



To: Mayor and Councillors

Date: December 3, 2010

From: Terry Crowe, Manager,
Policy Planning

File:

Re: 2041 OCP Update: Sustainability and Agricultural Open Houses Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to update Council regarding recent 2041 OCP preparation activity.

OCP Sustainability Open House

On November 24, 2010, at City Hall, Policy Planning and Sustainability staff held an open house to inform residents how the City has been working towards sustainability and to receive their comments. 12 people attended which enabled a good two hour discussion on many topics, the highlights of which are summarized below:

Highlights - Sustainability Open House Comments	City Staff Response
Sustainability: regarding the City's sustainability framework, consider creating more sustainability awareness programs	Sustainability will review
Sustainability and GHG Reduction Assistance and Incentives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - senior government assistance is needed (e.g., for people to retro fit their homes to be more efficient), - encourage developers to build more efficient houses 	Sustainability will review
Climate Change: regarding climate change and sea level rise management and diking programs, keep them updated	Engineering and Sustainability staff will do so
OCP GHG Targets: continue to prepare the OCP GHG reduction target action programs	Sustainability staff will do so
Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the City's district energy policies are appreciated, - consider establishing an home energy rating system to inform people as to the efficiency of the houses that they are buying (e.g., realtors did such a pilot on Vancouver Island), 	Sustainability and Building Approvals staff will consider
Tree Cutting: concern over the "urban forest" being cut down for new development	The City has an approved Tree Management Policy which enables certain trees to be cut and requires trees to be replaced and retained
Bicycling: consider establishing a community bike program for visitors and residents so that there are bikes readily available	Transportation staff will consider
Houses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider educating sellers of homes how to use covenants so that home buyers will preserve and renovate existing houses, rather than demolish them, - consider regulating the size of new homes, as smaller houses may be more efficient and mansions are not wanted everywhere 	Policy Planning, Development and Building Approvals staff will consider
Garages: can the city encourage only 2 car garages in single detached houses?	Policy Planning and Development staff will review

OCP Agricultural Open House

On November 25, 2010, at City Hall, staff held an open house to receive residents' ideas regarding how to better achieve agricultural viability. 110 people attended. This was due to the invitation letter which was sent to all homes in East Richmond, as many there do not get the local newspapers. Concerns and ideas were discussed and matters clarified. Finance (for taxation questions) and Engineering (for servicing questions) also attended.

The highlights of the discussion are summarized below:

Highlights - Agricultural Open House Comments	City Staff Response
Agricultural Building Set Back: residents appreciate that Council reset the zoning bylaw requirement for building setbacks in ALR	Comment appreciated, Note, that as the Province is preparing such setback guidelines (e.g., in early 2011), the Policy Planning and development staff will review the applicability of the guidelines with the Agriculture Advisory Committee and the public to see what changes might be made
Agricultural Taxation: concerns that current taxations policies for small lots in the ALR does not always promote farming	City Finance staff will continue to work with the Province to seek improvements to taxation for small lots to promote farming
Small Farm Animals: why can't people raise chickens, etc., on lots which are less than a half acre?	Policy Planning will review
East Richmond Residents Being Better Heard: some felt that they may need a better way to have their East Richmond voices heard (e.g., establish an association)	In the future, when consulting with East Richmond residents, as they do not all get the local newspapers, City staff will inform residents by letter, where appropriate
No 6 Rd Traffic: some said that there is excessive traffic on No 6 Rd,	Transportation staff will review
A Lack Of Services In the ALR (e.g., sanitary, road access)	Policy Planning, Transportation and Engineering staff and the Agricultural Advisory Committee will review this matter as part of the review of the Agricultural Viability Strategy currently underway

"LetsTALKRichmond" Activity

Since the City started using the "LetsTALKRichmond" communication tool in July 2010, it continues to be well received as demonstrated by the following numbers:

News Page	OCP Forum
Number of page views - 53,324	Number of page views - 18,412
Number of visits - 3,536	Number of visits - 2,342
Number of unique visitors - 2,658	Number of unique visitors - 1,603
Number of registered visitors - 206	Number of registered visitors - 128
Average number of unique visitors per day - 18.1	Average number of unique visitors per day - 10.9
Average Stay Time - 4.62 minutes	Average stay time - 6.01 minutes

The feedback from the City's web site will be considered in preparing the 2041 OCP Update.

OCP Study Progress

City staff are intending to bring the following studies to Planning Committee, as follows:

- January 18, 2011 - The 2041 Employment Lands Strategy,
- February 22, 2011 - The Fall 2010 OCP Survey (e.g., re housing and shopping centre options) and The OCP Concept (one report),
- February 22, 2011 - the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Report.

For clarification, please contact me at 604-276-4139.



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
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- pc:
- Joe Erceg, MCIP, General Manager, Planning and Development
 - Robert Gonzalez, P.Eng. General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
 - Brian Jackson, Director, Development
 - John Irving, P.Eng. MPA, Director, Engineering
 - Victor Wei, P. Eng., Director, Transportation
 - Jerry Chong, Director, Finance
 - Margot Daykin, M.R.M., Sustainability Manager, Community Services
 - Allister Moore, Manager, Community Energy
 - Cecilia Achiam, Senior Co-ordinator, Major Projects,
 - Holger Burke, Planning Co-ordinator, Policy Planning
 - June Christy, Senior Planner
 - Rich T. Wakefield, Planning Assistant