

NOTES

Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: January 28, 2009

Place: Otter Point Fire Hall

Time: 2:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Arnie Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Those present introduced themselves: Chuck Minten (Shirley Community Assoc.), Max Kuo (Shirley Community Assoc.) Kate Wood (Muir Creek Protection Society) Andrew Moore (T'Sou-ke First Nation), Sid Jorna (JDF Community Trails Soc. & JDF Parks & Recreation Comm.), Kenny Jones (Otter Point Fire Trustees & Kludahk Outdoors Club) , Bryan Manning (Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society), Arnie Campbell (OPSRRA), Heather Phillips (JDFEA Land Use Committee & Otter Point Resident), Rob Van Veen (Shirley Resident), Ken Douch (JDF Economic Development Comm.) Joanne Hemphill (Kemp Lake Waterworks & Otter Point Fire Trustee), Bob Stinson (Sooke Region Historical Society), John Charles (Private Forest Landowner), Veronica Diment (Muir Creek Protection Society), Wayne Fritz (OPSRRA), Rosemary Jorna (JDF Community Trails Soc.), John Horgan (MLA – Malahat/Juan de Fuca).

Regrets: Mike Hicks (JDFEA Regional Director), Wally Vowles (JDFEA Alternate RD), Louise Paterson (Chair, JDF Parks & Recreation Comm.), Liz Peterson (Sooke B&B Assoc.) Marlene Van Baalen (Canadian Horizons Development Corp.), Brenda Marks (JDF Parks & Recreation Comm.).

2. Looking Back

Developing the Strategic Vision: Wayne Fritz gave a brief overview of the two-year process through which the Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River was developed. Key elements of that process included:

- Initial support for the idea by OPSRRA;
- Community support for the project with establishment of an Advisory Committee and a volunteer project Steering Committee in February 2007;
- Development of a project work plan;
- Assembly and review of pertinent background studies and reports;
- Fundraising of \$8,000 to support the project;
- Development and use of communication tools and techniques to communicate with the public;
- Organization and holding of four public information forums between June 1997 and February 2008;
- Organization and holding of two community workshops in April 2009 for community residents to begin developing a Strategic Vision;

- Development, circulation to the community and revision of a draft Strategic vision;
- Circulation of a revised Strategic Vision to the community for further feedback;
- Finalization of a Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River and a summary brochure;
- Distribution of the Strategic Vision and Brochure to community residents, organizations, elected representatives and officials;
- Development of a summary report about the project prior to disbandment of the Steering Committee.

3. Current Community Follow-up Initiatives

Arnie Campbell indicated that members of the project steering committee had also made presentations to and/or discussed the Strategic Vision with the following community groups and representatives:

The Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission,
 The Shirley Education and Action Society,
 The Shirley Community Association,
 The Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission,
 The Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association,
 The Juan de Fuca Agricultural Advisory Commission,
 Both the current and previous Regional Directors of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area,
 Hon. Blair Lekstrom the Minister of Community Development,
 Hon. Stan Hagan the Minister of Agriculture and Lands,
 John Horgan, MLA for Malahat/Juan de Fuca,
 Dr. Keith Martin, MP for Esquimalt/Juan de Fuca,
 Bob Lapham, General Manager of CRD Planning, and June Klassen,
 Manager Local Area Planning for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

According to Arnie Campbell, their initial responses to the Strategic Vision were generally positive but no specific commitments were made. Further community follow-up would be needed if the Strategic Vision was to be implemented.

In general discussion, a number of planning processes were identified where the Strategic Vision should be used. These were:

- JFDEA reviews of the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plans and zoning bylaw(s),
- The CRD review of the Regional Growth Strategy,
- The public hearings for the JDFEA Parks Plan bylaw
- The public hearings for the JDFEA Rural Resource Lands Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan Bylaw,

- The updating of the CRD Parks Plan and park planning by the federal government.

It was pointed out that:

- The Strategic Vision was a valuable document that would be used for long term community planning;
- There had not been any public opposition to the Strategic Vision,
- The new Regional Director wanted to create a forum where different views (perhaps including those about the Strategic Vision) can be discussed;
- There is broad community support for the goals outlined in the Strategic Vision, majority support for the strategies outlined, and varying levels of support for some of the suggested activities.

4. Looking Forward- Using the Strategic Vision

Wayne Fritz asked what had been accomplished to date through the Strategic Vision and what could be done in the future.

A number of observations were made about what had been accomplished to date:

- The community had developed its own vision for the future; different than the vision of developers or people living outside Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River.
- Those people who had participated in the public information forums or the community workshops were now better informed about local issues and planning processes.
- Those participating in the community workshops liked the opportunity to be involved in developing a strategic vision for the community.
- The Strategic Vision had assisted the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Association in applying for grants to support their trail development activities.
- The Strategic Vision has already been very useful when dealing with Ministers, elected representatives and officials as it clearly indicates what the community wants. It should be used to lobby and pressure the CRD, provincial and local elected representatives to do what the community has identified as its vision.
- Could remaining grant funding for the strategic Vision project be used to hold another public information forum dealing with local governance options?
- Arnie Campbell on behalf of OPSRRA (which had applied for/obtained grant funding for the strategic vision project) indicated that the remaining approximately \$1600 in funding for the project would be used to promote the Strategic Vision.

- The Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission, given their focus on the entire JDFEA, had largely "shelved" the economic development goals outlined in the Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River. Follow-up work would be needed if they were to act on the Strategic Vision.
- At its last general meeting, OPSRRA members voted to promote the Strategic Vision within the mandate of OPSRRA. Its Board members are currently reviewing the Strategic Vision to identify priority areas for OPSRRA to support. It is likely that local governance, rural land use, economic development, water and environmental conservation goals will fit most readily within OPSRRA's mandate. Decisions by its members are expected to be made at their March 2009 Annual General Meeting.
- The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Association is strongly supportive of the economic development strategy of developing community trails to enhance eco-tourism and of the strategy to lobby governments for more aggressive acquisition of conservation areas, parks, beach access and trails.
- The Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society is supportive of the water and environmental conservation goal and particularly of the strategy to enhance protection and restoration of fish-bearing streams and all riparian areas. Improved planning and mapping to protect and maintain significant eco-systems, aquifers, watersheds, streams and wilderness conservation areas is also supported.
- The Muir Creek Protection Society generally supports the goal of water and environmental conservation and the acquisition of conservation parks, parks, waterfront parks, beach access and trails (particularly to create a park at Muir Creek).
- The T'Souke First Nation is currently developing its own strategic vision for its future and will be approaching the Otter Point and Shirley community to discuss issues of common interest.
- The Sooke Historical Society is not directly involved with the strategic Vision but would be prepared to assist in locating historical material if this was helpful to the project.
- As an unincorporated area, Otter Point and Shirley have no council, low property taxes, and no common community hall or meeting place where a community consensus can be developed. The Strategic Vision tries to deal with these issues.
- The Strategic vision both affects and involves wide segments of the community. It also supports compromise and some "give and take" in how the community will develop.
- To outside observers, the document shows a dynamic community that knows what it wants and needs some help from governments to develop its strategic vision for its future.

4. Working Together

Arnie Campbell asked if there are ways for community groups to work together to support the Strategic Vision.

a) Some members of the Advisory Committee wanted to be able to contact other members about mutual interests. It was proposed and generally agreed that the names and mailing addresses of the Advisory Committee members should be electronically circulated (by Arnie Campbell) to all who attended the meeting.

b) There were also suggestions and some discussion as to whether:

- The Advisory Committee or another grouping should meet in 1-2 years to review how the Strategic Vision is used;
- OPSRRA could take a lead role in taking the Strategic Vision to the larger community;
- A small group should be established to build further on what has been developed to date;
- There is a need for Otter Point and Shirley residents to work together;
- There might be another public information forum to discuss how to implement the Strategic Vision;
- There was any importance to having a community group to follow-up on the Strategic Vision with the Regional Director, the CRD and provincial Ministers.

Although the intent of the Steering Committee had been to see this as the final meeting of the project's Advisory Committee there was a suggestion that the Advisory Committee remain active. Arnie Campbell therefore proposed that the Advisory Committee meet approximately every four months over the next year to discuss and follow-up on the Strategic Vision. OPSRRA would organize the meetings. There was general agreement with this proposal.

5. Steering Committee

The project's Steering Committee has completed its work and has disbanded.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.