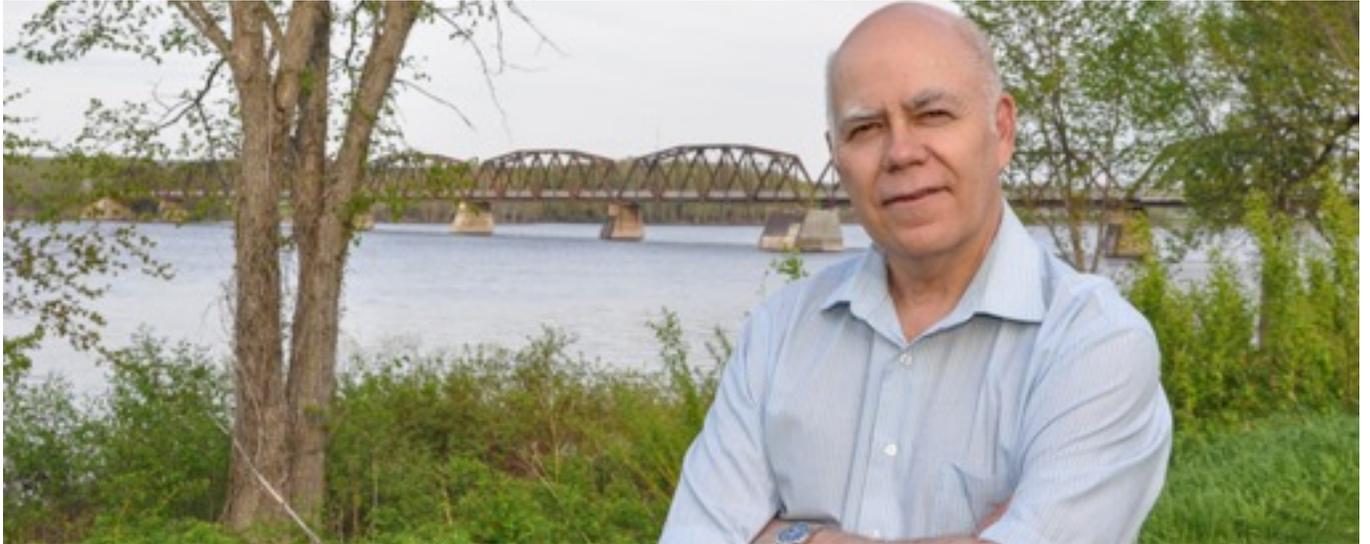


Community Gathering Skyline Acres

May 12, 2018



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Top Three Topics:

1. Saving the SMA Pool
2. Active Transportation Infrastructure
3. Road and bike lane maintenance



1. Summary

Political Representatives Present:

David Coon, MLA Fredericton South
Greg Ericson, City Councillor for Ward 9

On May 12, 2018, David Coon hosted a community gathering at the Boy & Girls Club in Skyline Acres with City Councillor Greg Ericson.

Participants at these meetings wrote their names and issues on a flipchart sheet, and were given two to three minutes to speak about their issue to the group at large. There was an additional minute for responses, whether from the audience at large or from a specific person. This allowed for a variety of topics to be discussed, and for everyone who wanted to say something or ask a question, to do so.

The meeting began with a short presentation of an Active Transportation Hub (College Hill Skyline Acres Connection) design by Trevor Hanson which would incorporate a pedestrian bridge over Route 8, a park-n-ride with buses to downtown, and bike and trail infrastructure. The overwhelmingly dominant issue raised at this meeting was regarding the impending closure of the Sir Max Aitken Pool. Other issues brought up included active transportation infrastructure (an uptown and an east-west multi-use trail; the state of bike lanes).

2. Topics

1. College Hill - Skyline Acres Active Transportation Connection
2. State of the bike lanes in Skyline Acres
3. Annual large item pick-up
4. Shannex deal and the government
5. City potholes
6. Uptown East/West Multi-use trail
7. Skyline trail network: summer/winter maintenance
8. Route 7 crossing: long range planning
9. Twenty people signed up to speak about the Sir Max Aitken pool, extension and replacement

3. Notes

1. College Hill - Skyline Acres Active Transportation Connection
 - Tevor Hanson introduced the work and concept of the Active Transportation Connection. He directed people to the Facebook: College Hill Skyline Active Transportation Connection: an active transportation hub with multiple active transportation elements: pedestrian crossing over Route 8, park-n-ride with bikes and bus to downtown and uptown, trail connections.
 - Work-to-date: presentations to the Mayor, to the city's Transportation committee, to UNB, NBCC, STU and the DECH. Letters of support for a feasibility study from UNB and FHS.
 - Asking for letters of support from the community to the Mayor and City Council.
 - Suggestion from the audience: get support from the UNB Community (Faculty, students, etc.)
2. State of the bike lanes in Skyline Acres
 - Greg Ericson explained that he will forward the concerns to city staff and request cleanup of bike lanes urgently
 - Bike lanes are too narrow
 - Ideal would be to have widened sidewalk with raised bike lanes, but this is expensive and usually for high-traffic areas
 - Can use existing infrastructure, no need to create new
3. Annual large item pick-up
 - Can there be a large item pick-up?
 - Greg Ericson responded that yes, the city has considered this. Currently, there is a dumpster program for large items, but maybe a bi-annual large item pickup service would be better.
4. 20 people signed up to speak about extending the SMA pool life and replacing it. Following is some of what they had to say, followed by Greg Ericson's and David Coon's responses:
 - Q: How will the meeting go on Monday?
 - A from Greg Ericson: On Friday city councillors met with some Liberal candidates. The Province has agreed with the city's funding formula to provide funding for more than just one year.
 - Q: What about the Playhouse? Will the pool now get 100% of attention from the city?
 - Q: Why can't we keep the pool open until the Playhouse is done?
 - Doctors signed a petition and placed an ad showing their support for the pool as an important health issue. Q: What will the city do, how will the vote go on Monday to keep the pool open until a new pool is in? Have felt like their kids have been a negotiating chip for the Playhouse. Hope for a

resolution on Monday. The Playhouse is not being torn down in September, the pool is more urgent.

- Q: What will happen if the pool closes?
 - Speaker has four children in the FAST program. Swimming is a life skill. Many in the community use the pool, not just competitive aquatics, but they're not as visible.
 - Q: Will we have an answer towards working something, towards a solution?
 - Q: If the pool closes, where will we swim in the meantime?
 - Concern: Our faith in Council and Mayor has been damaged. Facts were not presented. There has been spectacular advocacy from the community, this has not been acknowledged by the Mayor or Council.
 - Q: What will happen Monday?
 - Q: Greg, what will YOU do on Monday night?
 - The Playhouse is not an issue, please represent us.
 - Q: Greg, will you be willing to decouple the pool from the Playhouse? The support shouldn't be conditional.
 - SMA extension should be done.
 - Greg Ericson:
 - The question has always been about cost, not about the value of the pool. Now, everyone has finally come together and agreed to pay their share. This is important to Council that all pay their due share to keep Fredericton taxes livable, so that Fredericton residents are not getting unfairly burdened. The question is what are appropriate fees in order to avoid a deficit? On Monday, staff recommended keeping the SMA open. Extending it is cheaper than transferring users to the Indoor Pool. However, UNB still needs to agree to keep the SMA pool open. Greg thinks Council will support the extension. The next step is a feasibility study for a new pool. Need to meet with stakeholders and see what they're willing to pay. Would like the new aquatics facility to not just meet the need but exceed the need.
 - Regarding the Playhouse. Council doesn't want priorities to constantly get derailed. The original understanding was that UNB would build a competitive pool.
 - David Coon:
 - David has been in touch with the multiple players in the pool negotiations since the beginning. The short term objective looks close to getting accomplished.
5. Uptown East/West Multi-use trail
- There is no uptown trail to connect the community to Knowledge Park. Are there any plans for a multi-use East-West trail to connect uptown?
 - Additionally, are there any plans to get a crossing over Route 7?

- Idea: charge developers whenever they develop to help pay for these kinds of trail infrastructures to connect new developments to the rest of the city.
 - Greg Ericson: UNB is planning to develop in Knowledge Park, this may be an opportunity for the city to ask for Active Transportation linkages in this development. Should incentivize developers to do this. The city has an Active Transportation Plan.
 - City focuses on large infrastructure. Greg Ericson will move city to develop more neighbourhood-based active transportation plan: trails, small parks. Better maintenance. Reflect what the community wants.
6. Shannex deal and the government
- Very concerned about the deals being made between the government and Shannex to provide nursing home care. There are problems with this model of large corporate nursing home care.
 - David Coon: All new nursing homes that are being built are in this private-public model. The question is: what will this look like? David tried to get information to determine if this was a better deal than the existing non-profit and community nursing homes, but he was unable to get this information, despite the information commissioner ordering that the information be released. David went to court to get the information, but the judge sided with the Shannex lawyers and wouldn't allow the information to be released. It is concerning that information is being kept secret. This will be an election issue. Need to ensure good care for seniors in nursing homes. David prefers the non-profit, local community model of nursing homes. Auditor General may be able to get the information and compare the private/public models as she has access to this information. The Premier prefers the corporate nursing homes. Non-profit community nursing homes asked for right of first refusal but were not given this.
7. City potholes
- Main streets have bad potholes: Beaverbrook, Waggoners Lane, top of Smythe St. City has to fix these, maybe even do it at night to be less disruptive to traffic.
 - Greg Ericson: Potholes and speeding are a big concern the city hears about weekly. Fluctuation of temperatures creates potholes. Asphalt plant only opens when the weather is warm enough. Repairs will be happening soon.
8. Skyline trail network: summer/winter maintenance
1. Route 7 crossing: long range planning

4. Follow-Up Actions

1. David will work with the Residents Committee on the College Hill - Skyline Acres Active Transportation Connection on its promotion phase and garnering public support
2. David will continue pushing the Provincial Government to have a provincial waste strategy that will include better recycling and waste management practices and that can support municipalities to implement better waste management.
3. David will continue to push for better transparency in government contracts with private entities; and advocate for community-led, non-profit nursing homes.