

VISION KEEPERS GROUP



Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 23rd, 2009

Attendees:

Members of the Committee: Corina Dootjes, Hugh Simson, Ron Deans, Hans Holthuis, Simon Hudson, Doran Hanert, Joanna McCallum

Town Administration: Patrick Sorfleet, Brenda Caston, Sally Caudill

Biosphere Institute: Bruce Gleig

Regrets: Amy Krause

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ron Deans at 7:08 P.M.
Patrick Sorfleet recorded the minutes of the meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The meeting notes of March 26th, 2009 were approved as presented.

3. Alex Bolton, Consultant to the Town on Environmental Care, with Sally Caudill

Sally Caudill and Alex Bolton introduced the existing environmental care programs of that the Town of Canmore has in place. These programs are centred on snow, energy, water, waste, and cosmetic pesticides. These programs have corporate initiatives and town wide initiatives as well as overall reduction goals. A review of these programs and their measurement of the success is underway.

The purpose of this review is to consolidate all of the environmental care programs and TNS action plan into a comprehensive environmental strategy.

Alex Bolton spoke about the need to update the targets and actions of the existing programs and to align the plans more with TNS, the CSP and MTF. The process of the review was described as actively including town staff and committees (EARC & Sustainability Committee). The consolidated document is intended to be a very focused and living document that will be updated as needed and is more realistic given resources, budget and timeframe. This review is intended to tie into the CSP implementation plan.

The Vision Keepers asked questions about the best practices available in other communities and how these may be used in the Canmore context. The group also noted that the consistent look and feel/format for all of the plans would help people understand them. Ron Deans explained the role and history of the VKG. Alex Bolton commented that the community goals in the environmental care programs seem to have had the least amount of progress but noted that this may be the result of not been measured accurately or adequately. The metrics and monitoring is intended to be remedied or improved through this review. Bruce Gleig noted that the Biosphere Institute uses the environmental care documents to create their business plan and to plan their community programming. Alex volunteered to come to a future meeting towards the end of the review to update the group.

4. CSP Public Review

Patrick Sorfleet updated the group on the progress of the CSP. The CSP has received second reading with a series of amendments to the first reading version as well as some prior to third reading amendments. A major development has been the resolution to remove TSMV sites 7,8 and 9 from the urban growth boundary prior to third reading. The group discussed the TSMV amendment in the context of MTF. The group believes that the TSMV amendment is consistent with the 5 guiding principles and 3 values of MTF.

5. Trends from the 2008 Monitoring and moving toward MTF

Brenda Caston described the history and purpose of the monitoring report. The report of over the years had been modified to try to fit the measures into the 5 guiding principles of MTF. The Town and the Biosphere Institute believe that there are some good measures for the principles and values of the vision but that these could also be improved. Some of the indicators in the report are one off due to grants from higher levels of government while others are measureable year to year. Bruce Gleig described the lack of some indicators due to sparsity of data or expense of collection. One such example is health statistics: these are difficult because the province aggregates data based on region and will not give Town of Canmore level data.

Ron Deans introduced the VKG role in the monitoring report and the intent to see whether or not the Town is moving closer to the vision of further away. The group to discussed trends from the monitoring report in the context of mining the future. It was agreed that MTF did not get into the measureable outcomes of the vision. In particular ideas such as diversity without being defined are difficult to measure.

The VKG explained their intent to comment more on the qualitative trends on the monitoring report as opposed to the absolute levels of specific criteria. The VKG approach is intended to be holistic in comparing the community monitoring report to the vision that may speak to increasing or decreasing trends but may not speak to specifically where the town is on the continuum.

Breda Caston presented the idea of the VKG examining the recommendations of the monitoring report and commenting to council regarding how the recommendations move us closer to the vision. The group agreed to analyse the recommendations of the monitoring report in the context of MTF and present these ideas in their council report. It was suggested that the group also look at the town strategic plan and examine these items in the context of MTF.

6. Multiplex Project

The group believes that the public participation element of the development of the Multiplex was done well.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for May 21st, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.
The meeting would be held at the Canmore Civic Centre.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.