



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
9 a.m.

Transcript No. 27-3-1

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

Brown, Dr. Neil, QC, Calgary-Nose Hill (PC), Chair
Woo-Paw, Teresa, Calgary-Mackay (PC), Deputy Chair

Allred, Ken, St. Albert (PC)
Amery, Moe, Calgary-East (PC)
Benito, Carl, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)
Bhardwaj, Naresh, Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)
Boutilier, Guy C., Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (Ind)
Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)
Dallas, Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)
Doerksen, Arno, Strathmore-Brooks (PC)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Hinman, Paul, Calgary-Glenmore (WA)
Jacobs, Broyce, Cardston-Taber-Warner (PC)
Kang, Darshan S., Calgary-McCall (AL)
Lindsay, Fred, Stony Plain (PC)
McQueen, Diana, Drayton Valley-Calmar (PC)
Olson, Verlyn, QC, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)
Sandhu, Peter, Edmonton-Manning (PC)
Sarich, Janice, Edmonton-Decore (PC)
Taft, Dr. Kevin, Edmonton-Riverview (AL)
Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC)

Bill Pr. 1 Sponsor

Weadick, Greg, Lethbridge-West (PC)

Bill Pr. 2 Sponsor

DeLong, Alana, Calgary-Bow (PC)

Bill Pr. 3 Sponsor

Home, Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)

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Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

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Tuesday, February 23, 2010

[Dr. Brown in the chair]

The Chair: Good morning, everyone. We'll call the meeting to order. We have the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo on the telephone, and he wishes to join us via teleconferencing. I believe that we need a motion to allow that. I wonder if I could have a motion to allow teleconferencing at this meeting and at the subsequent meetings of this committee during the session. Mr. Dallas.

Mr. Dallas: Yes. Motion to provide for members to join this and subsequent meetings of the committee on private bills via teleconference.

The Chair: Thank you. Any discussion? All in favour? Anyone opposed? That's carried.
Welcome, Mr. Boutilier.

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you, and good morning.

The Chair: Okay. I would ask committee members to introduce themselves. If we could start, please, at the far end with Mr. Hinman.

Mr. Hinman: Paul Hinman, Calgary-Glenmore.

Mr. Lindsay: Fred Lindsay, Stony Plain.

Mr. Drysdale: Wayne Drysdale, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mrs. McQueen: Good morning. Diana McQueen, Drayton Valley-Calmor.

Mrs. Sarich: Good morning. Janice Sarich, Edmonton-Decore.

Ms Woo-Paw: Good morning. Teresa Woo-Paw, Calgary-Mackay.

Mr. Sandhu: Good morning. Peter Sandhu, Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Dean: Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel.

The Chair: I'm Neil Brown, chair of the committee.

Mr. Boutilier: Guy Boutilier, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Ms Marston: Florence Marston, assistant to the committee.

Mr. Jacobs: Bryce Jacobs, Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Dallas: Cal Dallas, Red Deer-South.

Ms Calahasen: Pearl Calahasen, Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Naresh Bhardwaj, Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Mr. Amery: Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

Mr. Olson: Good morning. Verlyn Olson, Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Weadick: Good morning. Greg Weadick, Lethbridge-West.

Mr. Kang: Good morning, everyone. Darshan Kang, Calgary-McCall.

Dr. Taft: Kevin Taft, Edmonton-Riverview.

The Chair: Well, thank you.

The first order of business is the approval of the agenda which has been circulated. Could I have a motion for the approval of the agenda as circulated? Pearl Calahasen. Thank you. All in favour? Any opposed? That's carried.

The next item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes from our April 14, 2009, meeting. The minutes have been circulated. Could I have a motion to accept them? Mr. Sandhu. Any discussion? Any errors or omissions? Then could I call for the question? All in favour of the minutes as circulated? Anyone opposed? That's carried.

Okay. The next item is the review of our petitions that have been received this session. I would call upon Shannon Dean to enlighten us on the nature of those petitions.

Ms Dean: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This year we've received three petitions for private bills. As noted in my memo to you that was circulated yesterday morning, the first petition we received was from the Community Foundation of Lethbridge, and they're seeking a repeal and replacement of their existing legislation to do a number of things. Mr. Weadick is the sponsor of that bill. Just briefly, some of the changes they're looking for are a change in name, broader investment powers, express authority to indemnify directors and officers, express authority to manage funds on behalf of other charities, and they'd like to remove certain procedural matters from the statute and have them dealt with through by-laws. The key thing to note for today's meeting is that this petitioner has fulfilled all the standing order requirements, namely the advertising in the *Gazette* and the local newspaper.

The second petition we received is from the Calgary Olympic Development Association, and it's in connection with COP. They are looking for broader exemptions with respect to property taxes. I can advise you that this bill was brought forward back in 2006, but they decided not to pursue it. They are pursuing it at this point in time. Just for the committee's information the city of Calgary has contacted our office and noted a preliminary objection, so we will be sending the bill to them for comment and inviting them to appear before you when the bill is heard. That's it there. The petitioner has fulfilled all of the requirements under the standing orders. Again, the advertising requirements have been met.

Finally, the third petition for a private bill is something called the Lamont Health Care Centre Act. The sponsor here is Mr. Horne. What's being requested is a private act that would continue the board of management of the Lamont health care centre. The reason for the bill, according to the petitioner's counsel, is that due to a 2007 government act, which is still awaiting proclamation, the Lamont health care board of management will cease to exist because certain provisions in the Hospitals Act will be repealed, so they're basically looking to continue its existence. This petitioner has fulfilled all of the standing order requirements.

The Chair: Any questions for Parliamentary Counsel about those petitions that have been submitted?

Dr. Taft: Mr. Chairman, what's the time frame you expect in terms of the communications back and forth with the city of Calgary and their objection to the Canada Olympic Park proposal?

The Chair: Well, we don't have our hearing date set yet, but the date that is going to be proposed is going to be into the fourth week of March, so there would be, you know, that interim time period between now and then in order to have communications with the city.

Dr. Taft: Okay. That's fine.

Ms Dean: If the committee goes ahead with the proposed schedule, there is approximately a month for comments to be provided by the city of Calgary.

Dr. Taft: And does the city of Calgary feel that's sufficient?

The Chair: I can't answer that.
Do you know?

Ms Dean: I haven't spoken to them directly, but I do know that the petitioner has been in ongoing dialogue with the city of Calgary, so this isn't something that's out of the blue for them.

Dr. Taft: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Okay. We'll move on, then. The next item of business for this organizational meeting is to set up a schedule of the hearings and deliberations on our petitions for this session. We have circulated a proposed schedule of March 23 beginning at 8 o'clock in the morning for the hearings and April 13 at 8:30 a.m. for the deliberations and the decisions to be made. I would ask you to consult your BlackBerrys. If there is a huge, overwhelming consensus of conflicting dates, then we'll attempt to accommodate them, but bear in mind that with a committee that has 21 members, there is absolutely no way that we could accommodate 100 per cent of the members.

On the March 23 date could I see a show of hands? How many people could not make the March 23 date?

Mrs. McQueen: Just a question for you. I fully understand that

everybody's schedules can't be accommodated, but if you're not available for the hearing, can you be part of the deliberation and decision?

The Chair: Yes, and you would have access to the transcripts, of course. If you wished to have someone else ask a question on your behalf, if you had concerns or whatever, you could certainly designate someone to do that.

Mr. Xiao: Mr. Chair, I'll be okay with March 23.

9:10

The Chair: Well, thank you.

Okay. So that looks like that's a go, then.

Moving on to the April 13 date, is there anyone that has horrific problems with April 13? Again, there's just one, and we apologize for the inability to accommodate everyone, but it looks like that date is satisfactory to the majority of the members.

Mr. Xiao: April 13?

The Chair: April 13, yes.

Mr. Xiao: I'll be okay.

The Chair: Can I see a show of hands again, then, for anyone that cannot make the April 13 date? Okay. It looks like there are three. Again, I think we'll have to go with that date as the consensus seems to be that that'll work for most people.

I guess I need a motion, then, for someone to set those two dates, March 23 and April 13, as our next meetings. Ms Woo-Paw. All in favour? Opposed? That's carried. So the next meeting, then, is scheduled for March 23 at 8 o'clock.

Is there any other business that members have to bring before the meeting this morning? Seeing no hands go up, then I will accept a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Sarich. All in favour? It's carried. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 9:11 a.m.]

