

Subject: RE: SVCA Financial Plan Input

Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2003 09:05:07 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Bill Maurer" <billm@millsoft.ca>

CC: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

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 <<http://seymourvalley.ca/Budgets/Budget2004.pdf>> Request

* SVCA Web <<http://seymourvalley.ca>> 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.



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