

May 13, 2008
Special meeting of council
Discussion of public input to SSP
5:30-7:00 city hall

Gord: Erin will facilitate meeting and hopes everyone had a chance to read at least the first 5 pages of Erin's summary and scan the many pages of community input. Purpose of tonight's meeting is to listen to the community feedback and decide whether or not to change the 3 priorities previously selected (Econ dev, land mgt, and affordable housing).

Erin: Lots of feedback. 99 attendees at meeting, comments from floor, on note cards and letters that came in later.

Most comments supported the three stated priorities with the addition of **water**.

Lots of comments about **Economic development** stressed the need for a cohesive plan that focused on diversity. Many suggestions for a task force to work on this plan.

Affordable housing was very important for both and young and old residents – many comments.

Land management: not as much consensus on comments – suggestions all over the place.

Water and solid waste management: loud and clear this was the number one priority of many people. Incorporating SA #111 (create plan) & 112 (establish boundaries and protection) from the SSP. Also task groups were recommended.

Some citizens expressed concerns about whether too many strategic actions were being taken on but the reality is that of the 33 SAs selected originally, 20 of them are already either handled or have been started. There are 10-14 brand new actions.

Council moved & seconded to: Adopt water and solid waste management as a priority.
Discussion:

Jackie: Wasn't it felt that water was already handled under land management?

Gord: I said at the meeting that water was already being handled so it wasn't needed as a strategic action but based on the community input, if we don't add it now we'll be defending our action for the rest of our term.

Jackie: land management is huge and as a tool includes watershed houses, etc. interesting that the community didnt say much about land management.

Larry: Under land management there is no mention of water. Seems like with climate change issues, just heard about a new book on CBC about water shortages, water management needs to be added. Since there is that degree of insecurity in the community.

Jill: it is our top issue and resource and should be given the highest priority. Besides, it has come out as a separate focus in the SSP- not included under any other section; natural environment, resource management and water & sewage all came out as separate areas.

Steve: Loud and clear to add water. We recognize the need to add water but I am concerned about how priorities we are taking on and the costs.

Jill: If we start on 4 can we just work on the highest priorities? We don't have to do all the SA's in each focus area do we? Can we leave the less pressing for later?

Erin: Some things are already started, some will take years to accomplish and some may never happen at all.

Called vote to add water and solid waste management as a priority.
All voted in favor

Gord: Thanked Erin for summary doc. Got meaningful public input and consultation with the community. The community is switched on. Some had assumed that nothing was going on, that council was staring blankly and cobwebs were covering the door of city hall. It's a challenge to manage public engagement with limited staff time. Its important that we not take on too much so that we demonstrate successes.

Do we feel comfortable with 4? Are we taking on too much? Do we want to eliminate one of the others? If so, which one; these are difficult choices.

Laurie: 4 is ok with me. But if we have to drop one, I suggest Econ Dev because the 2 most important strategic actions are economic impact plan and establish a community economic organization we could do even it not a priority area: establish the task force and let look at these areas.

Steve: Doesn't have full understanding of how task groups will operate. Not sure what new priorities will entail or cost. Thinks land management is weakest, got the least comments from the public. Hot issues are affordability and eco diversity.

Jill : 4 makes her nervous., but agrees with Lauries comments. Won't agree that land management should go. But OCP handles a lot of it. She is ok with 4

Larry: Affordability and community econ devel, land management, lots of initiatives already. A lot of things are outside our control and are regional. Arent we just taking on the highest priorities? Unclear how much work taking on 4 would mean.

Jackie: At our one and only planning meeting it was laid on us that we had to select 3 priorities. We need to take a look at the implied costs of what we have taken on. I would cheerfully drop housing and affordability because I think the suites handles this very nicely. A housing stock assessment needs to be done but being willing to partner and work with others will really help (like the Legion proposal)

Lloyd: ok with 4. Very pleased to see water added. Housing and affordability are very important so is economic dev- bigger issue than land management where we have made great progress already, If consensus is one has to go, drop land management.

Gord: Sounds like we are all ok with keeping 4 focus areas and there is no consensus on what should be dropped anyway. I know this makes us nervous because we wanted to start small and build on our successes; not try to boil the ocean. Let's cautiously proceed with 4 and prioritize our strategic actions for water and waste management.

Jackie: Planning for this council comes from the SSP not the OCP?

Gord: The SSP is the umbrella doc that informs the OCP. The SSP is infused with the community's vision- its the 30 year plan. The OCP is designed for 5 years; it is more action oriented.

Erin: Each councilor should state their priorities and then vote.

Laurie: 111, 112, 113, 114, 119 and 120

Steve: 2, 111, 112, 113, 114, 119 and 121

Jill: 5, 13, 111, 112, 113, 114, 119 and 121

Gord: 111, 112, 113, 114 and 119

Larry: 111, 112, 113, 114, 119 and 121

Jackie: 111, 113, 114, 115, 119, 120 and 121

Lloyd: 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 119 and 121

Voting:

2, 5, 13 = deleted because are high priorities in other areas.

111 = 7, 112 = 5, 113 = 6, 115 = 2, 116 = 2, 119 = 7, 120 = 1, 121 = 6

Selected strategic actions:

111, 112, 113, 114, 119 and 121

SA #145- recommended by Erin to be added under economic devl .- Identify opportunities for heritage arts and culture to contribute to the economy. Well supported with community feedback.

Erin: asking council to wait to determine final implementation plan until the steering committee and staff have a chance to review and create feasibility estimates, cost estimates and timeline.

Gord: we can discuss it now or later. Have we taken on too much? Does the city have the resources, may have to hire additional people....

Erin: some of these things might be costly- creating a watershed plan looks expensive.

Steve: Whistler's task forces only take on projects they can accomplish within one year – we can select long term projects but they don't have to all be done at once.

Ron: we'll need proposed terms of reference for task force groups.

Gord: would like to see 3 task groups.

Graham: Unclear on what the task force is supposed to do. Their mandate was to get the V2A process to the completion of the SSP. That is just about done. Now, talking about a whole new process. Group is tired, may need to rethink membership.

Gord: Erin will help and do a lot of the research work. Doesn't want to lose the steering committee or see group disperse but could have additional members added. Possibly get response in 4-6 weeks?

Laurie_ there are so many engaged people in the community many new volunteers will step forward.

Close committee meeting of the whole

Reconvene to approve minutes and adopt:

- 1) add water as a focus area
- 2) list of SA's adopted
- 3) SA#145 adopted
- 4) Refer priorities back to steering committee and staff for review and creation of implementation and costs etc.