

Planning and Development Committee
Tuesday June 20th, 2017
7:00 pm in the Conference Room

Present: Susanne Dahlin (chair), Anne Der, Pamela Dudas, Andrew Phillips, Jim LeMaistre, Christopher Dalton, Jane Sheil, Nancy Strider, John Truchan, Ian Marcuse, Bette Murphy, Alissa Reed

Britannia Staff: Lindsay Grant (recorder), Cynthia Low, Peter Odynsky,

1. Introductions

2. Review of Agenda

- Request to add feedback on consultation work so far (accepted)

3. Committee Membership

- Lawrence Cofield has resigned his position on the Planning and Development Committee due to lack of time, but hopes to return when he is able
- Thanks to Lawrence for his time and work on the Committee
- Question: What are the membership rules for the Planning and Development Committee?
- Answer: Potential new members must attend one meeting prior to making a formal request to the committee to be added to the membership list. Members of the Britannia Board of Management have a standing place on the Planning and Development Committee.

4. Previous Minutes

- Jim LeMaistre was present as chair
- Minutes accepted as amended

5. Britannia Renewal

- We are currently three quarters of the way through the initial consultation phase.
- Question: How do members of the committee feel about how the consultation process has been going so far?
- Comment: The strategies that have been used have got people thinking, but attendance has been low. We need better outreach and communications.
- Comment: The schedule has been intense and condensed. A lot of people are experiencing confusion and fatigue
- Comment: There has been a problem getting information out- the signs are too small.
- Comment: We need all the staff including instructors to be passing on the information and encouraging participation

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- Comment: There has been a lack of advance notice around certain events like the LGBTQ2S Focus Group
- Question: How do the lead consultants (Urban Arts) connect in with the architects (Diamond Schmitt)?
- Answer: The consultant architects are part of a group that bid on the original RFP (request for proposals) together. Diamond Schmitt's brings expertise in building large multi-use facilities including pools and ice rinks to the partnership. This partnership is contracted to prepare 3 rough models of the full site for the eventual building architect. We will go through another RFP process to secure an architect to do the actual building.
- Comment: I felt concerned during the presentation from Don Schmitt (of Diamond Schmitt architects) that he didn't understand the "village" feel of Britannia, and that we might lose the warmth and comfort of this place.
- Comment: The consultants should be able to adapt and curate what they are presenting us based on the feedback they have already received.
- Comment: Nobody from the rink was represented at the Recreation Spaces + Places Workshop
- Comment: The process feels confused and disorganized with information coming from different sources and dates changing
- Comment: Frustration over the preoccupation with fine-grained details when we are at a broader visioning stage.
- Comment: I think Jennifer is doing a good job facilitating our discussions
- Comment: We should bring more of the "spirit of Britannia" into these consultations
- Note: All of the post-it comments are being collected, transcribed, and read by the consultants
- Comment: Communication is an issue
- Communications Ideas:
 - o Programmers reaching out to program attendees directly or working with instructors to connect them to the Britannia Renewal process
 - o Have a survey to give out at the gym, ice rink skate rental, and pool desk
 - o Leafletting directly in programs
 - o More signs and leaflets
 - o Move banners to fitness centre
 - o Personal connection is key
 - o Engaging people in the activity they come to Britannia to do with specific call to action (eg. asking pool users to respond to whether or not the pool should have a deep end) reaching front-line users via staff with some background knowledge on the process and a few relevant "key questions"
- Comment: a concern has been raised privately that there may be too much focus on the Indigenous aspect of the renewal- does anybody want to comment on this?

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- Comment: If people are thinking this way, it just suggests we need to be communicating and educating people on why it is so important to centre Indigenous values
- No other concerns about the Indigenous focus
- Comment: some things I have heard from (Parks Board) staff have suggested certain things are already decided, specifically I have been told that Britannia will be a neighbourhood pool.
- Suggestion that landscape architecture has its own consultation event- the “public realm” event was confusingly named and outdoor spaces are incredibly important to the feel of the space and its function as the “lungs of the neighbourhood”

6. Housing Working Group Update

- Our previous meeting was a more focused sessions where we worked on some of the major housing questions in breakout groups.
- Key themes emerging: non-profit partnerships, balancing greenspace and viewsapes with the need for affordable housing
- Working on coming up with expert speakers and key questions for a September Housing Forum
- Working on developing Housing Principles, which are currently undergoing the first round of edits
- Comment: There are a lot of new faces at the Housing Working Group- is it open to anyone?
- Answer: All Britannia Committees are open to the public.
- Next meeting of the Housing Working Group: Tuesday July 18th, 5-7pm
- Question: What is the purpose of the housing panel?
- Answer: As this is a contentious issue we want to start by centring ourselves as a community centre, explore the potential impacts of housing on the site, and explore case studies of success so we can have informed discussion with the community and avoid creating an us vs. them mentality or alienating people with strong feelings either for or against housing on the Britannia site. The Britannia Board of Management also needs to gauge community feelings on housing on the Britannia site. We should also keep in mind that the possibility for housing is a standard consideration that the City of Vancouver has for all new city developments.
- Comment: This city policy [to put housing above new amenity space](#) has evolved from [small new storefronts on commercial streets](#) like náca?mat ct library [and this model is now being considered to apply to historical large site amenity, recreational, park, and school](#) places like Britannia with open greenspace where adding housing would be precedent-setting [since it is very different than a small storefront property](#). We should also have a speaker to give the context of preserving greenspace (as opposed to “anti-housing”)
- Comment: The purpose of the housing forum is also to identify issues (eg. Maintaining “engaged” community centre)

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- Comment: we have the most park-deficient neighbourhood, and the community centre has a role to provide that. It is important to provide a very balanced landscape of where we are now.
- Comment: We should also be advocating for the purchase of additional land as part of the Housing Working Group mandate.
- Comment: It is important to be vigilant about zoning density and community space as this plan progresses.
- Comment: We should also be mindful about the recent change in provincial government and how that might effect us (eg. Education funding, housing policy, etc.)
- Comment: It could also turn out that housing is not approved for the site after final community consultations. The City of Vancouver should be directed to increase social housing quotas in private development.

7. Britannia Renewal Next Steps

- Next Partner's Steering Committee meeting Thursday, June 22nd (regular Thursday meeting) to outline what consultation will look like in September. This is also our opportunity to address the City of Vancouver directly. Meeting is open to all committee members who wish to come- currently Susanne and Cynthia attend regularly.
- Question: When is the City of Vancouver going to "show their hand"? Are the City of Vancouver positions on Britannia Renewal available/being developed in the midst of consultation?
- Answer: Susanne will raise this question at Thursday's meeting to see if anything is available. We do know that the Vancouver Parks Board has its own citywide consultation processes ongoing that are shaping its hopes for the project (including VanPlay, VanSplash, and a rink review).
- Concern about the Britannia pool being downsized while there is a good possibility that Templeton pool is slated for closure.
- Timeline- draft plans released in September for community feedback, Final plan scheduled to go to the city in March
- Question: What form will the September launch take?
- Answer: We will start with an open house, likely of a similar format to the March BLAB launch. Three different plans will be presented, and people will be asked to pick their favourite pieces from each plan. Feedback from consultations in the fall will be reincorporated into the final plan to be presented in March.
- Question: If there are significant challenges and concerns with all the drafts released in September will there be a second iteration of this step in the process?
- Answer: These plans will come pre-vetted by a number of people including Britannia Community Services Centre (regularly represented by Susanne and Cynthia at the partner's table). If there are serious problems with all the drafts presented it will mean a serious change of direction and timing and will require negotiation among the five partner organizations. The timing for a final plan to be presented to the city in March is set to meet the deadline for inclusion in the City of Vancouver's next capital plan.

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8. **Close-** 8:50 pm