

Special MeetingMay 11, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole of the Municipal Council of the City of Kelowna was held in the Council Chamber, 1435 Water Street, Kelowna, B.C., on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Council members in attendance: Mayor Sharon Shepherd, Councillors Andre Blanleil, Kevin Craig, Charlie Hodge, Graeme James, Angela Reid and Luke Stack.

Council members absent: Councillors Robert Hobson and Michele Rule.

Staff members in attendance were: City Clerk, Stephen Fleming; Director, Land Use Management, Shelley Gambacort; Planner, Luke Turri; Transportation Demand Supervisor, Jerry Dombowsky*; Cultural Services Manager, Sandra Kochan*; and Council Recording Secretary, Sandi Horning.

(* denotes partial attendance)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shepherd called the special meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. WORKSHOP

2.1 Liquor Control Review

Staff:

- Gave a presentation regarding Liquor Control Review and provided an overview of the process to date.

Stakeholders:

Jerry Dombowsky, Transportation Demand Supervisor, City of Kelowna's Regional Services Department

- Advised that transit service generally stops around 12:30 am.
- Advised that there have been requests for late night transit service and that the majority of those requests have usually come from UBC-O.
- BC Transit does not recommend or support special trips to provide transit service for after hours patrons who use liquor establishments as they believe that this raises security issues. The transit system requires a threshold where late night service is deemed to be required on a City-wide general basis.

Doug McMinniman, Gotcha Nightclub

- Advised that he was unaware of the Provincial Government's Bill 20.
- Advised that he participated in the original Mayor's Entertainment District Task Force.
- Tried "soft closings" on a trial basis for a period of six (6) months and advised that the trial was well received.
- Believes that things have changed with respect to liquor establishments. Patrons are not coming out to the establishments until 11:00 pm, unlike in previous years where they were coming out at 9:00 pm and staying in the establishments all night.
- Advised that due to the City's policy, later closing of 4:00 am are allowed three (3) to four (4) times during the year. Advised that the City of Penticton allows later closing of up to ten (10) times a year.
- Feels that at a 4:00 am closing would make the bar flush easier.
- Does not believe that Bar Watch will work in Kelowna like it does in Vancouver as it is the Vancouver City Police that enforce the Bar Watch and not the RCMP.
- Advised that the establishment has chartered a transit bus in the past in order to get patrons to where they want to go when they leave his establishment; however, due to insurance issues, he can no longer charter a bus.
- Advised that they have had issues with the RCMP and the bus that was chartered.

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- Expressed a concern about the location of the taxi cab stand in the area of his establishment.
- Would like to see the taxi stand issue addressed and the "soft closings" reconsidered.
- Believes that it would be easier for the RCMP to deal with issues if liquor establishments are concentrated in a central area of the City rather than being scattered all over.

City Clerk:

- Provided background information regarding the taxi cab stands were established in 2008.

Grayson Lepp, Finance Manager, UBC Student's Union-Okanagan

- Have contributed over \$600,000 towards transit as a result of the U-pass program.
- The major concern is public transit to and from UBC-O to the downtown core and would like to see late night transit service to/from UBC-O.
- Expressed a concern with the cost of taxi cabs from downtown to UBC-O and would like to see an increased taxi service that is affordable for students.
- Advised that there are 1,400 students who currently reside in residence and expect that number to grow to 2,400 when the new residence opens in the Fall.

Mike Ouellette, Food & Beverage Manager of "The Well", UBC-O Student's Union-Okanagan

- Does not really have a concern with the "soft closings". The Well has implemented a policy to stop serving liquor at 1:45 am so that by 2:00 am most of the drinks are gone and people generally leave in peace by 2:30 am.
- Advised that the capacity of The Well is 300 inside and 40 on the patio.
- Expressed concerns with privacy issues surrounding identification systems.
- Was unaware of the Provincial Government's Bill 20.
- The Well has received glowing reviews from UBC-O and the RCMP on how they deal with patrons.
- Any incidents that require RCMP presence at UBC-O have been a result of individuals who reside on campus in the dorms and are not related to the patrons of The Well.

Staff:

- Advised that the issue of "soft closings" was to be addressed by the Liquor Control Branch, but as far as staff are aware, the Liquor Control Branch has not addressed the issue.

Cole Haddad, Flashback's Night Club

- Likes Council Policy No. 315 to remain as-is.
- Is in favour of "soft closings", but would also like "staggered" closing times so that not all of the liquor establishments close at the same time. Suggested that restaurants close at 1:00 am, pubs close at 2:00 am and nightclubs/cabarets close at 3:00 am.
- Meets quite often with RCMP to discuss issues surrounding liquor establishments.
- Expressed concerns with privacy issues surrounding identification systems.
- Likes the location of the taxi cab stand in his area of the City.

Sandra Kochan, Cultural Services Manager, City of Kelowna's Cultural Service Department

- Advised that her staff has concerns with respect to any changes that may affect food & beverage service in civic facilities and outdoor events.
- Will be working with Land Use Management staff in order to address the concerns of her staff.

Doug McMinniman, Gotcha Nightclub

- Thanked Council for the opportunity to speak.

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Mayor Shepherd invited anyone in the public gallery to come forward. No one came forward.

Staff:

- Advised that the Liquor Control & Licensing Branch and the RCMP will be speaking at the May 25th Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.
- Confirmed that a representative from the Passenger Transportation Branch will be asked to attend the May 25th meeting to address Council's concerns regarding taxi cab licensing.

3. TERMINATION

The special meeting was declared terminated at 4:12 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

City Clerk

/slh