

Meet the Mayor session Feb 5, 2020 – hosts: Mayor Karen Elliott, Councillor Armand Hurford

Feb. 8, 2020

Topic introduced by HV: Reconsider the implementation of a Public Amenity package comprising a lift/swing pedestrian bridge across the Blind Channel, aligned with Victoria Street.

HV proposal: re-open discussions with the developer to have them provide a simple drop in place fixed span parallel to the railway bridge connecting with Pemberton – much like a causeway. This would represent a substantial saving to the developer and save the District significant and still largely unknown operating and maintenance costs. The bridge is mainly of benefit to the developer in the marketing of the units. If the present design is to be maintained should not the residents of Waterfront Landing cover the operation and maintenance with their condo fees as they would be the main beneficiaries?

Mayor: the developer favors this location because their commercial centre is near the west side of the bridge. HV: this is simply a financial benefit to the developer and of limited value to the taxpayer at large.

Mayor: The District's bridge operations group would be "cross trained" parks staff operating the bridge via video link. HV: whether or not an operator must have visual sight of the bridge is under the jurisdiction of an outside agency – how could we have agreed to this deal without a final decision on this point?

Mayor: The present location of the bridge provides easier access to cafes, library from the Waterfront Landing development. HV: the majority of non-motorized trips made to downtown from Waterfront Landing would be to the grocery stores, which are more easily accessed via a bridge parallel to the railway bridge.

Mayor: the design would be developed with minimum maintenance costs as a goal. HV: the developer will have lowest construction costs in mind (see below), not maintenance costs and we probably don't have the necessary knowledge in house on how to discern any pitfalls in the design until it is too late.

Mayor: this was approved by a previous Council after due consideration. HV: another previous Council also decided on a tennis court near the 55 Activity Centre as a public amenity package but these courts were hardly ever used because the courts are high in the middle, and so could not properly be played on. They may eventually be converted into pickleball courts for which the hill is of no consequence.

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