

Britannia Renewal

Stages and Steps in the Planning and Design Process

December 11, 2015

Stage A – Concept Gathering (Ripples in a pond, expanding the circles of involvement)

Intention of this process: This planning process will build on the previous planning for Britannia Renewal and on the current ideas of the active members of the Britannia Board’s committees and community residents in order to implement an overall vision for the whole 7.3 hectare (18 acre) site, and nearby property.

Vision for the future of Britannia (as previously adopted)

The Britannia Community Services Centre:

- Is the heart of the community, serving as an integrated hub of education, arts, culture, recreation, wellness, and sustainability;
- Is made stronger by its innovative partnerships; they give life to unparalleled opportunities for collaborative programming and the flexibility to continually meet the evolving needs of the community;
- Is accessible and welcoming, drawing users whose diversity is matched by the diversity of programs that fill the centre’s walls;
- Respects and celebrates its context, fostering a sense of stewardship towards the people and setting that are the source of its richness.

Step 1 – Current central actors and review of past planning

The process will start with the most active members of the Planning and Development Committee because they have been thinking about and researching pertinent concepts. This first step will be an opportunity for the Strategic Planning Sub-committee of the Britannia Board’s Planning and Development (P & D) Committee, and members of the P & D Committee who participated in visits to other community facilities, to describe their current thoughts about key concepts obtained from their research and site visits.

After the current concepts are discussed, the P & D Committee will review material from the 2007 and 2011 rounds of master planning for the Britannia site and the committee’s work since 2011. Underlying concepts will be extracted from that material.

Hire a facilitator to assist with the flow of concepts.

Format: A three-hour, facilitated brainstorming session will be used to identify the current higher level CONCEPTS. A second 3 to 4 hour session will be used to identify the key concepts in the previous planning material.

Step 2 – Expand process to the whole Britannia Board, its committees, and the site staff,

Concepts identified in Step 1 would be presented in Step 2 which will build on them.

To expand the process to the next level of people who are giving the Britannia Renewal some thought, Step 2 will involve the whole Britannia Board, its related operational committees, and its on-site staff.

The staff to be included are: Britannia Society staff, recreation, social service, Aboriginal services, program instructors, elementary and secondary schools, and library. This Step will also consider current programming at Britannia and the numbers of participants in each program.

Format: a 4-hour workshop to review the summaries and discuss high-level CONCEPTS

- Step 1 concepts will be presented to Board, committees, and staff to initiate discussion.

Step 3 – Expand process to include the present site partners and add visionaries

The process would be expanded to include the present site partners – City of Vancouver, Vancouver Public Library, and Vancouver School Board – to gather their concepts for the future. Those agencies are giving thought to Britannia Renewal in relation to their own departmental or agency plans.

City of Vancouver staff will be invited to join the process at this step by sending 4 or 5 key staff who are members of the Britannia Renewal Steering Committee (a joint Britannia-City group) :

- Director : Facilities Planning and Development
- A social planner
- A community planner
- A Parks and Recreation manager
- Public Library Manager of Community Services
- Vancouver School Board Manager of Planning

The City staff would be asked to summarize pertinent reports and highlight CONCEPTS and policies that relate to high-level planning for Britannia, particularly in the topic categories listed in Step 3. City staff will provide information on the current and projected demographic data for Britannia’s catchment area. City staff would review recommendations from the Citizens’ Assembly on the Grandview-Woodland Community Plan.

School Board staff could provide enrollment data for the two Britannia schools, and the “feeder” elementary schools for Britannia Secondary.

Similarly, Vancouver School Board facilities planning staff would be invited to share ideas about the future of the Britannia elementary and secondary schools.

The City and School Board staffs would continue to participate in the rest of the steps.

Visionaries on community themes

To stimulate discussion, some visionaries in the various topic categories below would be asked to describe current, innovative trends in community centre development:

- Age and social groups – e.g., pre-teens, youth, families, aging adults
- Arts, culture, and performance
- Information and libraries
- Recreation, sports, and fitness
- Social gathering, programming, and activism
- Adult and community education
- Wellness and health
- Housing, transportation, and other urban planning issues

Format: - facilitator coordinates a weekend charrette

- Charrette will address each of the above eight sectors by:

- ✓ Brainstorm current concepts envisioned by Step 2 participants.
- ✓ Each visionary describes innovative trends.
- ✓ Facilitator records new or modified concepts after the preceding discussion.

Step 4 – Assemble concepts

The high-level concepts from steps 1, 2, and 3 will be assembled by the facilitator into a package for public circulation by such methods perhaps as:

- Written, paper package
- Britannia’s website
- Posters around Britannia and the community
- Social media

Before moving on the step 5, the assembled package of concepts will be presented back to participants in Steps 1, 2, and 3.

Step 5 – Community discussion of concepts and needs

The next level of expansion of the process will be to gather data from residents in Britannia’s general “catchment” area. Community members will be invited to review the concepts assembled in Step 4 and express their views of the future needs. Some of these events could be happening around the same time.

Format(s): Varies by group being contacted

- The Strategic Planning Subcommittee and City staff will lead discussions of the concepts in a few locations around the community.

Consultations: This list will be expanded in the future to cover the variety of activities at Britannia.

- Residents who were active in the recent Grandview-Woodland planning process, perhaps using the City’s contact list (or the City asking its list if they want to be part of the Britannia Renewal process).
- Active groups – for example, but not limited to: Grandview Woodland Area Council, REACH Community Health Centre, Kettle Society, MOSAIC, Commercial Drive Business Society, heritage group
- Britannia users – clubs, Library Committee, etc.
- Cultural groups: artists, performers like Morris dancers, Carnival Band
- School kids, teachers, principals, and parents
- Neighbourhoods in Britannia’s catchment area – Strathcona, Templeton (Hastings Community Association), other subareas??
- Groups hard to reach: various language groups, First Nations, developmentally challenged
- Social media outreach, and/or an on-line forum
- Coffee bars, cafes, restaurants – displays, chats, brief interviews
- Britannia events, for example: Stone Soup, Christmas Craft Fair, Artful Sundays

A summary of these consultations and the amended overall concepts will be fed back to all.

Step 6 – On-line concept survey

The concepts from Steps 1, 2, 3, and 5 will be assembled into an on-line survey for community residents to provide input. (Note: be vigilant for biases and unfair weighting.)

Step 7 – Revise concepts and “loop back” to stakeholders.

Use the information from Steps 5 and 6 to revise the overall concepts in the Step 4 package. Make the revised concepts available to community, especially to participants in earlier Steps. Use a variety of methods, examples of which might be: the website, posters, brochures, open house, small local meetings.

Stage B – Refining potential uses

Step 8: - Identify spaces and facilities

Begin the overall planning and design process by identifying types of spaces and facilities that would implement the concepts identified in Stage A. Look for relationships and possible sharing between items. Prepare an overall vision for the whole site.

Who:

- Strategic Planning Subcommittee
- Selected interested participants from earlier Steps
- Planning and design programming consultant

Step 9 – Check back with community

Assemble the material from Step 8 for review with the community.

Who:

- Design consultation methods based on successes in Steps 5 and 7.

Step 10 – Modify overall vision

Adjust the vision based on what is heard in Step 9.

Stage C – Begin design process

Step 11 – Architectural programming

Based on the vision in Step 10, a design process planner and an architect will be hired to maximize operational and space inter-relationships for the whole Britannia site.

- Develop 3 or 4 conceptual designs for feedback with the community – those people involved at earlier steps plus an open invitation for anyone who was missed earlier.

Step 12 – Detailed design

Architect will use information from earlier steps to prepare a more-detailed design for the whole site.

Step 13 – Review with community

At periodic intervals as the design evolves, check back with community (as in Step 11).

O O O

Britannia Renewal – Stages and Steps in the Planning and Design Process

December 11, 2015

