

### Meeting Notes Thursday, June 12, 2014 6:00 pm in the Conference Room

**Present:** Susanne Dahlin (Chair), Craig Ollenberger, Mary Spoto Kibbe, Jim LeMaistre, Tom Phipps, Bette Murphy, Morna McLeod, Jane Sheil

**Staff:** Hai Truong (Note Taker), Cynthia Low

**Regrets:** Meseret Taye, Ken Eliuk, Roger Hughes

#### 1) Approval of Agenda

#### 2) Discuss Additional Information Required

The committee should be looking at facilities that are privately funded but have public access, i.e. non-profit organizations like the Neighbourhood Houses and Eastside Family Place. See how these facilities get their funding. Maybe Cynthia could find an inventory of such facilities from the City archive. We might also look at the social trend. Cynthia will talk to Andrew Pask about the data. The committee should also look at the Community Centres that are up for renewal like Dunbar, Kerrisdale and Marpole. We don't want to compete with these centres but just compare ourselves with them. Age of the facility is certainly a factor but other factors also play a large role. Britannia serves a very diverse group of people, some with low income. There's also a demand for the space. We can't run more programs because of the lack of space. Some of our aging facilities like the pool are driving local users away. They are driving across town to Hillcrest and Killarney to use the facilities there. We need to bring them back. Britannia uses some of the space in the High School in the evening to run our classes. However some of these spaces are slated for demolition. The Astorino's project proved that there's a demand for public space. We didn't even know that the demand was there, but there's a need for art space, music studio, flea market and bike shop for Kickstand. The last time we had an assessment was 2005. There are lots of things that have been changed since then. We need to review the City Recreation plan and find out who is on the City Capital priority list. Right now we are not on anybody's list but we need to be on somebody's list. There are situations where somebody was not on any list and then suddenly come out on top of the list. We need to identify some people in bureaucracy and try to promote our cause.

#### 3) Review Evaluation Criteria for assessing concept (See Handout Draft)

The committee wants to have a community Charette to get residents involved with the process again. People are more attached to ideas that they are involved in.

The P&D created several criteria to evaluate the objective. It will help us stay close to our design principle. The scale should only be out of three or five points at the most, nothing more because we can spend too much time discussing them. It's important that we provide enough green space. We also have to make it accessible for everybody. The people in the area have a diverse social economic make-up. If the design is too sterile, it can alienate certain groups of people. The facilities in Portland use soft design to make everything less industrial. Our design should also allow for future expansion.

## **NOTES – Planning & Development**

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Another criteria is how flexible the space is for multiple programming. The pool, rink and tennis courts are very rigid spaces.

The topic of public housing on site was brought up, and the committee discussed the pros and cons. We could use a housing project as a funding source. This is just a discussion. No decisions were made.

### **4) Debrief Site Visit**

On Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, some committee members went on a tour of various sites, including Mount Pleasant Community Centre, Tommy Douglas Library in Burnaby and City Hall/Library in North Vancouver.

Some of the items the committee noticed during their visits:

- The designs really affect how people use the space.
- Some take advantage of the informal space i.e. people sitting on the stairs.
- People who live in apartments and smaller units use the nearby libraries as an alternative place to study and socialize.
- There are a number of coffee shops at the libraries and recreation facilities. They are a great meeting space.
- Some sites are using the geothermal heating system.
- Some newer sites are still working out the bugs i.e. automatic lighting and heating system. It's difficult to control them when they are automatic. We could learn from their mistakes and have an overriding function.
- Funding models: Some have capital plans, other sell/lease some of their space.
- Our challenge is a design that will not exclude the two spectrums of population, the high income and low income family.
- New designs are more animated by allowing the space to be interrelated; people are able to look inside or outside. There's a concern about privacy, but that can be solved with window blinds.
- The new spaces need to be interchangeable for a multipurpose facility.

### **5) Discuss Next Steps and a Timeline**

The committee wants to put together a public Charette at the end of July or early August. There was a concern about not having enough time to set up a Charette. The civic election is coming up in the Fall, and it would be good if Britannia CC had something new to present to the candidates.

The P&D committee needs to put together a timeline and decide whether or not to go on another field trip.

Public housing on site was brought up, and the committee discussed the pros and cons. The committee also discussed the various funding sources for the Master Plan, and whether or not we should put some restrictions on certain ones.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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