

HAZELTON'S REGIONAL COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

The Minutes of the Hazelton' Regional Community to Community Forum held on the 12th day of March, 2009, at the St. Peter's Anglican Church at 4:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Alice Maitland, Village of Hazelton
Kelly Mattson, Administrator, Village of Hazelton
Francine Lawlor, Administrative Assistant, Village of Hazelton
Nick Marshall, Councillor, Village of Hazelton
Wendy Blackstock, Councillor, Village of Hazelton
Shirley Muldon, Councillor, Village of Hazelton
Doug Donaldson, Councillor, Village of Hazelton
Gail MacDonald, Facilitator, Village of Hazelton
Jacob Beaton, Coppermoon Consulting, Guest Speaker
Marjorie McRae, Chief Councillor, Gitanmaax Band
Richard Wright, Councillor, Gitanmaax Band
Brian Fassnidge, Administrator, District of New Hazelton
Pete Weeber, Mayor, District of New Hazelton
George Burns, Councillor, District of New Hazelton
Mike Weeber, Councillor, District of New Hazelton
Braunwyn Henwood, Councillor, District of New Hazelton
Lucy Gagnon, Band Manager, Moricetown Band
Adella Saul, Band Councillor, Gitwangak
Bob Marcellin, Administrator, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
Melanie Sondergaard, Director, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
Andrew Weeber, Manager Development Services, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine

1. CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Facilitator Gail MacDonald called the Regional Community to Community Forum to order.

Councillor Mike Weeber, District of New Hazelton, did the opening prayer.

2. PART ONE - ROUND TABLE - 2009 UPDATE

A) District of New Hazelton:

Pete Weeber, Mayor, spoke on their behalf, regarding the following:

- Trail Program:
 - ✓ There are many local, historic trails in our area.
 - ✓ They are having an engineer come in and survey the area so that they can complete upgrades to the local trails in their district.
 - ✓ Long term goal is to be the "Trail capital of the World".
 - ✓ Their looking for funding to keep the trails well-maintained and have signs created to identify each trail.

- New Fitness Center (old curling arena):
 - ✓ Building is being converted into a fitness center.
 - ✓ Hope to be up and running in the next couple of weeks.
 - ✓ Will have exercise equipment, card tables, and a gathering area.
 - ✓ Have engineers coming in to assess the facility
 - ✓ Goal: to be 100% operational within two years.
- Youth Drop-In Center:
 - ✓ Building open to youth ages 7-17 years old.
- Skateboard/Bike Park:
 - ✓ Have a Committee in place and will begin construction in April
 - ✓ Grand opening in the next couple of months.
 - ✓ Park is available for use for all Hazelton area residents.
- Water / Sewer Upgrade Program:
 - ✓ Wanting to upgrade/expand their current system.
 - ✓ Looking into infrastructure grants.

B) Gitanmaax Band:

Marjorie McRae, Chief Councillor, and Richard Wright, Councillor, spoke on their behalf, regarding the following:

- Economic Development / Infrastructure:
 - ✓ New Staffing Structure
 - ✓ What they are working on will benefit surrounding communities as well as their own
 - ✓ Many grants/proposals are available.
 - ✓ Researching Tourism, Forestry, and Mining (creating training opportunities to employ members – job creation/skills).
 - ✓ Possibility of hiring a General Manager for proposal writing (research short and long term objectives).
 - ✓ Old BC Hydro building is going to be used as the Gitanmaax Economic Development office.
 - ✓ Multiplex Shop is being finalized, blueprints are complete:
 - location...lot across from Gitanmaax Gas Bar.
 - building will be a “one stop shop”; located in building will be Gitanmaax Health Station, Band Office, Daycare Center, Elders Room, Coffee Shop. There are store front areas still available.
 - Department of Indian Affairs (Canada) has classified as a commercial building.
- Main focus is Economic Development and moving forward as a community; have created many opportunities for their members (ex. Bridges to Success program, going onto its second intake, program to help members further their skills to make them employable).
- Surplus in Social Development is being saved to create programs to benefits members.

- Community Recreation Center (Ice Arena)
 - ✓ A DVD is being created as a marketing tool for the arena.
 - Newsletters/website should be created also.

C) **Village of Hazelton:**

Alice Maitland, Mayor, spoke on their behalf, regarding the following:

- Clifford-Omineca Storm Street Sewer, Street and Sidewalk renewal project:
 - ✓ Tendered in March 2009 and construction to follow
- Flood Protection – Extension of Northeast End of Dike:
 - ✓ Design and work plan in-progress.
- Eagle Down Trail:
 - ✓ Mule Pack Train trail section to be completed this spring.
 - ✓ Discussion on having “mule” statues placed along trail.
- Tourism:
 - ✓ New Highway 16 and entrance to Village core signage being created.
 - ✓ Area tourism strategic plan – assist K’san Association with grant writing / financial grant in aid.
- Community Recreation Center (Ice Arena):
 - ✓ Governance Feasibility study / Plan in progress
 - ✓ Appears to be everyone’s number one concern, we all need to work together on addressing this issue, as it benefits all communities in our area.
- Economic Development:
 - ✓ Senden Property Feasibility study.
 - ✓ Field to Cafeteria Food Program.
 - ✓ Reviewing the Integrating Approach; Senden Marketing Analysis /Business Plan.
- Bus/RV Pullout: on this side of the Hagwilget Bridge; working together with Gitanmaax Band on this project. Possibility of a boat launch project with Gitanmaax Band also.
- Hazeltons’ Measuring Up the North project – wheelchair viewing platform at arena, community services / volunteer directory.
- Fitness Fury Program (Skeena Steamers):
 - ✓ Hazelton Running Club; Joanne Clifford is supervisor.
 - ✓ Main Event to be held in June with Mule Pack Train Trail Section Grand Opening
- 2010 Olympic Torch Relay:
 - ✓ Community Committee to be struck
 - ✓ Meeting needs to be arranged to discuss having the torch travel through the Hazeltons.
- Gitanmaax / Hazelton Water Treatment Plan Upgrade:
 - ✓ Work with Gitanmaax to revisit scope of project and maintenance issues.
- Expansion of Fire Protection to Regional District of Kitimat Stikine unincorporated areas:

- ✓ Meetings are taking place to clarify which departments are responsible for emergency services in unincorporated areas.
- ✓ Interim Agreement in progress

Main concerns/issues or challenges for 2009 include New Community Recreation Center, successfully obtaining grants for future continuing infrastructure needs, coordinating infrastructure projects in community. Challenge: working with other organizations who also have limited resources.

D) Moricetown Band:

Lucy Gagnon, Band Manager, spoke on their behalf, regarding the following:

- Trauma Training:
 - ✓ Has been very beneficial for locals.
 - Infrastructure:
 - ✓ Priority is paving community roads.
 - Housing:
 - ✓ Large issue, as limited funding.
 - ✓ Mold is a continuous problem.
 - Band Employment:
 - ✓ 80 persons employed overall though Band, 88% are local members.
 - Youth:
 - ✓ Have many programs/activities taking place.
- *With a population of 650 on reserve members, 200 are under the age of 18.
- Drugs & Alcohol:
 - ✓ Still problems in community; concerns with types of drugs being used.
 - Economic Development:
 - ✓ RV Park: needing upgrades, Gas Bar, Tourism, 10% shareholders at Houston Pulp Mill.
 - ✓ Working towards building own Pulp Mill (plant).
 - ✓ Old Community Hall is currently being renovated, received funds through Service Canada.
 - ✓ 911 service: is working well in community.

E) Regional District of Kitimat Stikine:

Melanie Sondergaard, Electoral Area B Director, spoke on their behalf, regarding the following:

- Hazeltons Fire District (fire/water protection plan).
- South Hazelton Water System Upgrade:
 - ✓ High priority.
 - ✓ Finances (money/grants) are in place.
 - ✓ Environmental assessment has been completed.
 - ✓ Have tendered a few times, hoping for a spring start.
- Transportation:
 - ✓ Hazelton/Regional District Transit.

- ✓ Finances/sustainability.
- Hazelton's Land Fill Site:
 - ✓ In 1995 landfill/waste site, was environmentally sound site.
 - ✓ Proposing Kitwanga site be closed, and just be a drop site.
 - ✓ Solid Waste Planning Committee has been developed.
- Community Recreation Center (Ice Arena):
 - ✓ High Priority.
 - ✓ \$55,000 grant-in-aid is provided yearly.
 - ✓ Working with District of New Hazelton and Village of Hazelton on Feasibility Study and Business Plan.
- Two-Mile Water & Sewer.
- Tourism:
 - ✓ Need to create a strategy for the Hazeltons'.
 - ✓ K'san is an issue that needs to be addressed by all communities.
 - ✓ Andrew Webber, Manager Development Services, offers Strategic Planning assistance to communities. Works with Northern Tourism BC to create opportunities. Has recently completed a brochure for local tourism destinations (joint ventures).
- Main concerns are a consensus to work together with all communities to address all common concerns, and find funding to complete all local projects.

F) **Gitwangak Band:**

Adella Saul, Band Councillor, spoke on their behalf, regarding the following:

- Sewer project:
 - ✓ Scheduled to start April/May 2009.
- Trails:
 - ✓ Project being proposed. Many chiefs are involved as archeological artifacts are surfacing.
- Education Center:
 - ✓ Many programs running.
- Heritage Building:
 - ✓ Has been left unfinished. Looking for direction/help on moving forward and having building complete.
- Gitwangak is the "Gateway to the North", and needs to be promoted.

3. **Dinner**

Marjorie McRae blessed the food.

4. **Guest Speaker – Jacob Beaton, Coppermoon Communications**

- Gail MacDonald introduced Jacob Beaton.
- Jacob started his presentation with his outlook on "Effective Communication". Key points from his presentation included:

- ✓ Meaning of communication: exchange of thoughts/ideas using speech, thought, emotion.
- ✓ Three of the basic causes of conflict: 1) undelivered communication, 2) unfulfilled expectation, and 3) averted intentions.
- ✓ Good communication is avoiding conflicts.
- ✓ Two basic types of communication include: 1) internal (deciding), and 2) external (informing) - need both to be "strong". Bringing these together requires a "core"/"vision".
- ✓ Professional identity = brand. It is a visual idea, that grabs someone's attention and has them thinking of your "brand". You need to identify who your target audience will be, has to be determined up front.
- ✓ End result: to be successful, you need to know what you want your end result to be (how will your product "turn out").
- ✓ Professional identity should evolve.
- ✓ Most successful logos have nothing to do with actual product.
- ✓ Motivation comes from seeing an easier end result.

5. **PART TWO - OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSION/COMMON ISSUES**

- Tourism:
 - ✓ All communities are intertwined with one another in many different ways.
 - ✓ Need to work together (combine all local tourists destinations) to make a "trip" of the Hazeltons.
 - ✓ Workshops should take place to bring all communities to the same level and understanding.
 - ✓ Need to work on developing an industry to accommodate tourists when come to the Hazeltons and area.
 - ✓ A partnership should be created amongst all local communities, need to find creative ways to make the Hazeltons a destination, rather than just a pit stop on the way somewhere else.
 - ✓ First Nations culture is a large selling point of our area. Have to work with the Bands to move forward and reap benefits as a whole "community".
 - ✓ Outcome needs to go beyond tourism and money; we need to look at the big picture, "tourist off-season".
 - ✓ This meeting is the first step towards working together and moving forward. We have to work with what we already have, promote it and benefit from it.
- Community Recreation Center (Ice Arena):
 - ✓ DVD is being created to assist in looking for additional funding options.
 - ✓ Needs to be a recreation "facility" with recreation programming and not just an arena.
 - ✓ Recreation options are a must in our area.

- ✓ Arena / Transit, etc, all relate to recreation and we need to make them all work together to benefit our communities. Arena is here to accommodate everyone.
- ✓ We are all going to have to work together on a large scale. An all exclusive partnership.

6. **RECAP (ISSUES FOR FOLLOW-UP), NEXT COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM, CLOSING REMARKS**

- ✓ We are not here to solve anything tonight; this meeting is the first step towards identifying issues and creating solutions.
- ✓ We need to show youth that we can all work together as one community.
- ✓ Next arena meeting, invites should be sent to all Chiefs, Mayors, etc, to sign letters of support and have forwarded to the government.
- ✓ We are a community in crisis and need to create a life line to move forward.
- MOU draft to be created for Ice Arena (K Mattson, P. Rubinato and B. Marcellin to do).
- **Gitanmaax Band offered to hold the next Community to Community Forum and tentatively scheduled for April 27th, 2009, (4 p.m.) at the Gitanmaax Hall.** It will be hosted by Gitanmaax Band as a dinner meeting with the theme as "Partnership".
- Common Issues Noted:
 - Community Recreation Center (Ice Arena)
 - Olympic Torch Relay (committee to be formed)
 - Transportation (Transit)
 - Ksan Historical Village and Museum
 - Joint Tourism Initiatives
- Action Items for Follow-up:
 - Olympic Torch Relay: meeting to take place with participants once committee is set up.
 - Tourism: extending tourist stays by building/collaborating tourism products/services
 - Community Recreation Center (Ice Arena): collaborative facility; not just a facility
but a recreation program, need to be inclusive.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Francine Lawlor
Recording Secretary