

VISION KEEPERS GROUP



Meeting Notes *Thursday 6th. March 2008*

Attendees

Members of the Committee: Ron Deans, Doran Hanert, Hans Holthuis, Simon Hudson, Amy Krause, Jim Ridley, Peter Schied, Don Sears, Hugh Simson

Town Administration: Gary Buxton

Regrets: None

Members of the Public: Felicity Edwards - CSE Group

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ron Deans at 7:05 P.M.
Gary Buxton recorded the minutes of the meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of sub items to Article 4 related to an addition to the document and the Chair meeting with the Mayor.

2. Adoption of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the previous meetings of January 31, 2008 with the following addition to item 4, were approved by the group.

The group chose to elect a new chair and that the outgoing chair would become the Past Chair.

3. Mining the Future 2, Phase 2, Process Review

Felicity provided copies of information to be provided to each group host for the community group discussions. Felicity indicated that Phase 2 was complete and we were starting on Phase 3. Phase 1 created 12 themes to be considered in Phase 3, but they are not fixed at this time and remain fluid. The Phase 2 process looked at success factors, considering the Natural Step, Phase 1 outputs and the guidelines from the Mining the Future vision. The question for Phase 3 is basically, what are the solutions to achieving the success factors, along with rationale for them.

The "target" or aim will need to be fluid or moving, and considered a work in progress. Some people are uncomfortable with this fluidity and need reassurance. The concept of growth planning is not a singular subject, and so has been subsumed into the other categories. It was believed that "growth planning" is more about managing the pace of change in all areas rather than a category in its own right. "Criteria" has also morphed into "success factors", as the Natural Step is not a fine enough filter to allow for strict criteria that could be used to screen solutions.

There is one major issue that has not really been talked about much and that is the differential in growth rates between the permanent and non-permanent population. This would come up in Phase 3.

Also is the issue of managing demographic changes that will require some form of social engineering, but we need to wait to see how this emerges in Phase 3.

The group asked about some of the mandatory planning functions and possible gaps in what is formally required in an MDP, and whether or not these are or will be covered in the CSP. The UMA and town planners will need to consider these gaps and use the success factors to determine solutions. The public input will set the general tone, and the professionals have to fill in the formal gaps.

The group recommended some caution that if solutions are developed at the "executive" level, then there needs to be some form of adequate public review so that the public can review and comment on these solutions. Felicity advised that Phase 4 would allow for this scrutiny.

There will likely be some hot buttons, such growth rate, parking and affordable housing, while others such as municipal finance would not be that interesting. There would be conflicts on some of these issues, and would also need to encourage people to talk about some of the less interesting issues, such as municipal finance, as it would impact some of the other issues. Thinking of "integrated problems require integrated solutions," is the type of view that would need to be taken. People are starting to make these connections in the process, and to see issues and solutions as being related.

There may be some "trade off" discussions that will take place in May, between groups that have opposing opinions. While the process will hopefully achieve consensus, it is not essential as groups of solutions would be packaged together and not individually.

Gary presented a brief summary of the Growth Strategy from the CSP. Gary noted that the software and the project were intended only to determine the fiscal impact to the community and organization based on land use and development patterns. The group asked if the software could be used to run scenarios of change suggested by the public. Gary said that the software was not a great tool to use in a public forum, but that it would be possible to run alternate scenarios based on public suggestions to determine the fiscal impact of the changes. Gary volunteered to review the InfraCycle software with the group at the next session.

ACTION ITEM: The group felt a Growth Study software presentation at the next meeting would be a worthwhile idea.

The group felt that it would be best to allow some or all of Phase 3 to proceed, so see what emerges before asking Gary to develop some alternate scenarios, but that this might be a good concept for the group in the coming months.

4. Review of Chair Role/Past Chair and Responsibilities

The group reviewed proposed changes to the Code of Conduct & Principles of Governance relating to election of the Chair.

The group agreed that the section on the election of the chair be incorporated into the document.

MOTION

Jim Ridley moved that the new section be included in the Code of Conduct & Principles of Governance document, and Amy Krause seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

There was a discussion about conflict of interest with respect to members in the group. The group felt there was no conflict.

The Chair expressed a desire to meet with the Mayor to introduce himself. The group felt it was appropriate for this meeting to take place.

5. Ideas for Discussion

The group decided at the next meeting that it would help to have the web site available on a big screen to review what was present and what was desired, and what would be of value to the public.

ACTION ITEM: Gary to ensure the big screen is available at the next meeting.

The group discussed the possible need for a "recruitment handbook" to inform them about the roles and responsibilities of the group, and what membership intended, and that placing this on the web site would be a good idea. The group decided that it would be best to think on this and come back to it at the next meeting.

The Chair asked about the status of online TNS training, and who had taken it. Some of the members had already started the training.

Jim Ridley asked if it would be possible to show a movie at the next meeting, entitled "Nobody's Home." The group agreed this would be appropriate.

ACTION ITEM: Gary to ensure the big screen is available at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting date would be Thursday April 17, 7:00PM in the Anthracite Boardroom.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.