

## **Meeting between BBCMUG and VPB managers**

October 17, 2012, 2-3 PM

Attendees Present:

**VPB:** Malcolm Bromley (MB), Peter Kuran (PK), Gordon Barber (GB)

**BBCMUG:** Chris Holmes, Sean Smith, Mark Petriw, Maria Petriw, JC d'Almeida, Zenon Samila

Malcolm Bromley opened by stating that the various concerns can be categorized into three main groupings:

1. Safety issues (& money required to deal with them)
2. Fees and policies
3. Communications issues

Malcolm Bromley had to leave shortly afterwards.

Sean Smith presented a revised list of the issues (22 points total), and suggested this list should be a working document that allows us to focus on issues, and that we can re-visit it in future meetings and tick off items as they are resolved. Chris Holmes presented an addendum of several more points to this list, and explained several of the items, including that an individual or company seems to be receiving several advantages at the expense of the Users.

Chris Holmes also offered to supply the collection of historical documents researched from the Archives, as they reveal several previous policies and decisions which have led to the situation today. Some of these have been scanned to PDF format. PK indicated they would be interested to receive these.

PK stated that so far VPB has received some 130 responses to the online survey, which closes soon. Once this is done, they will compile these results and share them with us, and use the survey results, as well as our list of concerns, to help frame some priorities.

PK also stated that VPB currently has \$100,000 which can be devoted to capital repairs, and is seeking direction on where this money should be best used.

GB stated that some \$1.3 million has been spent on maintenance over the last 6 years, but is working on getting a more complete breakdown of where the money was spent. PK is also gathering more detailed finances (annual revenues and expenditures) which will be shared with us when available.

PK said the next Capital Plan is due in 2014, and the time to start working on putting forward a case for making sure BBCM gets its fair share is now.

Chris Holmes asked some questions about why can BBCM not have access to, or become an asset of, the Public Endowment Fund (PEF), similar to Heather Marina, which seems to enjoy a regular source of funding for capital improvements through the PEF, while records show that back in the early 1980's the VPB had to beg 4 times for a loan from the PEF to fund the major replacement project of the time. PK's

response was twofold – firstly that VPB can fund any major replacement project as it likes without the need to resort to the PEF, and secondly, that as BBCM is a major money-maker for VPB, and supports the equivalent of two community centres, no VPB commissioner would ever vote to allow BBCM to be taken out of the VPB fold and moved to the PEF.

“Vision” reports – there was a discussion of the history of several attempts to “vision” BBCM, and what ever happened to these reports, which were done at great cost. GB had a copy of a report prepared in 2000, by Lauga & Associates. Pending approval from Lauga, they will share this with us, and say it has many good ideas in it. A visioning process which was voted approval in Sept 2008, and allocated \$100,000, was never undertaken, due to the closure of the Esso gas dock shortly thereafter, and which diverted VPB efforts into finding a replacement for it. Other conjecture that Mike LeBrun commissioned other “visioning” reports, for amounts less than \$50,000, may be in doubt – some further research to prove or disprove may be necessary.

GB stated that VPB has e-mails for over 90% of the Users, and will continue to endeavour to use this method for communicating to the Users at large.

GB also stated that there are no outstanding safety issues regarding the shut-down of water hoses for fire safety over the winter, as the Fire Department can rapidly “charge” the system upon arrival. However, some clarification on the policies for winter fire safety might be a good item to communicate to all Users.

**Action items:**

**BBCMUG** to categorize our list of issues in terms of the three main groupings suggested by MB, and in order of importance.

**VPB:** Will compile results of survey, and aims to finalize a list of issues and priorities in conjunction with BBCMUG’s list. MB will begin to put dollar costs on several of these items. Discussion of items on a point-by-point basis will commence at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** VPB managers to offer potential timeslots for another meeting in about two weeks time.