

AGENDA

Regional District of Nanaimo
Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee

Monday January 12, 2009 @ 6:30 pm
(North Cedar Improvement District Fire Hall - 2100 Yellow Point Road)

1. **Minutes**
Adoption of the minutes from the meeting of December 1, 2008 – page 2
2. **Community Planning 101**
Presentation
Discussion
3. **Draft Community Vision**
Community Visioning Workshop Results Discussion and Feedback
Discussion and refinement of draft community vision- Page 4
4. **Next Steps**
Active Transportation Plan Open House
Community Workshops
Groundwater Study update
4. **Other**

Regional District of Nanaimo

Summary of the Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee Meeting Held on Monday, December 1, 2008 @ 7:00pm At the North Cedar Improvement District Hall 2100 Yellow Point Road

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. There were approximately 22 people in attendance including guests.

The Chair, Director Burnett, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1 – Minutes of the November 2, 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan review Citizen's Committee meeting of November 3, 2008 were moved by Ray Digby and seconded by Lynnia Clark and were approved without amendments.

Agenda Item No. 2 – OCP Review Update

Greg Keller, Regional District of Nanaimo Senior Planner, gave a brief update on the Official Community Plan review process including the sustainability principles workshop, the visioning session, and upcoming events.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Draft Sustainability Principles

Greg Keller, gave a 25 minute presentation on how the draft sustainability principles were formed using the comments received from the Sustainability Principles Workshop.

Greg Keller explained that the purpose of having sustainability principles is to help guide decisions and actions that will lead us towards becoming a more sustainable community. Mr. Keller also explained that the sustainability principles will provide direction during the development of the new Official Community Plan and following its adoption. Mr. Keller indicated that the principles will be used in conjunction with the Community Vision during the Community Workshops scheduled for January where the community will be tasked with determine how it wants to achieve its vision.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed each draft sustainability principle. There was discussion related to each principle which led to the Committee approving the following 15 principles.

Principle 1	Preserve local history and rural character.	Principle 2	Maintain functioning rural landscapes.
Principle 3	Build an active community that connects people	Principle 4	Adapt to nature's complexity, diversity, and unpredictability.
Principle 5	Economic, social and environmental factors are interdependent and must be considered together.	Principle 6	Consider the needs of future generations in today's decisions.
Principle 7	Respect the community's diversity	Principle 8	Develop a safe and healthy community for all residents.
Principle 9	Commit to environmental stewardship and conservation	Principle 10	Nature has intrinsic value.
Principle 11	Encourage and facilitate participation by all stakeholders.	Principle 12	Transparency and clarity of process
Principle 13	Provide services in an efficient and cost effective manner.	Principle 14	Support and Strengthen the local economy.
Principle 15	Support a wide range of transportation and mobility options		

Agenda Item No. 4

The Committee agreed that all future meetings would start at 6:30pm.

The meeting was closed at approximately 9:35 pm.

Certified correct by:

Director Joe Burnett, Committee Chairperson

A Shared Community Vision

Revised as of January 7, 2009

Electoral Area 'A' is a diverse caring community full of local talent, which respects its cultural and historical roots in agriculture, mining, forestry, and other resource uses.

Electoral Area 'A' is also a community with a strong emphasis on the preservation of its existing rural values, which are deeply entrenched in the community and passed down through generations. Rural village feel, lands in agricultural and resource production, quietness, open spaces, opportunities to interact and be in touch with and appreciate nature, and clean air and water are some of the values which contribute towards area residents' way of life, and for some, is the reason they call Electoral Area 'A' home.

On December 6, 2008, the community came together to develop 'A Shared Community Vision' in recognition of the fact that changes may be needed to ensure that the things that the community values today are preserved and enhanced for future generations and to ensure that the community works towards becoming more sustainable. Based on input from the community, the community vision is:

It is 2033, and Electoral Area 'A' is a spectacular place to live, work, and play and as a result has become more socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable. The community has evolved over time through careful planning and guidance provided by the Official Community Plan, which has been upheld by the Regional District of Nanaimo and strongly supported by members of the community. The Official Community Plan is based on the concept of sustainability and 'smart growth', which seeks to minimize the impacts of human activities, manage natural, economic and social systems and resources in a way that enhances quality of life, yet does not diminish the ability of future generations to also meet their needs.

Electoral Area 'A' has become a leader in local food production and sustainability and is often showcased as a model community due to its, environmental stewardship and protection policies, growth management strategies, innovative use of alternative technologies, green building programs, recreational and sports opportunities, diverse culture, artistic talent, and excellent multi-modal transportation system.

After nearly 25 years of continued development, rural values are not only maintained and protected but are also enhanced. Young families and seniors are now attracted to and are staying within the community. There are steady reliable sources of local employment, which contribute to the local economy and have minimal impacts on the environment. Per capita green house gas emissions have been reduced and continue to decline despite the fact that the economy prospers.

Residential and commercial growth and development is directed into well-defined village centres within the urban containment boundary, while growth and development outside of urban containment boundary has largely been avoided as agriculture, resource use, and conservation of biodiversity have become the top priority for these areas.

The community is a vibrant place to live where a diversity of residents from all economic levels and ethnic backgrounds are welcomed and have an enhanced sense of community pride. Electoral Area 'A' residents feel safe in their community and enjoy the freedom that a rural lifestyle provides them.