

**Meeting of the Vision Initiative Steering Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 27, 2007**

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Place:** SEAPARC Boardroom

**Present:** Alanda Carver, Heather Phillips, John Charles, Arnie Campbell, Rosemary Jorna, Emma Taylor, Wayne Fritz

**Regrets:** Liz Peterson

**WELCOME**

Wayne Fritz welcomed everyone to the first steering committee meeting, asked that the agenda order be changed (agenda item 4 to become agenda item 2), and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- share information about current funding efforts and potential assistance by Smart Growth BC;
- provide an opportunity for general discussion and debate about the visioning initiative proposal without making any big decisions yet; and
- make some early decisions about how to proceed with planning for the initiative.

**STATUS OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

Arnie Campbell reported the following:

- OPSRRA has been successful in applying for \$1,000 in start-up funding from the Regional Director of the JDF Electoral Area.
- A complete funding application for \$2,000 can be submitted to the JDF Economic Development Commission within the next two weeks and be considered at the Commission's next meeting on March 22, 2007.
- OPSRRA will administer the funding for the vision initiative, initially through separate record-keeping procedures and subsequently through a separate banking account.

Wayne Fritz indicated that:

- The BC Lottery Corporation manages a grant program to which a funding application for the vision initiative can be made.
- John Horgan, MLA, and Dr. Keith Martin, MP, will be contacted to find out if they are aware of potential provincial and federal government funding sources for the vision initiative.

Emma Taylor indicated:

- Smart Growth BC is prepared to assist the steering committee in making a funding application to the UBCM Integrated Sustainable Community Program.
- Another potential grant funding source is the Real Estate Foundation of BC with an end of April deadline for funding applications.

There was a question about applying for funding from the JDF Governance Committee. It was pointed out that the governance committee is not making any grants to other organizations.

### **ROLE/USE OF SMART GROWTH BC**

Emma Taylor provided an overview of Smart Growth BC, noting that its activities ranged from providing contract planning services to BC municipalities to assisting small community groups with visioning/planning initiatives. Jason Emmet, the community coordinator advisor with Smart Growth BC, had indicated to Emma that Smart Growth BC is prepared to:

- assist the steering committee in making funding applications, and
- conduct a workshop or lead a discussion about how the steering committee might proceed with the vision initiative (travel expenses being the only service charge).

Discussion focused on whether Smart Growth BC might be able to assist the steering committee in determining how existing community studies might be used and how to communicate effectively with residents to assess community values and priorities.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION REGARDING GOALS AND STRATEGIES/INFORMING, DISCUSSING, DECIDING AND REPORTING**

Wayne Fritz provided a brief overview of the early thinking by OPSRRA about the use of a half-day community workshop to identify broad community goals and strategies. He emphasized that these ideas are not fixed, that the steering committee must decide how to proceed, and that over the next one or two meetings it will be important to discuss and decide:

- whether the broad goal themes identified should be changed (e.g., social progress changed to community development, governance to include taxation, services and geographic area);
- whether a half-day workshop or a more complex process involving other community activities is fundable and should be pursued; and
- how the process of informing/educating workshop participants and community residents can be most effectively carried out.

Comments, questions and suggestions included:

- Should previous community visions be reviewed?
- It will be necessary to clarify what the community wants.
- Discussions about governance will be ongoing while the “visioning” project occurs.
- How does the community define rural values and rural living?
- Governance decisions will drive many other decisions.
- Could a community survey be used to identify community values and priorities?
- Different governance models will lead to different community outcomes.
- Could a community survey summarizing community values and goals be incorporated into community OCPs?

- Why aren't Port Renfrew and the resource lands included in the visioning process? Answer: OPSRRA represents only people in Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River. Perhaps the resource lands north of Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River should become part of Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River.
- A simple workshop might cost about \$3,000 while a more complex process involving a workshop and community meetings could cost \$8,000.
- Perhaps a single workshop could be organized as the 1st phase of the visioning project, with a 2nd phase involving community meetings organized as more funding becomes available.
- A background paper synthesizing many early community reports might be useful in informing both the community and workshop participants.
- Could Smart Growth BC assist in assembling pertinent background information?
- Email is an effective way to communicate not only among ourselves but also with interested community residents.
- A series of "Did You Know?" emails to about 700 homes in the electoral area could be used to share key background information.
- Could Royal Roads University do a workshop or survey for us?

## NEXT STEPS

Wayne Fritz identified a number of areas where immediate planning decisions could be made, noting that volunteers will be needed to carry out some work. Following discussion, several decisions were made.

**Gathering Information.** After reviewing a list of previously completed studies and reports dealing with the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River electoral districts (see attachment), Arnie volunteered to start the process of summarizing these reports to assist in the planning process. Heather Phillips and John Charles volunteered to help.

**Funding.** Wayne Fritz volunteered to lead efforts to obtain funding for the visioning project, beginning with developing a funding application to the JDF Economic Development Commission and following up with funding applications to other pertinent organizations. Rosemary Jorna volunteered to help.

**Use of Smart Growth BC.** Emma Taylor volunteered to liaise with Smart Growth BC to develop some joint planning options for consideration at the next meeting. Wayne Fritz volunteered to assist.

**Publicity/Recruitment.** Arnie Campbell and Alanda Carver volunteered to deal with publicity and recruitment issues, starting with:

- emailing minutes of steering committee meetings; and
- sharing information about the visioning initiative with other organizations (including development companies) located in Otter Point, Shirley/Jordan River and the northern resource lands.

**Next Meetings.** The next three meetings of the steering committee were scheduled for:

- Tuesday, March 27, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 22, 9:30 a.m.

These meetings will be held in the SEAPARC Boardroom.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.