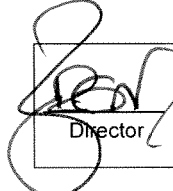
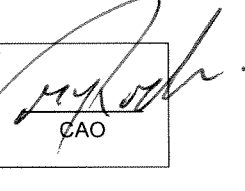


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2.

WORKSHOP MAY 11/09 # 2

DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
750 – 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date: May 11, 2009 File: 0280.03
From: Brent Leigh, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: **Community Engagement and contribution to the District of West Vancouver 2009 Strategic Planning Process**

RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Council receive the *Community Engagement and contribution to the District of West Vancouver 2009 Strategic Planning Process* report and direct staff to move the topics, and related questions for additional debate during June 3rd and 5th public meetings.
2. Further, that staff bring forward themes from these meetings that will further inform the development of a community vision.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is:

- To have Council ratify the topics and associated questions for the next phase of public consultation
- To share central ideas and statements that arose which will help shape the vision for the community

It is anticipated that a final vision statement will be crafted after the next stage of community input.

1.0 Background

The attached report, *West Vancouver Community Input*, summarizes comments from approximately 450 interviews that took place in two public consultation forums of April 1st and 25th. Appendix A: Interview Matrix Output and Appendix B: Open Space Output, presents the verbatim transcript from these meetings. This record also contains over 60 topics constructed and ranked by participants at the two sessions.

The following, *West Vancouver Consultation Community Input Summary*, has synthesized the information shown in the appendix into a narrative that captures the main themes and provides a visionary thematic statement.

This analysis has also identified six key topics and related questions.

2.0 Analysis

The topic areas, arising from public input, should be evaluated to ensure that they are, indeed, the issues and opportunities of most concern to the whole community.

The Consultant notes when introducing the topics in his report: *Based on community input during the Open Space Forums in particular, the facilitator recommends the following topics and associated questions should be explored or at least serve as the basis for developing additional questions of critical importance (no particular order):*

- *Affordable Housing Development*
- *Environmental Stewardship and Issues of Sustainability*
- *Cultural Expression and Activity*
- *Closing the Generation Gap*
- *Developing our Economic Capacity*
- *Revitalizing the Village Vibrancy*

Executive considered these topics and the content of this report and acknowledge these to be strong topics. However, it is felt they miss the important stewardship of all that has been created to date in West Vancouver. Staff recommend adding the topic, "*Stewardship of Community Assets.*" This general topic is consistent with many of the topics highlighted in the report which include: District financial responsibility, faster & more adaptable government and how the District makes service decisions.

Staff believe "*Stewardship of Community Assets*" can encourage the public exploration of services, and infrastructure they value and how they would like to see those services delivered and assets managed. This topic is added at the end of the topics listed below.

Staff also suggest that the issue of Affordable Housing Development is better captured as Alternative Housing Development. Further, "*Alternative Housing Development and Revitalizing Village Vibrancy*" could be blended into one set of questions, which is reflected below. Finally, *Closing the Generation Gap* could better capture ethnicity were the title to be *Closing the Demographic Gap*.

We would appreciate any amendments be suggested at this meeting, so that the revisions to the following themes and questions move forward to World Café sessions:

Environmental Stewardship and Issues of Sustainability

- a. What goals should we establish and what actions should we take within West Vancouver in the next 5, 10 and 25 years in order to increase our capacity to adapt to climate change? To mitigate it?
- b. Twenty-Five Years from now, if we fully nourish our natural environment in the District of West Vancouver, what would it look like? What would be different than today? What would you notice?
- c. How can we, as a community, best encourage and support individual and family living that has a positive impact on the environment?

Cultural Expression and Activity

- a. On a long-term basis, how should we honour our artists and our arts legacy?
- b. What goals should we establish and what specific initiatives should we undertake to make West Vancouver a destination for cultural excellence?
- c. How can we embed arts and culture into our community "waterfront village" experience?

Closing the Demographic Gap

- a. What demographic gaps exist in the District?
- b. How can we best increase living and work opportunities for young people, and people of various ethnic origins, in the District?
- c. What initiatives and practices should we undertake in order to connect multiple generations, and ethnic diversity, within our community?

Developing our Economic Capacity

- a. What opportunities either currently exist or should be created in order to increase our economic capacity within West Vancouver?
- b. What services and/or destinations should be created or developed to enhance our economic capacity?
- c. What is our strategic economic advantage within West Vancouver?

Revitalizing the Village Vibrancy

- a. What can we do to make our village(s) truly come to life?
- b. What strategies should the municipality, our citizens and businesses consider doing in order to strengthen our village character? How can alternative housing play a role?
- c. What needs attention in our various villages? What long-term goals should be established? Is density part of the solution? What does density mean in West Vancouver?

Stewardship of Community Assets

- a. How, in the face of new opportunities and demands, do we balance the desire to retain first class services and facilities?
- b. What services do you value and how can they be expanded or contracted in your view?
- c. What facilities and infrastructure do you value, and or feel are of lesser importance to our community?

- 2.1 The second area to consider is the input that has been received which will help shape a long range vision. The report, having captured the themes from all conversations and transcriptions, provides a draft basis for a vision. The themes of vision shown below are true reflections of the aspirations spoken in the community consultations to date.

West Vancouver is a vibrant waterfront village of cultural expression, leading the world in socially responsible living, environmental stewardship and quality of community life.

The narrative on pages 6 and 7 of the summary sets the context of the aspirations noted above. Council and the community must feel a final vision statement is compelling, representative and capable of guiding the community for the long term.

We do not seek to conclude the vision immediately, but rather touch down with Council to discuss how well the key themes within this statement resonate. As we continue to gain public input, the elements of the vision will be confirmed and crafted in compelling language to ensure the broadest interpretation of community.

2.2 Next Steps

Public Meetings: Wednesday, June 3rd (West Vancouver Community Centre - 6:00 to 9:00 pm) and Friday, June 5th (Gleneagles Community Centre - 6:00 to 9:00 pm). These public sessions will be conducted in the dynamic "World Café" format, where each of the key topics will be discussed by residents in an interactive session. This process allows for visitors to the Cafés to provide input and see ideas grow through the input of subsequent participants.

The public will be able to drop into these meetings, but they are encouraged to register as full participation will add value for all concerned. Registration can be done online by e-mailing strategicplan@westvancouver.ca.

The World Cafés will confirm the topics of importance (goals) and what should be done to address them (strategies). These insights will then return to Council for ratification and then integration by staff in their tactical departmental plans.

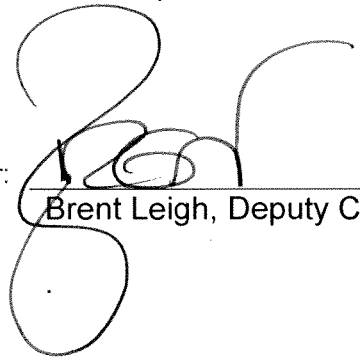
Online Community Forum: The Café questions will be posted via the District's online community forum. The online forum is an opportunity for residents who can not attend the World Cafés to provide feedback by posting comments.

In Coffee Shop Chats: These questions will be posted in key locations throughout West Vancouver so residents can offer written comment, or make note of attending one of the June World Cafés.

3.0 Options

Council receive the "*Community Engagement and contribution to the District of West Vancouver 2009 Strategic Planning Process*" report and direct staff to move the topics, and related questions enclosed in this report, **and as revised by Council**, for additional debate during June 3rd and 5th public meetings. Further, that staff bring forward themes from these meetings that will further inform the development of a community vision.

Author:



Brent Leigh, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Appendices: Appendix A: Interview Matrix Output
Appendix B: Open Space Output