



Minutes

Electoral Area 'G' Citizen's Committee

Meeting of *Monday, May 17, 2021*

Via Zoom

Present:

Mel Kotyk, Resident and Chair of the Citizens Committee

Ann Knight, Resident

Andrew English, Resident

Gerald Partridge

Bill Arnott, Resident

Rajinder Boora, Resident

Melodie Kolisnyk, Resident

Gary Lawrence, Resident

Anne-Marie Whittaker, Senior Planner, EcoPlan

Jordan Konyk, Project Planner, EcoPlan

Evelyn Riechert, EcoPlan

Absent:

Trisha Mills, Resident

Stanley Bobowski

Doug Woods

RDOS:

JoAnn Peachy, Planner, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

1. CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
2. Area "G" Project Update (where we're at)
3. Summary of Resident Survey Input
4. Discussion: Key Priorities & OCP Directions
5. Other Items
6. Next Meeting Date
7. Adjourn

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

2.1 No changes or omissions noted for the Meeting Minutes of April 19th, 2021.

Regarding Committee Meeting Minutes:

There is a spectrum of minutes - from transcript to sparse record of decisions.

For this committee, we will make note that the minutes were reviewed, discussed and approved at each meeting.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Welcome

Area "G" is located within the unceded territory of the Syilx people (or Okanagan) Peoples.

6.2 Project Update

See attached committee meeting slides for project update information.

We are in Phase 2 of the process. This phase will focus on community/resident engagement. It runs from April to September. Public launch of the planning process began with direct resident mail out at the end of March, the RDOS Regional Connections site engagement, video and survey, which opened March 28th. The survey was open for one month and closed on April 30th.

Action Item (previous meeting): RDOS to check with Canada Post for postal code and mass mail out, to ensure residents in this post code receive all future mail outs.

Action taken: RDOS inquired with Canada Post. An increase in the number of prints is required (from 2500 to 2600) to ensure full coverage. Direct mail out will need to match Canada Post postal codes, which may or may not match Area "G" boundaries exactly (i.e. some residents may receive a direct mail out but live just outside Area "G").

6.3

- Summary of Resident Survey Input
- See attached committee meeting slides for Resident Survey Input and Summary of Resident Input, May 2021 document.
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- Committee Discussion: Initial thoughts or reactions to what we heard in the resident survey.
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- Concern there was only 124 respondents to the survey. Members felt this was low. Response: It was noted by the consultant and the RDOS that 125 is actually a fair response in comparison to other electoral areas in the RDOS. Consideration was also noted for current health guidelines, making it difficult to hold in-person lunches or events to facilitate a guided session with the survey/workbooks.

- The diversity of responses (from each community) was good.
- No big surprises with information received.
- Interesting to see the differences of issues and interests for each community.
- The survey may have missed people who don't live year round.
- Question: how much does RDOS have control over issues (Hedley water). *Consultant and RDOS: It's true the RDOS may not be able to address all aspects outlined (such as water) because it is not within their jurisdiction. However, an OCP can still include the direction and preferences of a community and what the RDOS would support in the future. In that, when other outside agencies develop their own plans, they review Area "G"'s OCP. For example, the ALC may look to review and update their policy. With this, they will review the OCP for Area "G" to see what the community feels is important in their area. The RDOS can then advocate for the community on their behalf and with the OCP as its foundation.*
- Hedley drinking water seemed like a high priority.
- Face to face is key to get more responses.

6.4 Discussion: Key Priorities and OCP Directions

See attached tables for exercise on key priorities and OCP directions. The objective of this exercise is to take what we heard in the resident survey and begin to create a rough framework (or foundation) for the OCP.

OCPs typically have an overall vision statement. A vision statement is a short sentence that describes what the community wishes to look like in the future. (e.g. "In 2045, Area "G" will..."). This helps the RDOS and outside agencies better understand, or get a picture of the community's interests.

Following the vision statement, an OCP typically includes broad community goals. Goals are defined as "values" with a direction of preference. These help breakdown the vision into its key parts and indicate what about these aspects the community prefers. For example, a community's vision may be to include the desire for additional growth and development. However, the goal for growth would be to restrict development to identified "growth areas" or "existing neighbourhoods" and preserve the surrounding rural lands (*Note: this is an example from another community*).

Committee Discussion:

- Based on what we heard in the survey results and committee member input, a draft vision for the community should include the following key elements:
 - Rural
 - Agricultural
 - Open space
 - Independent - self-sufficient
 - Business attraction and retention

- Other words or themes that resonate and could contribute to a vision are:
- the need for a diverse economy
- Connected trails for tourism
- Age diverse population

Committee Discussion on Goals Exercise:

- What is rural? Can just be housing, but it is not the same as “agriculture” – a separation is needed when discussing both rural and agriculture.
- Rural is ‘independent’, meaning sustainable industry in the region, and also means an independent attitude of the people.
- Economic activities are limited. There is mining and a sawmill near Princeton, other people drive to larger centres for work. Tourism could be a bigger part of the future economic development.
- There are challenges to agriculture (making a go financially)- how does community pivot to a new economy?
- We don’t want to become just a retirement community.
- ALR rules are restrictive for some residents.

Committee Decision for Goals Exercise:

- The goals exercise requires additional time to review the summary of results (individually) and further explanation of categories within the table.
- The committee decided to table this exercise as the sole subject for the June meeting.

Action Item: EcoPlan to send summary of survey and exercise tables. Committee members to review the summary and prepare ideas and discussion points for the next meeting.

6.5

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Closed at 8:37pm

7.

Next Meeting Date

7.1 Next Committee Meeting is Scheduled for: **Monday, June 21st, 2021.**

Mel Kotyk

Advisory Planning Commission Chair

Anne-Marie Whittaker, EcoPlan

Advisory Planning Commission Recording Secretary / minute taker

Area "G" Citizens Committee

Schedule of Projected Meeting Dates

The following table outlines projected meeting dates for the Citizen's Committee based on the current project schedule. Should a meeting date need to be changed, Committee members will be provided advanced notice (1 week minimum) and a new meeting date will be selected.

Meeting Date	Project Phase	Meeting Content
March 8 th , 2021	Phase 1	Establish the Committee. Tell us about your community? What is an OCP?
April 19 th , 2021	Phase 1	Background Report Review
May 17 th , 2021	Phase 2	Engagement Input, Round 1 Review.
June 21 th , 2021	Phase 2	Workshop - OCP Framework
September 13 th , 2021	Phase 3	Workshop – Policy Directions
November 8 th , 2021	Phase 3	Workshop - OCP Goals and Objectives
January 10 th , 2021	Phase 3	Draft OCP, Review of Community Input
February 21 th , 2021	Phase 3	Final OCP