

Planning and Development Committee
Tuesday May 16th, 2017
7:00 pm in the Conference Room

Present: Alice Munro, Chris Morrissey, Alissa Reed, Cyndia Cole, Nanci Blu, Micah Waskow, Patricia Gamboa, Madeleine Maclvor, Ian Marcuse, Pat Davitt, Nancy Strider, Christopher Dalton, Levi Higgs, Joseph Sparovec, Spencer Lindsay (CoV staff), Esther Frid, Lawrence Cofield, John Truchan, Jen Holden, Annie Danilko, Vera Jones, Ellen Woodsworth, Penny Street

Britannia Staff: Lindsay Grant (recorder), Cynthia Low

1. Review of Agenda

- Request to add Indigenous community engagement update to agenda (accepted)
- Request to add reporting template to the Agenda (accepted)

2. Previous Minutes –

- Note that Jim had been incorrectly listed as attending
- Minutes accepted with this revision

3. Round table Introductions

4. BritPlan55+ Presentation (see attached document “Claiming Space for Seniors”)

- Presenters: Nancy Strider, Chris Morrissey & Madeleine Maclvor on behalf of BritPlan55+ membership
- BritPlan55+ has been gathering Britannia Renewal feedback from a diverse group of older adults in the community through a series of events, meetings, and informal discussions, and circulating updates and information on the project
- AML 55+ centre has operated for 41 years, and was originally built as the result of a community-led “brick by brick” campaign
- We have an aging population: by 2031 it is projected that 1 in 4 Canadians will be 65+. 10 years post completion of the Britannia Renewal the average age in Grandview Woodlands will be 55.
- Recent City of Vancouver reports support the need for safe, inclusive places for seniors: see particularly *City of Vancouver Seniors Dialogues: Summary Report (2013)* and *The Age Friendly Action Plan (2013-2015): A Safe, Inclusive and Engaging City for Seniors*
- Currently there are 3 dedicated City of Vancouver Seniors’ Centres citywide, and 4 additional community centres with dedicated seniors spaces (including Britannia).
- Sunset Community Centre was redeveloped in 2007 without a seniors centre, in 2017 Vancouver City Council approved the building of a seniors centre at the site

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- Emphasis on the importance of tackling social isolation and exclusion. Time-limited programs are not sufficient- there also needs to be dedicated, welcoming “hang-out space”.
- Role of seniors centre in supporting holistic well-being of seniors and Elders in the community: body, mind, spirit, heart (see attached for more detailed space and program needs)
- The development of a seniors centre is supported by recent neighbourhood planning processes- see specifically the *Grandview Woodland Community Plan (2016)* and the *Grandview-Woodlands Citizens’ Assembly (2015)*
- Conclusion: BritPlan55+ is advocating for “a renewed and dedicated seniors’ centre within or adjacent to the renewed Britannia Community Centre with appropriate staffing

5. Questions and Discussion

- Comment: Echoing the need for hang out space where people can feel a sense of belonging and ownership in addition to “programmed” space. The AML 55+ Centre has become a model of “reconciliation in action” the diversity of seniors, including Indigenous Elders, Latin American, LGBTQ2S, Vietnamese seniors connecting there is impressive and continues to broaden.
- Comment: This presentation and the recommendations in it were reviewed and endorsed by the Seniors, Elders, and Advocates Committee at the most recent meeting. Seniors’ space is a core community need for isolated seniors and caregivers- many of which are living on low income, alone, isolated, dealing with mobility and health challenges, grieving losses. We need a living village rather than sterile program space.
- Comment: At the Queensborough Community Centre it was decided to integrate all seniors’ programming into mainstream programs and spaces.
- Response: This is similar to the Australian model of integrating day cares, play centres into intergenerational community spaces. We need to be mindful of who this serves and how well- proximity is not engagement, what is required is strategic relationship-building.
- Comment: People primarily build relationships with peers in their age groups due to being at common life stages, with more shared needs, interests, life events.
- Response: Dedicated spaces are needed, however we can also think about different shared spaces (kitchens, common areas) and how they can be designed to encourage intergenerational integration and relationship building- combining the need for privacy and peer-support with the goal of broader community building.
- Question: Interested in how we are defining “dedicated” space- how do we still use the space efficiently, how does it branch off into other spaces, and how do we still encourage community integration?
- Answer: Dedicated space is a central space with unprogrammed seniors lounge and program space which houses most of seniors programming- dislocated seniors

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programming can present a barrier due to unique accessibility needs, comfort and confidence, and wayfinding. Private space is needed for things like foot nurse visits, and other seniors health and counselling services. This space can also be shared during off hours (as it is currently). If planned to be sufficiently large, and conveniently located, a kitchen could be shared. Any shared kitchen needs to have convenient access to the seniors' space, as there is a large demand for the seniors' lunch program. Larger seniors' events and gatherings can be hosted in shared space as well.

- Comment: some of the health issues experienced by seniors like Alzheimers, Dementia, mobility concerns, vision and hearing issues also require seniors' staff with special training and skills, particularly for accommodating needs, and recognizing early signs/ early intervention
- Comment: Seniors centres have specialized requirements including things like wider doors, space for mobility aids, non-slip flooring, considerations for hearing and vision concerns, etc. Everywhere on site should be accessible but to include *all* of these specialized features everywhere would greatly increase cost compared to focusing in on a central seniors space.
- Comment: Notes from this presentation will be passed along to the engagement team. The City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee has also been made aware of BritPlan55+ activities.

6. **MakerLab Presentation**

- The idea of makerlabs is to provide shop/technical space and basic tools for community to work on a variety of creative projects (eg. woodworking, pottery, metalwork, painting), as well as to bring together people with technical skills to share knowledge and make connections, build creative skills and job skills
- Especially important for people who live in small spaces with limited access to tools and equipment to have a place to take on larger, messy projects
- Specific space needs for makerlabs: purpose built to address tool and equipment needs, mitigate noise, handle mess and heavy-duty use, provide adequate ventilation, and space for large projects (could be underground space)
- Potential to relocate school technical projects to shared community space
- There is already a large and growing maker community and Grandview-Woodlands is a particularly creative neighbourhood which could be activated by this space opportunity

7. **Questions and Discussion**

- Comment: It would be great to have a written proposal to share with the consultant team and partners' table. Particularly interested in the synergies with Arts & Culture, VPL studio space
- Question: What is the breakdown of space dedicated to arts versus practical work?

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- Answer: It's best to create a space that is flexible and can be used in many different ways- simply a basic collection of tools and equipment in a safe, ventilated space where community members with knowledge and expertise can help teach and advise each other on various projects. Currently MakerLabs in this area require relatively expensive paid memberships, there is opportunity here to provide more accessible makerspace- like what is already happening at Kickstand to build inclusion and diversity
- Question: What are the liability issues? Will we need to provide expert staff?
- Answer: We will need to have signed waivers for all space users, as well as trained volunteers to supervise and orient new users to safe use of tools and equipment.

8. Report back on Lease Negotiations Working Group (Cynthia Low)

- Thanks to Levi and Bette for sitting on lease negotiations working group
- No recent movement in lease negotiations
- Britannia has recently completed the operations management transition at pool and rink

9. Report back on Housing Working Group

- First meeting held to get bearings on mandate
- Task to develop a series of guiding principles for any potential housing on site which aligns with existing land use principles and Britannia programming principles and goals
- Task to explore different public housing models from around the world
- Task to collect and understand different city policies, proposals and guidelines relevant to potential housing on the Britannia site (specifically from the Grandview Woodlands Area Plan, the Citizens Assembly, and other city reports)
- Invitation sent to City of Vancouver to present on their housing strategy and possibilities for the Britannia Site at next meeting (May 29th 5-7pm)
- Comment that there needs to be a broadening of voices at the table- specifically to include more young people, renters, etc.

10. Community Engagement Updates

- Updated Britannia Renewal event schedule on Britannia Renewal website and PDC handouts
- Spaces and Places workshops start May 27th with Public Outdoor Space workshop
- People who are unable to attend meetings or events in areas that interest them can submit written comments to the consultant team- Spencer is willing to forward them on to the relevant contacts at Urban Arts and EcoPlan (email: spencer.lindsay@vancouver.ca)
- Spencer is currently coordinating an engagement strategy specifically for the Indigenous community- this has included presenting the project to Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Watuth representatives at their regular meeting with the City of

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Vancouver, planning an Indigenous design charrette (collaborative design visualization session), working with MVAEC (Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council), attending Indigenous community events, and planning youth engagement sessions with UNYA, VAFC, and Red Fox

11. Reporting Template

- Ready to be distributed with previously discussed edits
- No further changes required

12. Close- 9:00 pm