopment to engineering projects -- we are notified about. If I need something from Planning I call Susan Stratis (who is assigned to this area), if it is Engineering I call Dan Mooney, if it's a Parks' issue then I call Susan Rogers. If this communication does not exist, then the CA's must strive to impress upon DNV staff that notification and consultation is of benefit to all involved. CA's can't always expect everything to fall into their laps, because any group can quickly form-up and call themselves a community association with overlapping boundaries of other associations. In fairness to Staff, one can't always blame them if they overlook an association.

As for the Budget process, any requests from associations at this stage I fear is a waste of time. With a Draft Budget in place there is very little room for maneuvering. The ECA provided its input in early September when we received a letter from Planning which identified certain items as priorities for Capilano. Most items, unless absolutely vital, usually have to sit in the "unfunded list" for years before advancing to the list of funded items.

Having noted all of the above I certainly agree that improvements can be made to how CA's can provide input and the SVCA has provided an excellent framework.

I'll respond to your question about the OCP process and what has taken place in Delbrook in a separate e-mail so that I do not compromise the rules pertaining to a closed public hearing (with Ernie and FONVCA on the list).

-Brian

Elizabeth James wrote:

Dear Clr. Crist, Bill Maurer and Brian Platts:

This is good stuff!

To add to your comments.....I was told the other day that BOSA is looking at some multi-family re-development in the Delbrook area. That would be in addition to what is going on at Edgemont Terrace. What happened to the slow/no growth concept?

Brian...could you tell me when the Edgemont OCP was (a) completed; and (b) last reviewed?

Thx to all

Liz

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

Hello Bill:

Good work and congratulations. SVCA has come a long way. Your ideas should be incorporated into the strategic planning process conducted by our new CAO. I too am working on the major issues. Also, it should be raised with FONVCA when we meet. On the whole the role of community associations has to be enhanced and elevated. FONVCA itself should press for it. If this does not happen the pro development forces will take over. They are waiting to make their move. At stake is the whole concept of neighborhood and community driven development. It is either

moving forward or stand to lose all the gains that make us unique.

You were supposed to give me some drawings re advertising boards or am I mistaken? That too is important because they want to open the door to street signs unlimited.

Ernie

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Maurer [<mailto:billm@millsoft.ca>]

Sent: December 4, 2003 5:58 AM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV; Lindsay Hoeberechts; Rick Danyluk; Charlene Grant; Irwin Torry; Richard Zerr

Cc: SVCA Directors

Subject: SVCA Financial Plan Input

Here is the electronic copy of the SVCA input to last night's Financial Plan Public Hearing.

Some additional links:

- [SVCA 2004 Budget Request](#)
- [SVCA Web site](#)

If you have any further questions, I can be reached at 604-789-2172 or billm@millsoft.ca

Regards,

Bill Maurer
co-chair SVCA

My name is Bill Maurer. I have been co-chair of the Seymour Valley Community Association for the last 2 years. I'd like to explain how our community association has been making funding requests, how well this has worked, and to make suggestions for how it can be improved.

We sent our first funding request to the planning department in September 2002 in the form of an email. This was simply a list of 15 projects which we wanted to see undertaken and funded. Three of these projects have been completed. The status of the remaining ones is unknown.

Our current funding request to "Mayor and Council" and the planning department was sent last month. This was sent as an email and provides more detail about each project for which funding is being requested. We have also added digital photographs to provide further information about each project. The new request contains 9 items which were in last year's request as well as 2 new items.

The process we are using to date is completely informal and has provided us with mixed results.

Here are some suggested changes which would greatly enhance the way community associations both communicate with planning and request funding.

1. Provide a single point of contact in the planning department who acts as the district's representative for each community association. In our case this seems to be in place at an informal level but it would be much clearer if this was formalized and published. Anyone should be able to phone the District and ask for the SVCA's district rep and reception should know who this person is.

2. Schedule quarterly meetings with community associations to review project status and/or introduce new projects. Projects may or may not have a financial impact.

3. Assign the planning department as the primary interface to finance. It is assumed that the majority of community association requests fit within existing district budget parameters and would never show up directly as items in the District Financial Plan. Planning would provide finance with a detailed budget for projects which reach that stage. Community associations will generally not be in a position to assign dollar amounts to projects since district staff and resources normally implement them.

4. Provide timely feedback to requests made by community associations. A community association needs to be aware of how the district views each of its project requests. This includes such things as expected start / completion dates, expected costs, detailed plans / drawings, and project disposition.

5. Work with local community associations on all community related issues. Planning occasionally receives requests from residents directly as a result of an issue or problem they have with streets, lighting, traffic, noise, etc. Planners should inform the local community association of such requests and enable the community association to provide input/feedback on the solution. The local community association will often be aware of additional factors which may impact the best solution to an issue and should have input on priorities. It would help if community associations were cc'd on community related requests from residents for additional services / improvements.

6. Formalize and document the process by which community associations interact with the district. Once this process has been established document it and place it in the community association section of the DNV web site.

We have recently revised the format of the Seymour Valley Community Association website (seymourvalley.ca) to better enhance the visibility and documentation of projects. We used to have a section called Issues which was really a mix of committees and projects. These have now been split into 2 categories. The primary difference between a project and committee is that a project has a specific goal and a start and completion date. Committees are ongoing and are charged with a given problem domain. They typically monitor the situation and propose solutions as problems arise.

There is substantial amount of roadwork being undertaken on Riverside Drive which the community association never seems to be informed of in advance and often degrades the road surface. Recently BC Gas has replaced a section of pipe between the 1700 and 1900 block of Riverside. They have closed this with an extremely uneven section of pavement which appears to be a temporary patch. Will they be repaving this section of road? When will they apply a permanent patch? Is anyone at the district monitoring this? Enabling community associations to better monitor damage done to road surfaces by external agencies will make it much less likely that the district and property tax payers will be on the hook for their eventual repair.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide this feedback. We are willing to provide our community as a model to assist you in developing this process should you require it. Visit our community association website at SeymourValley.ca to see details of the projects we are currently working on.

Want to chat instantly with your online friends? [Get the FREE Yahoo! Messenger](#)