**MINUTES**

**Planning & Development Committee**

**January 18, 2022**

**6:30 – 8:30pm | Zoom**

**Attending:** Gail Cryer, Susanne Dahlin, Annie Danilko, Pamela Ilonka, Cynthia Low, Betty Murphy, Craig Ollenberger, Alissa Reed, Jane Sheil, Oliver Tennant, Kiel Torres, Mark Versfeld

1. **Acknowledgement and Introductions**
2. **Board 2022 Priorities**

In December and January, the Board reviewed and revised some of the 2022 priorities developed on Board planning day in November 2021. Action items fall into five groups:

* + Reconciliation
		- Which includes renaming and rethinking programming principles
	+ Renewal
		- Action items include implementing the renewal communications plan to better engage the school community that includes students, teachers, parents and families, and to update the 2018 Board Response to the Master Plan.
	+ Relationships (including partnerships)
		- Action items including focusing on partners who may not always have the same resources we do – how can Britannia share our assets?
		- Building stronger relationships requires us to be able to be trustworthy, transparent and represent community well.
	+ Support & Wellness for our community and staff
		- Ensuring staff are safe, comfortable and confident in their ability to serve their community.
	+ Communications & Engagement
		- Action items include redesigning the Society website into a platform that supports dialogue and helping our community overcome digital barriers to participation
			* Britannia has been giving out tablets and working with the Y to help train people on how to use them
* All action items are in line with our 5-year strategic plan: 2020 – 2025
* The Board approved, in principle, the 2022 Priorities and budget of $192,000 to achieve the expected outcomes.
1. **Recently Passed Board Statements**

This includes the 20 statements on the height, massing, etc. of proposed buildings that was shared with the committee a couple of months ago. The floor was open for further comments and changing thoughts.

1. **Communication Plan**
	1. **Website relaunch**

Kiel has been working with the team at Ecstatic Communications to redesign britanniarenewal.org. Key priorities include: making the site more user friendly, introducing more dynamic features, introducing live-streaming capabilities and a video archive, and making more space for Britannia Stories. Ecstatic has expressed the possibility of a launch at the end of January. In 2016, there was a sub-committee specifically for the website. Jane Sheil and Alissa Reed have volunteered to review the website instead of bringing it to the website to the next P&D committee meeting in February and delaying the official launch

* 1. **B-Lab**

Kiel and Cynthia are working with volunteer Stacie Steadman to redesign the B-Lab space to be a welcoming space for community to access news, key documents, and opportunities to engageoffline. The redesign will include updating the current furniture, introducing new shelving to properly house documents, and creating materials that drive traffic to britanniarenewal.org. We’re hoping to organize information tables in the Napier Greenway and Plaza area once the weather warms up, which was a successful outreach method in fall 2021. We’re also looking to develop mass media—bus ads or billboards—to encourage the public to visit us at the B-lab or connect online.

1. **Partners Sub-Committee Update**

The sub-committee has been meeting regularly with the City and they have asked to bring in school board representatives to have a more intimate conversation about concerns and outstanding issues. With this information and feedback from Britannia and site-partners, the consultants have been able to put together a timeline for the next few Renewal phases and move forward on site-options. Key 2022 milestones:

* February: Planning details for buildings 1-5
* March: Site partner workshops on options
* April: Site-options community engagement
* July: Building1 program approval by partners sub committee
* August: Site-option approval by partners sub-committee. Initiate rezoning application.
* November: Submit rezoning application

VSB Programming Inputs

* VSB provided a summary of needs that included information that was not previously part of the Master Plan, and in some cases, was a departure from the Master Plan.
* Key highlights: Gym C and Gym D are required for school use; specific needs for Streetfront and Outreach Alternative programs (buildings 3 and 5); high school shops and science wing

Housing Programming Inputs: Unit Mix and Sizes; Building Efficiency; Affordability; Resident Group

* Provided by the City Housing Department’s Strategic Long-range Planning. This doesn’t take into account the City’s housing policy, including the Society Affordable Housing Policy. It includes the minimum standard for the city but doesn’t take into consideration some allowances for the particularities of Britannia.

Discussion:

* These guidelines are usually what the provincial and federal government use for their funding models – accepts that all projects are self-funded. Housing funders will have to agree on this model, and this will ultimately require city to spend more on less housing
	+ The potential for 100% social housing would have to be for Indigenous people, seniors and elders housing – otherwise we’re following their other housing program
* The VSB’s comments on housing was that they were in support as long as it is not on their part of the land.

Site-Options – Considerations

The intention isn’t to create one option but to move forward with features that resonate with people:

Option 1 – Minimal changes from Master Plan

Option 2 – Moderate changes from Master Plan

Option 3 – Alternative to Master Plan with new commons (public outdoor space)

Discussion

* Britannia Secondary Shops have not been seismically upgraded. They would need to be if they’re moved, but this is not within the VSB’s budget, although they agreed to in the Master Plan. The VSB is open the opportunity to move these facilities but are limited by funding.
* It’s important to fine-tuning and communicating the specifics of housing: lots of people will be in support of the concept of non-market housing without understanding the big-picture implications.
1. **Vancouver Skateboard Coalition**

At the last Board meeting, Oliver presented on how the Courts are currently used, the formation of a Britannia Skateboard working group, and a vision for a skate park at the renewed site. Oliver quickly reviewed the details of this presentation.

Highlights:

* presented renderings for the envisioned future Courts to include: tennis courts on top of the roof of the ice rink with lights, a wall space for a land acknowledgement and public art, washrooms, a water fountain, storage, garbage/recycling, and obstacles (or as Cynthia says, “skateboard furniture”) is built by community

Discussion

* Clarification: skate park is above the rink and not above non-market housing above the rink
* Accessibility issue: a court on the roof might mitigate foot traffic and the ability for folks to engage from street level.
	+ It’s important to ensure people can see the skate park is still welcoming at human scale
	+ A low sloping ramp that is inviting design-wise could help connect the Courts to street level
* Next steps for establishing a Britannia Skateboard working group: The Board Development Committee reviews committee mandate, and appoints members. It’s not an approval process, but rather a review of the mandate. They meet Jan 21st and Feb 18th (will likely review mandate at this meeting).
1. **Working Group Update**
* The Renewal Working Group meets to help resolve the Board’s position on specific points, and to support Britannia subcommittee members. They meet with partners every two weeks, and also in Friday’s with the City.
* The group is putting together a response or update to the response to the Master Plan, which will probably be approved at the next Board meeting on February 9th.
* The working group document presented at this meeting is an informal draft and will be publically available once board passes it in February

**Announcements:**

Pool & Fitness Centre Committee Meeting: January 25, 2022, 6-8pm on Zoom.

* Topics include: Building 1, VanSplash and include an update on the renewal – including tentative plans for site-options in April 2022.
* Email Marie Beasely for the Zoom link: marie.beesley@vancouver.ca
* To learn more about the committee, visit: <https://www.britanniacentre.org/pool/articles/690.php>
* To learn more about VanSplash, visit: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/vansplash-aquatics-strategy.aspx>