

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

RECORD OF A PUBLIC INPUT
“FIRE PREVENTION AMENDMENT BYLAW NUMBER 5104, 2007”
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3400 – 30 STREET, VERNON, B.C.

PRESENT: Mayor Lippert,

Councillors: J. Cunningham, J. Gilroy, P. Nicol
B. Baumbrough, B. Beardsell, P. Cochrane

Staff: L. Gous, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Bailey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
P. Bridal, City Clerk
S. Blakely, Deputy City Clerk
D. Rintoul, Planner
J. Lysholm, Fire Chief
R. Owens, Deputy Fire Chief
L. Skolrood, Deputy Fire Chief

Others: Members of the Public

Mayor Lippert called the Public Input to order at 5:35 p.m. Mayor Lippert advised those in attendance that the purpose of the Public Input was to provide residents with an opportunity to speak to the proposed “City of Vernon Fire Prevention Amendment Bylaw Number 5105”.

City Clerk, Ms. Patti Bridal, advised of the Notice of Public Input and that notice had been published in the November 6th and 7th, 2007 issues of the Vernon Daily Courier, and in the October 28th and November 4th and 11th, 2007 issues of the Morning Star. Ms. Patti Bridal advised that prior to the Public Input, Fifty Eight written submissions had been received; as follows:

	Date Received	Name	Comments
1	October 2, 2007	Kathy & John Watt 3007 16 th Street	In Favour
2	October 14, 2007	Rose Bronswyk 7840 Tronson Road	Opposed
3	October 14, 2007	Al Roy (no address provided)	Opposed
4	October 14, 2007	“Dakota” (no address provided)	Opposed
5	October 14, 2007	Daniel Trainor (no address provided)	Opposed
6	October 14, 2007	Levi Price (no address provided)	Opposed

7	October 14, 2007	Randy Price (no address provided)	Opposed
8	October 14, 2007	Don Gibbs Property Near Ellison	Opposed
9	October 14, 2007	'Paula & Rick ' (no address provided)	Opposed
10	October 14, 2007	Gerry Newcomb & Marilyn Radonz (no address provided)	Opposed
11	October 14, 2007	Mark Englehart, BSC (Biology) (no address provided)	Opposed
12	October 14, 2007	Tony Dyck (no address provided)	Opposed
13	October 15, 2007	Dan Heinrichs (no address provided)	Opposed
14	October 15, 2007	"The Holgates" Westside Rd	Opposed
15	October 15, 2007	Rick Krego (no address provided)	Opposed
16	October 15, 2007	'The Smarts' (no address provided)	Opposed
17	October 15, 2007	Anita Nadeau (no address provided)	Opposed
18	October 15, 2007	Patti Hues (no address provided)	Opposed
19	October 15, 2007	Dave Main (no address provided)	Opposed
20	October 15, 2007	Dave and Cindy Hurl (no address provided)	Opposed
21	October 15, 2007	Clara Smith (no address provided)	Opposed
22	October 15, 2007	Deb Joell (no address provided)	Opposed

		COPY OF FOREGOING SUBMISSIONS PROVIDED TO COUNCIL, OCTOBER 16, 2007	
23	October 16, 2007	Bruce Doerges (no address provided)	Opposed
24	October 16, 2007	Kaz & Gloria Sheppy (no address provided)	Opposed
25	October 16, 2007	Debbie Coleman (no address provided)	Opposed
26	October 16, 2007	David Kelcey (no address provided)	Opposed
27	October 16, 2007	Genie & Edward Newington 6234 Osprey Road (via telephone calls Lysholm/Newington, Blakely Newington)	In Favour
28	October 16, 2007	June MacGregor (no address provided)	Opposed
29	October 16, 2007	Carol Budgen (no address provided)	Opposed
30	October 17, 2007	Cathy Hoy (no address provided)	Opposed
31	October 18, 2007	Pam & Jim Atmore Okanagan Landing	Opposed
32	October 18, 2007	Louise Taylor (no address provided)	Opposed
33	October 18, 2007	Marg Roberts (residents of Ontario, frequent visitors to Okanagan Landing)	Opposed
34	October 18, 2007	Liza Shipman (no address provided)	Opposed
35	October 19, 2007	Len Ganz (no address provided)	Opposed

36	October 21, 2007	Don & Lynne Jones 6548 Bluejay Road	Opposed
37	October 21, 2007	David Douglas 7799 Tronson Road	Opposed
38	October 21, 2007	Kim Nasipayko Grew Up in Vernon, Resident of Saskatoon, with plans to return.	Opposed
39	October 23, 2007	Dale Tousignant (no address provided)	Opposed
40	October 24, 2007	John & Betty Ostwald (no address provided)	Opposed
41	October 25, 2007	Sharron Mitchell (no address provided)	Opposed
42	October 25, 2007	Kay & Don Gienow; Kathy Sanford (no address provided)	Opposed
43	October 25, 2007	Bobbie MacKenzie 8025 Okanagan Landing Rd	Opposed
44	October 26, 2007	Ms. Deb Leroux Chair Regional District of North Okanagan, Air Quality Stakeholder Committee	In Favour
45	October 26, 2007	John Barber 2622 Lakeshore Road	Opposed
46	October 28, 2007	Wendy Aasen 4109 Cascade Drive	In Favour
47	November 1, 2007	Ron Heuman Okanagan Landing	Opposed
48	November 3, 2007	Jeanne Kassa #13 Kestrel Court	Opposed
49	November 4, 2007	Hamish Kassa & Family 7840 Tronson Road	Opposed

50	November 6, 2007	Jack Orobko (no address provided)	Opposed
		COPY OF SUBMISSIONS 23-50 PROVIDED TO COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 6, 2007	
51	November 1, 2007	Laurie Ykelashek (no address provided)	In Favour
52	November 8, 2007	Ron Heuman 7828 Okanagan Landing Bench Road	Opposed
53	November 9, 2007	Durand Family 6666 Scott Rd	Opposed
54	November 11, 2007	Keith Bieber (no address provided)	Opposed
55	November 13, 2007	Glen Anhorn 7490 Old Stamp Mill Rd	Opposed
56	November 13, 2007	Doug Ferguson Lakeshore Road	Opposed
57	November 13, 2007	Kathy Watt 3007 16 th Street	In Favour
58	November 9, 2007	Leigh & Neil Clayton 6687 Scott Road	Opposed

Mayor Lippert called for representation from the public in attendance who wish to speak to the proposed amendment bylaw.

NAME	COMMENTS
Sandy Coolidge 1812 43 Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lives in area close proximity to one another ▪ No privacy ▪ Several neighbours have had fires ▪ Thought her house on fire ▪ Too close ▪ Renters are not responsible ▪ Loves campfire, but South Vernon homes are too close ▪ Unsafe

<p>Laureen Valair 6490 BlueJay Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asked for written proof as to number of complaints since Mr. Lysholm became Chief ▪ Waste of taxpayers money ▪ Had backyard fire on Cloudy day fire dept arrived demanding fire be put out ▪ Mayor Lippert attended several days later ▪ August 27 letter requesting they abstain from using wood until after bylaw passed ▪ Bylaw 4476 Sec. 2.3 allows campfire 1 meter in dia and 1 metre height for recreations and /or cooking ▪ Previous bylaw doesn't state only allowed only at Provincial sites ▪ Bonfire middle of parking lot at Polson Park for Haunted House for many days ▪ Charcoal, gas, propane all three of resources are costly ▪ Propane is dangerous ▪ Air quality is issue and most days of the year Tolko mill and some businesses have huge amounts of smoke ▪ BBQ's emit more smoke than campfire ▪ Fireplaces used to heat emit smoke ▪ Regional District citizens slash burn ▪ Ellison park campfires burn among dead trees ▪ New York & Calgary both allow fires ▪ Reconsider bylaw
<p>Fred Newhouse 2803 40 Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time & Place for campfires ▪ Live in a very narrow valley ▪ Do not have prevailing winds ▪ Daughter has asthma and wood allergy ▪ Health affected severely by one campfire next door ▪ Not a solution to allow more burning ▪ Pleads for reduction of burning in Valley ▪ Carcinogens and dioxins in wood smoke ▪ Nice to be around, but don't want to breathe in all the time ▪ Lumby smokes up every night ▪ Wonders about cancer rate in Lumby ▪ Population is increasing ▪ We must live on Earth together and choose healthy way to live

<p>Sherrill Haaf 9990 Eastside Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the City of Vernon but lives out by Ellison ▪ Big Picture needs to be addressed ▪ Does it matter where pollution is started from ▪ Propane must be transported here – pollution results ▪ Charcoal takes 8 to 12 kilos of wood to make ▪ Harmful for women to use charcoal ▪ Lives on water ▪ Ellison doesn't have hoses close by ▪ Fires burn all day and that's a lot of pollution ▪ Should stop big fires like Outback, Rise, Ellison Park ▪ Burning Permit given and had to call in about air quality ▪ Big burners not fined for burning wrong time ▪ Start with big offenders first ▪ Moved to Vernon to live in outdoors ▪ For family and children to grow up sitting around fire
<p>Renee Johnson 6365 Swan Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has severe asthma ▪ Controllable asthma ▪ Enjoys small fire in backyard
<p>John Watt 3007 16 Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reformed wood burner ▪ Used to burn a lot in Area F ▪ Burning Barrel as well ▪ Campfires with kids, etc. ▪ Moved to Vernon Easthill ▪ Can see haze over City of Vernon ▪ Heard about health problems ▪ Don't burn anymore ▪ Do whatever you can to stop health problems
<p>Hugh Van Alstyne 7352 Longacre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety of outdoor fireplaces the issue ▪ Many bought outdoor fireplace to have small safe fires contained ▪ Has one, and two fire places inside with screens ▪ Indoor fireplace screen same as outdoor one ▪ Hard to distinguish between indoor and outdoor fires ▪ Charcoal is not mentioned as a safe fuel for BBQing – suggest add charcoal as well as briquettes

<p>Debbie Coleman 1602 25 Avenue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doesn't believe majority should be punished due to the stupidity of others ▪ Doesn't believe wood should be removed as a source of fuel ▪ Plentiful and cheap ▪ Starting to over regulate and when do we have a choice ▪ House has a little fire pit outside ▪ Uses two or three times per year ▪ Children enjoy ▪ Don't camp but can enjoy at home ▪ Larger back yard without close neighbours ▪ People must be respectful of others ▪ Understands that there are people who make poor choices ▪ When you lose a freedom rare to get it back ▪ Shouldn't lose at this time ▪ Small issue but does preclude larger ones (burning inside) ▪ Regardless of health issues cannot remove things and make work immaculate ▪ Need to work around people, but don't take away freedoms
<p>Eileen Morphet 1202 43 Avenue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Her freedom is affected everytime there is smoke from fires
<p>George Reid 8057 Tronson Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wife allergic ▪ Only bothers her in camping sites where there are many ▪ Neighbour allergic, and taken to hospital due to slash burning by Tavistock ▪ Looking after the small potatoes ▪ Go after developers to chip instead of burn
<p>Jim Martins 2705 24 St</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First read about it and looked out kitchen window east quite a few plumes in East Vernon area ▪ Each on of those fire probably emit more in one day than all campfires in one year ▪ Turtle Mtn development large fires – each one more pollution than all backyard fires combined ▪ Backyard fires are not that prevalent ▪ Followed logging truck to Enderby, much more pollution than backyard fire pits ▪ Low cloud in valley a problem ▪ Most drove to this meeting tonight ▪ Backyard fire tiny fraction of problem ▪ Barking up wrong tree ▪ Few things that are naturally self regulating ▪ Backyard fires watched very closely ▪ Most very responsible ▪ Ask that we find ways to regulate and minimize but don't go carte blanche

<p>Mike Dorval 6120 OK Landing Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has fires on his acreage regularly ▪ Conversation with Fire Chief today ▪ Doesn't think it's about safety ▪ Queried about instances and complaints and none could be noted ▪ Doesn't think it's about air quality ▪ Should talk about fireplaces and airtights that are used all the time – more realistic to go after ▪ 62 complaints last year ▪ 85 complaints this year ▪ costs money to attend due to complaints ▪ Suggest solution to have people buy permit for the year with name address and use funds to manage complaints ▪ Safety and Pollution needs to be addressed at bigger level
<p>Don Kassa 8260-70 Tronson Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family owned property 50 years ▪ Thousands of campfires enjoyed ▪ Volunteer Firefighter ▪ No recollection of problems from campfires ▪ One of greatest pleasures is sitting by lake by fire with friends ▪ Since included in Vernon – no services but increased taxes and now want to take away firepit ▪ Not fair ▪ Okanagan area of recreation ▪ Ban smoking in area instead ▪ Major industry forestry ▪ Part of this is burning of slash ▪ Little bit of smoke from campfires tiny compared to this ▪ Step back and reconsider due to small impact
<p>Brad Harmer 6425 Cardinal Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Don't have a backyard campfire ▪ Doesn't want someone to tell him can't have one ▪ Grandchildren would love it ▪ Have been to places with backyard fire ▪ Never out of control ▪ Across from him neighbour burns wood all year round for heat ▪ Can live with that ▪ Tolko burning – can live with that but could change scrubbers and be environmentally friendly ▪ If banning this, then ban all fires up and down valley ▪ Not realistic

<p>Hamish Kassa 7840 Tronson Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sept 19 Lysholm recommendation reviewed ▪ Filmon Report quoted – specifically notes need to reduce fuel load in forest ▪ Notes need for educating homeowners to fire proof their homes ▪ Report not relevant to bylaw amendment ▪ Should review bylaw to appease all ▪ If brought into play all parties should be treated fairly ▪ Not just eliminating private property owners ▪ Should apply universally across the board ▪ Recommends review bylaw for effectiveness ▪ Policing issues to deal with rowdy neighbours ▪ Shouldn't be used as a tool for emergency response ▪ Redesign bylaw so private properties will not be deal with
<p>Laurie Feniuk 6825 Tronson Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ½ acre in City of Vernon ▪ 30 years in home ▪ Sunday night campfires ▪ Neighbours come once or twice per month ▪ Never had fire department attend ▪ No close calls ▪ More pollution in other areas ▪ Some people against are living in downtown core ▪ High residential areas ▪ Acreage properties – why can't they enjoy ▪ Two weddings In back yard with fires ▪ Good for Vernon tourism ▪ Behaving in own backyard ▪ A few will always ruin it and be irresponsible ▪ Sunday fires can count 18 to 20 teenagers sitting around enjoying ▪ Not on streets vandalizing, drugs, etc. ▪ Taking one more thing away from this town ▪ Children deserve this
<p>Russell Hnatiuk 3810 17 Ave</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family time around fire ▪ 3 or 4 times per year only ▪ Pollution – fire wood taken from slash fires ▪ Wood Going to get burned anyway ▪ Not right to take away what means a lot to a lot of people
<p>Guy Mousseau 7075 Foothills Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of fires burning in Valley lately ▪ Leaves burning across from BX firehall ▪ Wants burning stopped completely including slash fires ▪ Pollutes like nothing else ▪ Be fair to all and stop all burning, leaves, prunings, slash fires, etc.

Ron Heuman 7828 Okanagan Landing Bench Row Rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adds voice to all being said ▪ Needs leadership and education as to proper burning and proper burning devices ▪ More effective than banning
Ann Heinrichs 1814 43 Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First time homeowner ▪ Looking forward to backyard fire ▪ Other alternatives could be examined to deal with this issue ▪ Environmental issues – big businesses worse offenders (Tolko)
NAME NOT PROVIDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retired School Teacher ▪ Public Servant – obligated to taxpayers ▪ Need to do a great job ▪ Majority has spoken ▪ Given mandate as to why we voted for you ▪
Debbie Coleman 1602 25 Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain as a freedom ▪ No permits as costs may go up and up ▪ Cash Cow for government can result
Dwight Shultz 6177 Okanagan Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opposed ▪ Deal with each individual offender, not as a blanket issue
Fred Newhouse 2803 40 Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speaks for more downtown residents ▪ Lots of building going on up on hillside ▪ Smoke settles ▪ Too bad couldn't have rallied residents in centre of town ▪ Should go forward and not backward by allowing wood smoke ▪ Positive step to ban
Randi Lund-Wohlford 7528 Klinger Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enjoys campfires ▪ Bizarre to ban with so many bigger things to target ▪ Sympathize with health issues and close neighbours ▪ Banning is crazy

Mayor Lippert called a final time for representation and there being none, closed the Public Input session on the proposed "City of Vernon Fire Prevention Amendment Bylaw Number 5105".

CLOSE:

The Public Input closed at 6:29 pm.