



Sorrento-Blind Bay Incorporation Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

TIME & PLACE: Thursday, February 11, 2021
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Online Zoom Meeting

PURPOSE: The Sorrento-Blind Bay Incorporation Advisory Committee will meet as part of the analysis phase of the study. The Committee will review two new service sheets, one updated service sheet and two issue sheets.

The Incorporation Committee, which includes the Electoral Area C Director as non-voting ex-officio, will provide oversight and direction on the study process. Once a report is prepared by the consultant, the committee will present the findings to the CSRD Board and then make a recommendation to the Directors on an incorporation referendum or giving further consideration to dividing Electoral Area C into two separate Electoral Areas. This was supported as an alternative option, should an incorporation process not proceed.

*A decision on incorporation would have to get the approval of the electorate through a **referendum vote** before any change could be made.*

The 'default option' of dividing Electoral Area C into two electoral areas, is in the event that incorporation of Sorrento-Blind Bay does not go ahead.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:

Brian Butcher (Blind Bay)
Patrick Earley (Blind Bay), Vice-Chair
Lorrie Kelsey (Blind Bay)
Darlene Lincoln (Blind Bay)
Tracy Lundberg-Schimpf (Blind Bay)
Michael Shapcott (Sorrento)
John Smith (Blind Bay), Chair
Larry Stephenson (Blind Bay)
Paul Demenok, Director, Electoral Area C (non-voting ex-officio)

ABSENT:

Tim Van Den Heuvel (Blind Bay)
Sandra Heschuk (Sorrento)
Rose Fritz (Blind Bay)

ALSO PRESENT:

Allan Neilson, Neilson Strategies
Sherry Hurst, Leftside Partners
Jennifer Sham, Brad Payne, CSRD staff
Rick Collins, Roads Consultant, Urban Systems
Erik Lachmuth, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MoTI), Province of BC
Kailey Laidlaw, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Province of BC.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Members of the public attending varied from 10 to 15 during the meeting.

1. Call to Order at 6:00 PM

Vice-Chair Earley called the meeting to order while Chair Smith was having some technical difficulties.

Director Demenok noted two errors on the most recent FAQ document.

- FAQ's on page 2, under # 2, 3rd paragraph....it's the "Sorrento and Area Community Association"
- And under FAQ's page 16, point #30, "Has the Committee calculated the" Delete the word "they"

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA and MEETING SUMMARY

Moved by Larry Stephenson

Seconded by Darlene Lincoln

THAT: the agenda for the February 11, 2021 and the meeting summary of November 16, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Introduction of Guests

Rick Collins, Roads Consultant, Urban Systems

Erik Lachmuth, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MoTI), Province of BC

Kailey Laidlaw, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Province of BC

4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Allan Neilson updated the Committee on additions to the FAQ document.

5. Service Sheet – Local Roads

Allan Neilson reviewed the service sheet for Local Roads.

Discussion ensued regarding differences in conditions between Urban Systems review and the MoTI review, rural standard vs municipal standard, current short term repaving plans of MoTI, concerns about the current very poor state of some Sorrento area roads, terms of the current AIM contract.

Moved by Michael Shapcott

Seconded by Lorrie Kelsey

THAT: the committee wishes to see the provincial offer include updating the poor and very poor road conditions prior to any incorporation while also considering road usage volume.

CARRIED

More discussion on evaluating road bases rather than strictly visual evaluation. Both Rick Collins of Urban Systems and Erik Lachmuth of MoTI were helpful in assisting the committee to better understand the road reports.

Erik Lachmuth of MoTI agreed to bring the committee's concerns to the team developing the provincial offer.

6. Service Sheet – Administration

Sherry Hurst presented an overview of the service sheet for Administration and what assumptions were made during its development.

Director Demenok noted an error in Figure 1 which the consultant will correct. The main areas used for comparison purposes are Osoyoos, Oliver, Peachland, Enderby, Spallucheen, Sicamous, Armstrong and occasionally Metochosin and Gibsons.

7. Service Sheet – Police Services

Allan Neilson presented a revised Police Services sheet. There is no update to estimated costing as of yet for the potential unionization of the RCMP.

8. Questions from the Public

A few questions from the public regarding roads, business taxes, business licenses and future sewers were answered.

9. Issue Sheets

The consultants presented to the Committee issue sheets for:
Land Use Planning Authority
Other Revenues

10. Correspondence

The Committee was walked through some correspondence from two local groups asking for boundary changes to the potential incorporation area.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs had advised that changes may be considered:

“provided there is a strong rationale, a special circumstance, and the request is informed by the results of the service and taxation analysis currently being undertaken by the Study consultant, Allan Neilson. The analysis phase will provide an understanding of the anticipated financial implications resulting from municipal incorporation”.

So, no boundary changes will be considered until the full evaluation is completed but prior to any potential referendum.

11. Community Engagement Phase

The consultants provided a brief overview of two sample mail outs produced for other studies. Discussion resulted in agreement that a mailing to all affected households would be required as well as open houses, online and media publications, etc.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled once staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing are able to confirm delivery to the Committee of the Provincial Offer of Restructure Assistance.

13. Adjourn

Moved by Michael Shapcott

Seconded by Lorrie Kelsey

THAT: The meeting be adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Chair