

Special MeetingMay 25, 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, Robert Hobson, Charlie Hodge*, Graeme James, Angela Reid, Michele Rule and Luke Stack.

Staff members in attendance were: Acting City Manager, Jim Paterson; City Clerk, Stephen Fleming; Director, Land Use Management, Shelley Gambacort*; Planner, Luke Turri; and Council Recording Secretary, Sandi Horning.

(* denotes partial attendance)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shepherd called the special meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. WORKSHOP

2.1 Liquor Control Review

Staff:

- Advised that the representatives from Rose's Pub would like to defer their presentation to Council to the May 31, 2010 Liquor Control Review meeting.
- Advised that some of the information that Council requested at the last Liquor Control Review meeting are being worked on by staff and will be provided to Council when staff report back to Council with recommendations.

City Clerk:

- Clarified the Council Package and the response from the Passenger Transportation Branch.

Stakeholders:

Karen Ayers, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Janice Carlson, Policy Analyst, Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (Victoria, BC)

- Distributed a handout to Council and presented an overview of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch's policies and procedures.
- Advised that the Branch has not conducted any research in BC with respect to the size of liquor establishments; however, Australian research indicates that smaller venues have less impact on the surrounding neighbourhood as opposed to one large venue.
- Confirmed that the Provincial Government was willing to support longer establishment hours on the basis that it would alleviate some of the "bar flush" issues; however, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch could not assure the Provincial Government that the "bar flush" issues would be alleviated.

Councillor Hodge joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Karen Ayers, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Janice Carlson, Policy Analyst, Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (Victoria, BC)

- It is the Branch's understanding that the Provincial Government will not permit "dual licensing" at this time (restaurants becoming nightclubs after a certain time of the day).
- Advised that in general, "soft closings/longer disbursal times" are favoured by the liquor establishments without any terms or conditions. The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch would favour "soft closings/longer disbursal times" as long as there are conditions placed on the liquor establishments.

Special MeetingMay 25, 2010

- Advised that Vancouver's Granville Entertainment District was the first to utilize a transportation strategy, and more recently, the City of Victoria has also developed a transportation strategy, which includes taxi stands and late night transit service.
- Advised that the City of Victoria is experiencing problems with the taxi stands and both the public and the taxi companies have expressed concerns.
- Advised that the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch was waiting for the City of Kelowna to evaluate the "soft closing" pilot project prior to making a decision on whether or not to continue with it. As the Branch did not receive any feedback from the City, the pilot project was concluded.
- Believes that public transit plays an important part in getting liquor patrons home after the bars have closed.
- Confirmed that wineries fit into either the Food Primary category or Liquor Primary category.
- Advised that the City of Kelowna has one (1) full-time liquor inspector and that another one has just been hired for the South/Central Okanagan area.
- Advised that the City of Nanaimo has had good success with Good Neighbour Agreements.

Gary Barker Compliance & Enforcement Officer, Liquor Control and Licensing Branch

- Provided details regarding the "police liaison officer" position.

Steve Stinson, President, Downtown Kelowna Association and on behalf of Tourism Kelowna

- Believes that the problem is that there are four (4) nightclubs in the downtown area of Kelowna.
- Believes that the downtown marketplace is not sufficiently involved in the downtown with respect to entertainment options.
- Believes that the public and tourists are looking for a safe place to go at night.
- Believes that there is a place for larger cabaret type nightclubs within the City, but that they should be located outside of the downtown area.
- Competition between liquor establishments should be encouraged, not discouraged.
- Believes that tourists and many locals do not feel safe in the downtown core after 9:00 pm.
- Believes that taxis and public transportation are a major concern for tourists.
- Believes that there should be a permanent moratorium on "big box" nightclubs within the City of Kelowna.
- Advised that the Downtown Kelowna Association's Board of Directors does not support later hours for existing licensees ("soft closings"). The Board feels that it may work in the short term, but if Council wants to invite residential development in the downtown, then in the longer term, it will not work.
- In favour of smaller liquor establishments.

Staff:

- Displayed a map of the liquor establishments within the downtown core.

Gerald Thomas, Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

- From a national perspective, he concurs with the research information that was supplied by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch.
- Believes that when the Provincial Government created further problems by changing the rules in the BC to allow lounges within restaurants.
- Provided an overview of his report on liquor establishments for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and agreed to provide the information to staff for Council's consideration.

Chris Charron, Business Manager, Kelowna Travelodge

- Read a prepared statement detailing his concerns.
- Requested that Council not issue any additional liquor permits for establishments in the proximity of the Kelowna Travelodge.

Special MeetingMay 25, 2010

- Expressed a concern with the taxi stand that was located in front of the Travelodge. Advised that the Travelodge was never consulted with respect to the location of the taxi stand.
- Travelodge staff receive guest complaints about the bar noise on a daily basis.
- Would like to see the liquor establishments spread out.
- Would like to see liquor sales stop at 1:00 am and the establishments closed by 1:30 am.
- Would like to see Bylaw fines increased as noise violations only generate a \$100 fine.
- Believes that staggered closings would be the Travelodge's "worst nightmare".

Rita, General Manager, Kelowna Travelodge

- Has worked at the Kelowna Travelodge for nine (9) years.
- The majority of the people who stay at the Travelodge are there to enjoy the downtown area, but not necessarily the bar scene.
- Have made repeated calls to the RCMP because of the disturbance caused by liquor establishments.
- Receive guest complaints about the noise all year long, not just in the busier summer months.
- Believes that the taxi stand has made the situation worse as there has been damage reported to guests' vehicles.
- Advised that she showed up for work one day and there was a taxi stand in front of the Travelodge where paid parking used to be.

Mike Gesi, Security Coordinator, UBC Okanagan Campus Security Services

- Advised that he does not have a prepared statement, but is willing to answer any questions Council may have with respect to The Well at UBC-Okanagan.

Staff:

- Reminded Council that they requested that a representative from the UBC-Okanagan Campus Security be invited to address Council with respect to issues at UBC-O.

Mike Gesi, Security Coordinator, UBC Okanagan Campus Security Services

- Advised that security staff often deal with intoxicated students; however he cannot comment on whether it is as a result of "The Well" or is simply just on-campus drinking.
- Believes that more RCMP presence is required on the campus.
- Advised that UBC-O has paid for extra policing during the month of September.
- Advised that campus security investigates complaints themselves and passes on information to the RCMP.
- Would like the RCMP to establish a community policing office on the campus.

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

Special Meeting

May 25, 2010

3. TERMINATION

The special meeting was declared terminated at 8:50 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

City Clerk

/slh