

SPECIAL MEETING
GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2010, 9:00 A.M.

8. POLICY REPORTS

The Director of Planning & Development introduced to Committee members of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) who were instrumental in providing community guidance to help form the draft *Official Community Plan (OCP)*. Present at the meeting were Lisa Helps, Dan Pollock and Blair Humphreys. Other members are Deb Curran, Robert Jawl, Todd Litman and Doug Rhodes. Ms. Helps provided Committee with an overview of her experience in this process and emphasized the genuine engagement opportunities that were undertaken. She assured Committee that what is being presented today is the backbone of what will be a plan that robustly and fully expresses the voice of the community.

8.1 Official Community Plan – Report on Public Engagement

Committee received a report dated August 11, 2010 from Planning and Development providing an update regarding the design and delivery of public engagement in the Official Community Plan in accordance with the Project Charter and Public Engagement Strategy. Staff gave an overview of the rationale for the selection of engagement techniques and reported on outcomes and outputs.

Councillor Lucas withdrew from the meeting at 10:43 a.m. and returned at 10:46 a.m.

Committee discussed with staff the following:

- The number of youth who participated in this process and the noted the importance of engaging youth for the future of the community;
 - Staff provided the numbers and advised that students in the community circle volunteered to be facilitators.
- That this project was expedited and still produced excellent results; how an expedited project allows for a more connected process.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that Committee recommends that Council received, for information, the report on public engagement in the *Official Community Plan* update.

CARRIED 10/GPC362

8.2 Official Community Plan – Framework for Plan Development

A report from Planning and Development, dated August 16, 2010, was submitted presenting a framework for the development of an updated *Official Community Plan* (OCP) in accordance with the OCP Project Charter. A key item for Council's consideration is the growth focus of the land use management framework, with options presented in this report for both a village centre emphasis and a Downtown core area focus. Approval, in principle, of this plan framework will provide staff clarity on general directions to focus plan development and enable staff to continue to work towards presenting a draft OCP to Council January 2011.

Mayor Fortin withdrew from the meeting at 11:06 a.m. Councillor Hunter assumed the Chair. Mayor Fortin returned at 11:09 a.m. and assumed the Chair.

Staff advised Committee that they are recommending the village centre option; a lifestyle that has access to services, but an increase in population is needed to make businesses thrive. Little was heard about the implications of denser population and there may be some contradictions as to what this implies. The population in the core is currently fairly robust but how to accommodate growth of 10,000 people to this area is the broader question.

Councillor Coleman withdrew from the meeting at 11:18 a.m. and returned at 11:21 a.m.

Committee discussed with staff the following:

- Lifecycle planning with respect to citizens and applying it to facilities.
- Incentives and strategies in the OCP to encourage green building;
 - Staff are analysing a green building policy.
- Implications of a denser downtown and village; what the built form of a village would look like.
- Two sides to economic development: primary and secondary jobs; household sustaining jobs.
- Support for the concept of a village centre and needing to quantify and illustrate that idea and that it meets sustainable transportation objectives.
- More consideration of the harbour which impacts the residents and economy.
- Accessibility considerations for transportation and housing.
- Strategies and alternatives for parking, particularly in the Fernwood neighbourhood.

Councillor Luton withdrew from the meeting at 11:34 a.m. and returned at 11:35 a.m.

Councillor Lucas withdrew from the meeting at 11:35 a.m. and returned at 11:36 a.m.

Councillor Hunter withdrew from the meeting at 11:36 a.m. and returned at 11:40 a.m.

Councillor Lucas withdrew from the meeting at 11:53 a.m. and returned at 11:56 a.m.

Staff advised that the development of a village centre plan would require substantial work to determine a variety of housing forms and policy initiatives, resulting in a range of possible scenarios. Staff would report back through the draft plan to articulate where villages would be and what the built form might look like but timelines restrict the ability to model whole scenarios.

Mayor Fortin noted the need for families to help create robust communities and incentives to increase family housing. Keeping children in local schools is a better objective than searching for uses of unused school grounds.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that Committee recommends that Council approve in principle an Official Community Plan Land Use Management Framework with a village centre emphasis, as outlined in the report dated August 16, 2010.

CARRIED 10/GPC363

Mayor Fortin suggested discussing individually the goals and direction of the OCP. The following comments were made on each section:

a. Transportation

- Investing in transportation measures and formalizing existing approaches to transportation;
 - Victoria is second to Montreal with respect to sustainable modes of transportation.
- Adjusting the various elements of transportation to modernize them: 'complete streets' as an approach in the OCP.

Councillor Lucas withdrew from the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

b. Housing and Homelessness

- Reconsidering family housing and different ways families can be housed.
- Affordable housing models and the notion of green and sustainable housing.
- Goals with respect to homelessness and the need for support services.
- Affordable housing for seniors and those on fixed incomes.

c. Climate Change and Energy

d. Economy

- The development and articulation of home based businesses; increasing capacity around village centres.
- Emphasis on works and job development;
 - Aligning the OCP with work underway.

e. Neighbourhood Planning Program

- Expanding the consultation role to capture a larger group of people within individual neighbourhoods.
- Illustrating the commitment to the principles of neighbourhood planning.

Councillor Coleman withdrew from the meeting at 12:34 p.m. and returned at 12:36 p.m.

f. Urban Design

- Vibrancy means more noise and interaction; excellence of urban design.
- Interconnecting with other areas and embracing certain goals.

g. Infrastructure

- Encouraging alternate energy sources and transportation modes from the City's civic facilities.
- Budgetary impacts and changing how reserves are done.

Councillor Luton withdrew from the meeting at 12:40 p.m. and returned at 12:42 p.m.

h. Parks and Recreation

- Need for off-leash areas for dogs, especially in urban environments.

i. Natural Environment

- Citizens having an increased responsibility for environmental stewardship;
 - Educational programs to enhance awareness.

j. Heritage

- Density bonus transfer as a tool for heritage.
- A policy direction for increased use with respect to affordable housing.

Councillor Lucas returned at 12:43 p.m.

Councillor Hunter withdrew from the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

k. Community Well-Being

- Accessibility for those in wheelchairs for housing, but also public areas.
- A reliance on active transportation.
- Accessibility to make the community more family-friendly with park enhancements.
- Benches at every bus stop.
- Legislation as it applies to transportation and a national program.

l. Arts and Culture

- Small ways to recognize arts and cultures; festivals and linking it to the economic strategy.
- Reconsidering the policies for posting events on the City's website.

Councillor Hunter returned to the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

m. Emergency Management

n. Food Systems

- As a policy direction and connecting and supporting food processing locally.
- A retail engine for food producers.
- Looking at mechanisms to develop food growing capacity in people's backyards.
- A comprehensive food policy that identifies goals and timelines.
- Federal policies that restrict local food production.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that Committee recommends that Council approve in principle:

1. Community Values for the *Official Community Plan*.
2. Goals and Directions in Fourteen (14) Topic Areas:
 - a. Transportation
 - b. Housing and Homelessness
 - c. Climate Change and Energy
 - d. Economy
 - e. Neighbourhood Planning Program
 - f. Urban Design
 - g. Infrastructure
 - h. Parks and Recreation
 - i. Natural Environment
 - j. Heritage
 - k. Community Well-being
 - l. Arts and Culture
 - m. Emergency Management
 - n. Food Systems

as outlined in the report dated August 16, 2010.

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