



Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Advisory Committee

January 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Roberts Creek Elementary School Library

Meeting #14 Subcommittee Work Groups; Follow-up on Dec 9 meeting items

PRESENT	Stacia Leech (Chair), Elaine Futterman, Gerald Rainville, Mike Allegretti, Ed Lands, Lynne Chapman, David Moul, David Kelln, Bruce Moseley, Scott Avery, Peg Neilon
REGRETS	Carolann Glover, Anne Dykes, Maureen Drake, D'Arcy Davis-Case, Norma Brow
ALSO PRESENT	Donna Shugar, SCRD Area D Director Mark McMullen, SCRD Senior Planner Diane Corbett, SCRD Recording Secretary

Call to order 7:06 pm

1. Agenda

The agenda was received as amended, with the addition of:

3a. Director's Role on OCP Advisory Committee

2. Receipt of Minutes of December 9th meeting

The minutes of December 9, 2008 were adopted as amended, with the following correction:

Item 3a.1, first sentence: should read "...meeting called by the local ATV club..." not "...meeting of the local ATV club..."

3. Update on Roberts Creek and Province-Wide Trails Initiatives

3.1 Staff explained that following the last meeting item 3a.3 on the trails strategy process went to the Community Services December meeting. The Board then passed the following resolution: "THAT a letter be forwarded to the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts regarding the trails strategy process requesting that there be a moratorium on trails registration on the Crown Lands in the SCRD until a trails plan is developed that takes into account multiple and possibly conflicting uses."

3.2 Staff indicated that the Parks Department would be providing comments on the provincial trails strategy within the next few weeks. A letter would be sent to the Province. The Parks Department would be interacting with recreation groups and wanted to integrate efforts with the Provincial strategy.

Action: Staff will request a copy of the letter for this Committee.

3.3 Discussion ensued about trails on Crown land on Mount Elphinstone. There are two levels of government overseeing trail building: traditionally the SCRD has built trails near residential areas, and for about 10 years the Province has been involved under the Forest Practices Code. Comments included:

- Presently the trails are not restricted for certain uses, and are constructed by groups and individuals. Trails are one-offs, with no oversight.
- There is indiscriminate use of the trails, with no connection to the public interest in the preservation of land and the environment; there is absence of visible constraint.

- How will the local public process proceed? Who would spearhead that? Where is venue for determining a reasonable approach?
 - Staff advised that Committee members could write as individuals to Randy Udahl, Manager of Parks, asking for the opportunity for input.
- Could we create areas for non-mechanized recreation?
 - Staff advised that policies could be added in the OCP that are aspirational. In the OCP process the Plan would be forwarded to provincial agencies for their feedback.
- The Elphinstone OCP Advisory Committee took the SCRD Trails Strategy and integrated it into the Plan as well as added trails.
- The new OCP could dovetail with the Province on a regional trails strategy, and use this as a link to keep participating.
- A regional growth strategy would not address a comprehensive plan for trails.
- This issue is relevant to this group if we extend the OCP into Crown lands. This is one of the activities we would like input on. This group may want to go further.

Action: Director Donna Shugar will raise this at the SCRD Community Services meeting and will inquire who is taking the lead and getting feedback, and will report back.

3a. Role of the Director on OCP Advisory Committee

3a.1 Director Shugar shared her thoughts on her involvement with this Committee. She will be stepping back and not being part of the subcommittees, adopting a more listening role in light of the political nature of her position. The Director will be involved in the whole group discussions at every other meeting while the subcommittee work continues, and is available for questions at any time.

Alternate Director Peg Neilon will continue to participate on subcommittees and is a nonvoting member.

3a.2 Members of the Agriculture subcommittee expressed appreciation for Director Shugar's insights and contributions on that subcommittee.

4. Bulletin Board Web Forum and FTP Site

Staff and David Kelln presented brief tutorials to the subcommittees regarding the FTP site and web forum.

5. OCP Sub-Committee Work

5.1 Subcommittees provided progress updates:

- Agriculture – There is not much reference to agriculture in the existing OCP. The group had brainstormed agricultural activities it wanted to encourage. Are still asking questions, exploring implications of assertions. Need to learn what can be done; would like to have professional help. There had been a discussion of developing a set of questions for growers asking what they need. Staff distributed to the subcommittee responses to the list of agriculture-related questions from the last meeting.
- Physical Environment – Original group has new members who were reading to catch up. Have not done much.

- Community Involvement – This section is done and needs to be finalized.

5.2 Vision and Goals – Regarding the December 9th action item recommending that this subcommittee discuss incorporating Smart Growth principles, it was noted this had not been done.

It was agreed to park this for a few months, and set a future time for a general Committee discussion around goals and vision. The Earth Charter was another model that was suggested for the Committee's consideration. It was noted that the Committee could have input into the vision and goals through posting on the web forum.

5.3 Subcommittee work groups commenced at 7:50 pm.

6. Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Subcommittee work groups

7. Adjournment 9:00 pm

PARKING LOT

- Stewardship/Sustainability/"Natural Step"
- ~~Web-based community communication tool~~
- Agency consultation
- Vision & Goals and principles from Smart Growth, Earth Charter