

Mayors West End Community Advisory Committee - Meet and Greet  
October 14, 2010

*In attendance:* Christine Ackermann, Tony Clark, Marlann Cooper, Jim Deva, Michelle Fortin, Rob Hines, Lena Hozaima, Tiko Kerr, Dean Malone, Mayor Robertson, Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Reimer

*Guests:* Charles Dobson (SFU Centre for Dialogue); Kevin Quinlan (Mayor's office - brief attendance for introduction)

1. Mayor Robertson gave introductory remarks
2. A round of introductions of committee members was undertaken where committee members were asked to give brief biographical information as well as describe their hopes, fears and expectations for the committee which are broadly summarized as follows:

*Hopes*

- Ensure that a broad cross section of the community is fairly represented in discussions. Some groups - renters, seniors, families - were specifically referenced by various community members.
- Develop trust.
- Reach consensus.
- Make the development discussion fun for participants and community.
- Challenge the issues, daylight challenges in the community and create objectives to meet community expectations.

*Fears*

- That it becomes divisive and not much fun

*Expectations*

- Discussions will be undertaken in good faith by all the participants, with the public good in mind and solutions oriented.
  - Cooperate, hear, listen, and come to a place where we can agree regardless of where we are each individually coming from.
  - Bring solutions and not just problems.
  - Invest in process not outcome.
  - Listen more than we are talking.
  - Use developmental evaluation to give people after us a road map on how to do things well (if we do them well) or better (if we don't do them well).
3. A draft of the agenda for the proposed orientation session was reviewed and committee members provided feedback on whether the proposed items would be useful and whether they felt additional items should be considered.

Committee members asked that all proposed items be included and the following be added:

- overview of the current regional and city planning processes
- current engagement practices, what's working, what's not working, best practices from other cities (note: the latter item may not be possible to be ready in time for October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting);
- as part of the west end overview provide a history of west end planning and why the last round of planning happened the way it did
- some information and on how to deal with inquiries from the public and how to deal with communications from the committee to inform a decision on these items at the orientation session

It was also noted that there is a need to set up a meeting for those that can't come on October 30th to go through the same briefings.

4. The committee reviewed two documents related to **Roles and Responsibilities** (City of Vancouver Code of Conduct and a draft MWEACAC Roles and Responsibilities document) and was asked to read through prior to the orientation session with an eye to approving a final document on roles and responsibilities.

In addition committee members were asked to consider whether they would like to stand for election as a resident co-chair of the committee and that it was proposed that an election would be conducted at the orientation session.

Preliminary comments and questions on roles and responsibilities ensued relating to the committee's relationship to Council (as opposed to the Mayor); the purpose of having a Councillor as a co-chair and some public perception problems this may create about the independence of the committee; the potential role of a facilitator; the relationship of staff to the committee; the potential for an alternate resident co-chair.

The committee had a long debate about the relative merits of whether or not to have the orientation session open to the public and, while wanting wherever possible to have open public meetings, unanimously felt that the volume of information would best be absorbed in a focused meeting. There was a general sense that the information from the orientation session would be presented to the public at another meeting. It was pointed out by councillors present that the material would be publicly available in any event as all materials received by the committee, and minutes, would be posted on the City's website as a matter of routine course.

***Action items from the discussion:***

- Andrea to review processes in other jurisdictions for connecting staff through council/mayor to committees and bring some proposals back for the orientation session on how to give that relationship the strength it needs without disadvantaging the perception of the independence of the committee

- It was agreed that if a councillor would stay on as co-chair, an alternate resident co-chair would be elected to ensure there is a high likelihood of a resident co-chair at every meeting
- The orientation session will be open only to committee members.

The meeting adjourned.