

FALSE CREEK CITIZEN'S COALITION

A G E N D A

First Meeting - May 1st, 1973

, 7:45 P.M.
at 26 W. 7th
(X-KACA)
733-5713

Opening remarks: Sean O'Connor

Items of Business

1. Introductions of those present
2. Recap of the reasons this meeting was called
3. Courses of action open to the coalition
4. Working structure of the coalition given its chosen course of action

Motion to adjourn

Item 2.

A number of widely-based citizens organizations have been invited here tonight to consider the public statements of City Council, its Special Committee on False Creek and the False Creek Site Planning Office, to the effect that citizen participation in the planning of False Creek redevelopment is desirable and to be encouraged. This meeting has been called to form a strong coalition of groups interested in low-cost housing to provide that participation. The City's idea of public participation may very well not be yours, and thus it is up to you to decide the form of participation you would like and to discuss the ways and means you are willing to undertake to bring the desired form about.

The coalition formed here this evening will have to decide its own structure, call its own meetings, find its own funding, appoint its spokespersons and so on since FRACAS does not have the resources to do this. The people from the CYC and the Urban Design Centre who have been working in Fairview with FRACAS have organized this meeting and will be available to you on a part-time basis throughout May and part of June. We have also taken the initiative to draw up an application for a grant from the Citizenship Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State, which is ready for typing, subject to your approval, under either the name of FRACAS or the Coalition. This grant would provide a coordinator for your activities. The lead time for this funding is nine weeks and the person you choose would thus not start till mid-July at the earliest. We have also spoken to Dennis Josey of CMHC with regard to funding a researcher (economist/planner or your choice) to back the Coalition with facts and plans. He has not promised us any money but has said he will push for a reply in 3 weeks from Ottawa. Other avenues of funding are the city itself, LEAP projects (when the programme gets underway) and volunteers who may find their own funding or even from corporations. But first you must define the tasks these employees would perform.

DISCUSSION.

Item 3.

Basically, the Coalition has two courses of action open to it, each of which implies a different underlying philosophy of action.

It can work with the City at the level the City is prepared to accept, which is basically an advisory role. Under this formula the Coalition will have access to the planners at the site office and definite input into their recommendations to the False Creek Committee and Council. However, prior to

such recommendations reaching the Committee and Council, they are modified based on the "debate", both public and private, that goes on in City Hall. We would not immediately nor necessarily ever have access to these discussions. The course open to the Coalition if such debate were to alter the recommendations of the Coalition would be to issue minority reports, argue at Committee meetings, argue in private, lobby councillors, speak to the press, etc. This formula also implies that the Coalition meet City-set deadlines for stages in the redevelopment.

The Second course would be to band together closely and make a concerted effort to take over many of the prerogatives of the Committee, ie; providing guidance to the planners, setting timetables and perhaps leasing the parcels of land. This is a political approach and is thus subject to the laws of political leverage: We must be able to threaten them with a great public outcry if they do not go along, jeopardizing their power and prestige.

Both of these approaches imply a "feeling-out" period during which we do not antagonize Council and the Planners. We would gather evidence during this time that in fact they do not mean to have meaningful citizen participation. Events will tell whether we have such evidence, and whether we ought to push for postponement of the June 15th deadline for Basin-wide guidelines for the redevelopment, and equality with the committee .

DISCUSSION.

Item 4.

As we conceive it, the Coalition should decide this evening to strike a working group of individuals who have the time in the next 6 weeks to devote a good measure of their time to this Coalition. The committee would work throughout May to prepare guidelines, with the aid of their 4 part-time workers, and to set up working arrangements with the planners for reviewing their guidelines before they go to the printers. The working group would have to meet this week again to give guidance to the workers and to approve methods to seek funds.

DISCUSSION

MOTION TO ADJOURN