**MINUTES**

**Planning & Development Committee**

**November 16, 2021**

**7-8:30pm | Zoom**

**Attending:** Karla Barcellos, Susanne Dahlin, Pamela Ilonka, Ingrid Kolsteren, Jeffry Lee, Cynthia Low, Elizabeth Murphy, Craig Ollenberger, Oliver Tennant, Kiel Torres

1. **Meeting Time**
* A new meeting time of 6:30 – 8:30pm has been approved and will be implemented at the December P&D meeting.
1. **Skate park submission—Oliver and Jeff**
* Background: since the Master Plan was approved in 2018, the tennis courts have been developed by local organizers as a DIY community skate park (“The Courts”). At the October P&D Committee meeting, the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition (VSBC) presented on the current activity at the Courts. The potential for a creation of a skateboard working group—which could eventually develop into a committee with Board approval—was discussed.
* Oliver presented a draft vision document that includes community guidelines, design principles, and spatial needs to help envisage how a skate park would operate at the renewed Britannia site. VSBC will be tabling at a Granville Island skateboarding showcase from November 20-21 to collect testimonials that will be included in the vision document.

Discussion:

* Cynthia raised that the City’s prioritization of risk management will influence their perspective on reviewing the vision document. It was suggested that the area could be branded as a “multi-sport surface/space” or “all-wheel activity park” instead of a dedicated “skate park.”
* The School has concerns over the loss of a tennis courts.
* The Board will review the community guidelines and conversations around design pieces will be held out for when more granular design decisions need to be made later in the process.
* The skate park working group has been requested to attend other Britannia committee meetings to help other groups become familiar with their work at the Courts.

What is the role of the skate park working group?

* To help Britannia build relations with the skate community and support inclusion around the Renewal
* The group is made up of self-organized people who are interested in supporting the future of the skate park through renewal engagements. The working group is in line with Britannia’s value in self-organizing as a form of resilience, community making, and creating a sense of belonging.
* There is potential for the working group to evolve into a committee (much like Kickstand).
1. **Board working group update**
2. **Issues to be resolved – Renewal Board Working Group’s Draft of Assumptions**
* The Renewal Board Working Group’s Draft of Assumptions document was presented to collect committee feedback for Britannia partners to review. This document is intended in part to address areas that were missed or have changed since the Master Plan was approved in 2018 (such as phasing).

Discussion: Key Points from Document

Building Height and Massing

* Looking to have buildings 65’ (same height as Gyms C+D) instead of the proposed 100’ maximum
	+ The COV’s definition of “maximum height” excludes things like utility space on top. “Gross maximum” is the total height.
* Greenspace: emphasized that “greenspace” is intended to be ground space (not on a roof, for accessibility), and does not include artificial turf. Looking to cultivate a naturalized space with traditional plants rather than just an open grass field.
	+ The COV’s definition of “view point” versus “view corridor” is also slippery, with the latter often being quite limited in space.

Phasing

* Pushed to move Building 5—which includes the community centre—up in priority behind Building 1 (the pool) to ensure the building is complete in case funds change. This is highly dependent on school reviewing their budget and approving the science and technical wings being moved to make space for Building 5. The working group is currently developing strategies to help the VSB make Building 5 a priority.

Social and Cultural Non-Profit Hub

* Programming will remain under Britannia’s control. Funding from the City is required for programming staff wages to support the hub.

Non-market housing

* Due to Council’s decision, the COV must pursue housing. There does not seem to be a “no housing” option. The Board is still in consultation about their position on housing at Britannia, which will be discussed at Board Planning Day.
1. **Communications plan**
* The Board Working group reviewed a communications strategy for the Renewal created by Britannia Communications staff.
* Key priorities: to reach people in the community who are not aware of the Renewal and keep our audiences engaged (“audiences” defined as people who are already connected to one of Britannia’s communication streams).
* Key strategy from the document: looking into billboards (Hasting + Commercial / 1st + Clark) and transit shelters as accessible forms of advertising.
1. **Renewal partners update**
2. **Site Options—**COV working group is collaborating with consultants on creating site-options to present to community. Initially aimed for December but this phase will be delayed as more information from VSB is required to move forward with engagement.
3. **Phasing**—Advocating for building 5 to be prioritized in the phasing.
* Upcoming: A meeting with VLACC has been scheduled to discuss the development of a social and cultural non-profit hub. This will also be discussed during youth consultations next week (for youth who engage with Britannia but do not attend either of the schools).