

Lower Capilano Partnership Committee (LCPC)

Visioning Session

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

SUMMARY REPORT

(Final February 16, 2010)

Introduction

Fifteen members of the Lower Capilano Partnership Committee (LCPC) (Appendix 1) met on the morning of Wednesday, January 27, 2010 to develop and reach a consensus on a vision, future direction, and focus for the group for at least the next three years (Appendix 2), to support of the LCPC 2009 Strategic Plan (Appendix 3). This report summarizes the outcomes and discussion of the session.

Outcomes

The outcomes of the session were as follows:

Vision

There was consensus that the aims and goals of the LCPC should continue to be the following:

Aims

Community Engagement

To engage Lower Capilano Community (LCC) residents, reduce social isolation, and increase participation in community life.

Partnership Building

To increase opportunities for residents and local organizations to network, leverage resources, and develop programming partnerships.

Community Capacity Building

To enable community members to develop leadership skills, build social capital, and work collaboratively.

Community Education

To educate community members on the programs and services which are available to them in the community and elsewhere.

Goals

- Be representative of the LC community to the greatest extent possible
- Be a legitimate source of information and decision-making in the community
- Be proactive and an advocate for the LC community
- Create meaningful and lasting improvements in LCC neighbourhoods
- Identify and facilitate the development of programs and services to meet the needs of the community
- Define commonalities that address different roles/hats worn by committee members
- Work towards the greater good of the LCC

Values

There was consensus that the values of the LCPC include the following:

- Collaboration
- Partnership
- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Openness
- Transparency
- Creativity
- Resilience
- Neutrality

Future Direction and Focus

There was consensus that the future direction and focus of the LCPC should be the following:

Revisit the Needs of the LCC

It has been six years since the community was surveyed to identify the needs of the community. It was the needs identified by the community in 2004 that have guided the priorities and work of the committee. It is appropriate and important to conduct this exercise again at this juncture in the committee's existence.

The objective is to develop and distribute a survey to the community which asks them about their program and service needs and include questions about their awareness of the service improvements since the formation of the LCPC.

Find Innovative Ways to Engage the LCC

The committee consists largely of staff from the DNV, the NVRC, and other service providers to the LCC. It is important and appropriate to find innovative ways to engage more residents and other members of the LCC, such as businesses, in the work of the committee.

The objective is to form partnerships with the business community for example, to better the LCC, and to make involvement in the LCPC as open and welcoming as possible.

The focus is on identifying commonalities between the businesses of the LCC and the work of the LCPC, and to find ways to engage the residents in the committee by examining when the committee meets.

Find Innovative Ways to Sustain LCPC Initiated Programs

The LCPC provides grants to start programs and services in the LCC. It also facilitates the development of programs and services by bringing service providers and other funders together. It is important that the LCPC work to find innovative ways to sustain LCPC initiated programs in the LCC. This is particularly important given the funding cuts being experienced in all areas and by all providers, which are expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

The objective is not to lose any of the programs and services in the community that the LCPC has had a hand in establishing in its first three years.

Reach Out to the Broader Community

The LCPC has focused the majority of its attention in its first three years on building the relationships and linkages within the LCC. It is important and appropriate for the LCPC to turn some of its attention to solidifying relationships with other initiatives and groups in the broader community which overlap with and include the LCC, and to generally raise its profile.

The objective is to form relationships and partnerships with others in the broader community who are working on initiatives that can benefit the LCC in order to share information and resources, and to collaborate.

The focus is on developing an internal resource identifying the external committees and tables the LCPC should be part of, compare this against which of these LCPC members are already involved in, identify the gaps, and determine how best to represent the LCPC at these tables.

Continue to Have a Paid Coordinator

The LCPC has a paid coordinator for most of its existence. The value of the coordinator to the work and success of the committee cannot be underestimated.

The objective is to ensure that the LCPC always has a paid committee coordinator, and that the funds to support the position are always in place.

The focus is on reviewing the role of the coordinator to ensure that the position is as effective as possible in supporting the strategic plan and work of the committee and the position reflects the most efficient use of the committee's funds as possible.

Membership

The LCPC will continue to welcome anyone from the community who wishes to be part of the committee, and membership will remain on a volunteer basis.

The objective is to be as representative of the LCC as possible at all times.

Consensus Decision-Making

The LCPC will continue to make decisions by consensus, with the aim of balancing the goal of achieving general agreement to move forward without everyone necessarily agreeing to all the details with the desire to not stall the work of the committee.

Subcommittees

The LCPC will continue to make use of subcommittees to assist it in its work. In the case of the grants subcommittee, the LCPC will continue to set the criteria for decision-making by the subcommittee.

Neutrality on Community Development Issues

The LCPC will maintain neutrality in relation to community rezoning and redevelopment applications in the LCC. The role of the LCPC will be to inform the LCC residents of the proposals and encourage them to get involved through the existing participation opportunities.

Budget

The LCPC will continue to make the most effective and efficient use of the budget it has available.

Next Steps

There was consensus that the next steps after this session should be the following:

1. The Facilitator will electronically submit a session summary report to Joyce Parkin and Stacey Yeats within two weeks.
2. At its next meeting, which was tentatively set for March 17, the LCPC will accept the session summary report and develop a set of priorities and actions, a timeline, and assign responsibilities.