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REPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
1991 JUNE 24

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: MAYOR W.J. COPELAND
SUBJECT: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk be authorized to travel, on behalf of the Municipality, to possibly three locations (Saint Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington) in order to have a first hand look and report on these cities' 'Citizen Participation Programs'.

R E P O R T

At the regular Council Meeting held on 1991 February 18th Council adopted a Notice of Motion put forward by the Mayor regarding the creation of a public notification process. The Notice of Motion included a direction to investigate and report on a recommended course of action for implementing a comprehensive public notification bylaw.

Prior to bringing forth the Notice of Motion the Mayor was referred to a Citizen Participation Plan in place in Saint Paul, Minnesota which was very successful and consequently is being used as a model by other communities. Following the adoption of the Notice of Motion the Municipal Clerk contacted Ms. Jerry Jenkins, the Citizen Participation Co-ordinator for the City of Saint Paul, who forwarded a package of material which has been distributed to Council under separate cover with the exception of the guide and historical report which is available from the Municipal Clerk's office. A perusal of the material indicates that the program in place in Saint Paul can be easily adapted to meet requirements that may be developed by Council to meet our needs.

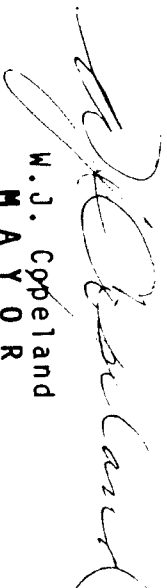
Ms. Jenkins also suggested that Burnaby contact Mr. Kenneth Thomson, a Professor at Tufts University in Medord, Mass. who is recognized to have a vast knowledge of public participation programs currently in place within the United States. Mr. Thomson was the recent recipient of a Ford Foundation Research Grant which was awarded to him for the purpose of providing funding for a research project that would examine public participation programs in place across the country. The results of Mr. Thomson's findings are included in a book to be published in late 1991 or early 1992.

In speaking with the Professor he confirmed the excellence of the Saint Paul program and advised that it is unique in many ways especially in its design to allow citizen input into the capital budget process. He also mentioned the Citizen Participation Programs in place in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. The Seattle program was developed in the 1960's and then shelved during the 1970's and early 1980's. However, it was resurrected and refined during the late 1980's and is working well now and worthy of investigation. The Portland, Oregon plan is also considered to be an excellent program but is relatively expensive when compared to the other. The City of Portland is spending approximately \$1.2 million on its Citizen Participation Program each year.

Prior to concluding our discussions with Mr. Thomson he suggested that Burnaby contact Mr. David Shulman who operates a specialized consulting firm in Toronto, Ontario which provides Canadian municipalities with guidance in establishing and maintaining Citizen Participation Programs. Mr. Shulman was contacted and he appears to be very familiar with the programs in place in North American cities and he describes the City of Saint Paul's Program as being "very practical" and designed to allow the citizens of the City to be "full and equal partners in the policy making process". Mr. Shulman also recommended the Seattle and Portland Programs and suggested we visit these locations in order to have a first hand look at how the programs operate.

Based on the information gathered to date it appears it would be very advantageous to Burnaby to examine and investigate the existing programs prior to attempting to develop one for Burnaby and, therefore, I am recommending that the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk travel to these locations for the purpose of reporting on the mechanics of successful programs currently operating elsewhere.

Respectfully submitted,



W.J. Copeland
M A Y O R