

COWICHAN STATION AREA ASSOCIATION
Special DIRECTORS' MEETING
Minutes
MAY 6, 2009

ATTENDEES: Gwen, Angela, Anthea, Sarah, Patty, Guy, Jeannie, Kevin, Alison, Madelaine
GUEST ATTENDEE: Brenda Campbell

Meeting called to order at 5:00. Kevin Logan Chaired.

Call for round table comments on Monday's CVRD community visioning meeting

Guy

- Dismayed at heavy CVRD administration at meeting (included Brian Farquar, 3 Parks and Rec people, Warren Jones, Ron Smith, Loren Duncan)
- Less chance of CSAA ideas being presented

Patty

- Believes that Lorne's options are limited because he needs communities support
- Sees 2 scenerios for site – one for community hub with a vision towards seniors; the other is an independent school taking over the site thus retaining the site as a school

Sarah

- Extremely upset by the meeting; felt calling undermined our efforts
- The Community's interest was given to the CVRD in November 2007; we should have first right to site's purpose
- Sees site for a community hub
- Would like SD 79 out of property and we control use
- No to housing; yes to use for programs

Brenda

- Introduction: former Area F resident; now resident on Bench
- Believes more important to share long term goals than structure for immediate use
- Suggest letter contact direct to SD 79; 10 year lease?
- Or to CVRD with proposal as presented where CSAA gets lease

Anthea

- Feels that CVRD backed the meeting, but CSAA took control
- Frustrated by apparent lack of communication
- Need to open lines of communication

Angela

- Very disappointed in comments that we shouldn't have expected a reply to our letter to the Ministry of Education
- The meeting was without any consultation with CSAA; need to move on!
- Day care may not be an option because it means that no one else can access the site due to security concerns with children

Alison

- Offended by comments made by Lorne; felt meeting was counter-effective
- CVRD went over us (CSAA) and led the meeting
- Agreed we need to move on and work with CVRD
- Feels next step is direct contact with SD 79 include them in open dialogue
- Has condensed information as provided by Madelaine's notes as well as CVRD notes;
- Options are tied to what SD 79 would entertain; what they expect and what is important to do

Gwen

- Gave example of how they used engineer input from two sources when considering heritage designation for the Duncan Garage
- Went to a second source when initial's vision didn't fit what they were looking for

Jeannie

- In agreement with all previous comments
- Agrees with Patty that if school, than only independent (not "state school")
- Likes a set up used in Brentwood; Saanich through Habitat where all building is done "green"; volunteers used; and through a charitable organization.

Madelaine

- Did not attend meeting because felt community views were being dismissed for one tenant
- Frustrated that CSAA was not included in discussions with tenant, even though over 1 year ago Social Planning Cowichan was invited to present to the CSAA because of lack of childcare spaces in the Cowichan Valley; seemed a logical fit at the time
- Agrees with Brenda's fresh eyes that we need to present directly to SD 79 (new board; perhaps new visions); suggested a motion be made to write a letter to SD 79 of our community interest in site as community hub
- Reminded group of numerous grant opportunities available, although many tied to operational schools

Kevin

- Need to remind CVRD that our interest in the site was brought forward long before this proposed tenant; the CSAA was created to pursue the site
- CVRD has no mandate or influence with SD 79 and we need to secure our position with them (SD 79)

- Suggested we include in the letter the work the CSAA has accomplished (OCP and rezoning) as well as a copy of our letter to the Minister
- Reminder that the repeated suggestion by Lorne that operation of the site is a huge financial burden is not an obstacle as there is funding available, although it might limit opportunities

MOTION: by Alison

That the CSAA write a letter to SD 79 stating our interest in exploring opportunities for using the school site for community use; and want to sit down to discuss ideas. We will invite the CVRD to the meetings with us. Include in letter work that this is a follow up to our November meeting; March letter to the Ministry; and work already done

Second letter to CVRD inviting CVRD to join us in any meetings on the site with SD 79

SECONDED: Sarah CARRIED

Some discussion followed about perhaps some informal contact with the Board with respect to how to proceed with our request. It was recommended that all meetings and discussions about the site be open and transparent to all parties.

Letter to SD 79 to be copied to

Loren Duncan, CVRD Area E director; Ron Austin CVRD Administrator, Brian Farhquar Parks and Rec; Shirley Bond Min of Ed; Ida Chong, ; John Horgan, MLA, Ann Anderson, Chair SD 79