

Sandi Horning

From: Stephen Fleming
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:42 AM
To: Sandi Horning
Subject: FW: Public Hearing Procedure - Proposal for change

Dear Sharon,

I would like to propose that we re-structure the procedure for Public Hearings.

While I served as a member of the APC we conducted hearings in the same manner as Council currently does. We conducted business this way for the first two years. We would receive input from the public during the Public Hearing and then close the meeting. The APC would then debate the items and conduct the evenings business. Many people that had presented information in the Public hearing remained to hear the debate and witness the vote. This often meant a long wait for some applicants as frequently one or two scheduled items would take a long time to receive all the input from the public.

In my final year on the APC we decided to re-arrange the meeting so that the APC would hear the public input from the meeting on one application; then close the Public Hearing to have the debate and take the vote. Once complete, the Public Hearing would re-open for the next item. I found this procedure to be much improved for the following reasons:

1. Most members of the public in attendance want to hear the debate and see the vote; however if the business does not take place for many hours they do not want to wait around. Having the debate immediately after the hearing allows the public to see the entire process. I believe this helps engage the public more than the current procedure.
2. I found that having the debate immediately after receiving all the information from the public easier as it was fresh in my mind.
3. Some items on the agenda are very routine. This allows those applicants to proceed quickly through the process rather than waiting around for many hours to hear the outcome of their application
4. Taking minutes for the meeting is improved under this process as each item is dealt with in its entirety. This is easier for the recording secretary and easier for Council to review the minutes.

I spoke to Stephen Fleming after the last Council meeting. He indicated that this format is acceptable and can be adopted at the will of Council. Essentially, the Public Hearing evening consists of a series of Public Hearings. We open and close the Public Hearing for each item on the agenda.

Secondly, I would like to propose that the 'Spirit of Kelowna' recognition be placed earlier on the Agenda. I would like to see this take place near the beginning of the 1:30 pm meeting as there are often

more public in attendance. I think this award is being well-received by the public. Having this award earlier on the agenda increases the honor of those being recognized.

Finally, I would propose that, should Council be willing to try this new format, that we conduct meetings like this for 4 meetings and then evaluate if this new model is preferable to the current procedure. This allows both the staff and Council to determine if this is indeed a better way to conduct City business. If it is deemed preferable then the new procedure could be adopted.

I look forward to bringing this item forward on the Agenda.

Sincerely,

Luke Stack
Councillor