

Community to Community Forum

Coho Room at the Weigh West in Tofino
9th March 2005

In Attendance:

Angus Campbell, – Ahousat	Mark Jack, Councillor– Ahousat
Sidney Sam, Councillor- Ahousat	Al Anderson, Mayor - Tofino
Jim Schwartz, Councillor- Tofino	Derek Shaw, Councillor – Tofino
Michael Tilitzky, Councillor – Tofino	Rod Sam, Councillor - Ahousat
Vera Webb, Councillor – Tofino	Leif Pedersen, Administrator, - Tofino

The meeting began with a short review by Mayor Anderson of the purpose of the meeting and introductions of all those in attendance.

Arranging Meeting

Review of difficulties encountered in arranging the Forum and discussed better ways of communicating.

- Shifting schedules and priorities are a major problem for first nations groups. There are a large number of meetings being arranged for everyone and it is sometimes difficult to connect.
- Arrange for meeting at Ahousat and other First nations. Advise of Council availability.
- Develop network of contacts throughout all of the communities.

Parking

- Parking spaces not available. Difficulty in finding spaces for long term parking near docks. People then take what they can find.
- Need for Elderly and Handicapped reserved spaces near docks for access purposes.
- Businesses want turnover of traffic in spaces fronting them on public streets.
- Shuttle service a possibility to accommodate parking away from the docks and downtown area.
- Increasing population will increase demand for parking spaces in general, and long term parking for offshore residents particularly.
- Community must seek solutions to the short term problem and to the Long term problems.
- Communication required with offshore residents about the issues with parking in general and public parking. Communication required on permits, alternatives etc.
- Permits could be issued by First Nations
- Temporary permits could be issued by Sea bus.
- Alternative dock sites for water taxis could reduce the parking pressures downtown.
- District of Tofino does not have the resources to provide secure parking.
- The region requires a Regional Tourism Plan and funding to assist with providing infrastructure to accommodate tourism impact upon the community.
- Valet style parking service for a fee would be more secure and would remove the pressure for parking in the downtown area.
- First Nations would be interested in a partnership on a piece of land to provide their own parking.

- Paid parking is an option that some people are interested in. Fifteen Ahousat residents pay for parking to obtain a secure site for their vehicles. More would be willing if sites were available, and if other areas charged a fee.
- Wingen Lane is no longer used for fishing and could become available for water taxis.
- First Nations would be interested in representation on the Co-op Board regarding development. Could influence some of the issues regarding parking etc.
- First Street Dock is owned by the District of Tofino. No plan of operation has yet been developed for the dock

What do we do next.

Preparation of background information for meeting in Ahousat.

- Process to get representation on Co-op Board.
- Advise First Nations of availability for meeting at Ahousat (speak to Pam Perry, Administrator and Rod)
- Experiment with separate community stickers., issuing stickers through First Nations.
- Form a small working group to study issues and develop options. Representatives required from each community.

First Street Wharf

Reviewed the history of the acquisition of the Wharf. The District of Tofino is working on a long term business plan for the future of the dock.

- Business owner for the dock
- Public owner for the dock
- Cost of maintenance and operation of the dock
- User pay concept for the operation of a dock
- Paid parking could be accommodated on the Dock if spots marked out.
- it may be possible to apply for funding through BC Ferries or Transport Canada for handling freight and passenger services. Statistical information on usage will be required for funding of the dock, may need to acquire from the users.
- District of Tofino must maintain the dock for liability purposes.
- Obtain study of Dock operation (First Nations or Transport Canada have one)

Why does the community need the dock?

- Needed for Emergency Landing Site.
- Tourism uses dock (Study Needed)
- Sea Bus plans to utilize the dock for tourism as well as passenger service
- Passenger services to Downtown Tofino

Utilize Tourism contacts for information and planning. New funds are becoming available with the election campaign and BC emphasis on tourism growth.

Emergency Planning.

- Parks Canada have the lead on the development on Early Warning Siren System on the Peninsula.

- Emergency Plans are under review
- Co-ordination between municipalities and groups is essential
- Communication Necessary – Contact names to be provided. Co-ordination of Radio response frequencies required.

- Offshore communities have a need for an emergency boat on site.
- Search and Rescue – Work with all groups to lobby for boats, satellite phones, radios etc.

- There is no Cell phone coverage outside of Tofino, and people must be made aware.
- First Nations representative should be on the Tofino Emergency Planning Committee.
- When there is PEP training available, Curtis Dick should be contacted.

VIHA

Community Committee to advise VIHA on the future. First Nations should be involved.

- Long term planning required for services and facilities.
- Any information received should be forwarded to First Nations.
- Very long waiting list for mental health and addictions. Letter should be sent to VIHA department head regarding stats since January.

Economic Challenges

Several economic challenges are impacting on communities.

- Quotas leaving communities, being bought out by large corporations, are leaving communities with no economic base.
- Coastal Communities Network conference is being held to discuss issues and opportunities
- Fisheries decline also impacting all coastal communities
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans is heavily influenced by weighted representation of private industry. Licencing system is resulting in the concentration of the industry into a few large corporations.

Communication

It is important to get out to all of the communities to be a true Community to Community gathering. As long as we can throw things on the table and see some progress it will be valuable. We need to have some results to report back, and we can then meet more often in ongoing discussions. This meeting was a good start, the discussion of issues is good. Now we need to put the discussion into action. What happens in Tofino affects all of the offshore communities. The stronger we can make the group the more effective we will be. Consultation is important to keep us all on the same track. Frustration will result if nothing happens in the future.

The participants all thanked Mayor Anderson for hosting the community forum and Mayor Anderson thanked everyone for taking the time to attend. The frank and open discussion is needed for us all to come together.

Expenses:

Dinner at \$25.00 per person (billed for 20) for total of \$500.00

Refreshments additional \$75.00

Room Rental \$150.00

Preparation and wrap up \$700.00