

Planning Vancouver Together

RPSC-CVC Meeting on February 19, 2020 with Cory Dobson, City Planner

There was a presentation by Cory and, he noted that the City Council initiated the Plan in November 2019. Since that time we have been confronted with COVID 19 and its many unknowns. The Planning Dept. presented Council with an update at a City Council meeting on June 24, 2020. Cory said that “there is a lot of commonality with what we heard from the wider public across the city and conversation we had together (which will help to formulate the principles).” See all the information at vancouverplan.ca

A productive discussion ensued and the following comments were noted (not in order of importance):

- attention should be paid to the former residents of RPSC, especially those who resided at the Little Mt. Housing site
- there is a lack of trust within the community, especially since the Cambie Corridor (CC) was implemented and how development has progressed
- the lack of trust seems to have broken down after 2007 when there were changes in the Planning Dept.
- there has been too much “top down” decisions and a sense of “patronizing” has appeared
- the tactic of “bait and switch”, especially with the CC has become evident
- concerned that Council may not be fully aware of what they are voting on
- we are volunteers trying to get guidelines and we wanted to be “engaged and not enraged” (Robt. Florida)
- we’re critical of the “soft start” and will the Planners be involved in the conversation kits?
- don’t need a survey for a transportation plan as we are well aware of what exists and the positive and negative aspects of such a plan
- there’s a lack of communication with VSB and Park Board and the Planning Dept.; an example is the Eric Hamber seismic project
- affordability is a critical issue with the CC
- we are not against densification but how it is proceeding and be

cognizant of the RPSC's position

- concern with the Planners knowledge of the City and its history
- two surveys were done in 2004-05 within RPSC - both household and

random with a very positive response

- it's difficulties to get information on amenities within RPSC
- below market buildings within RPSC seem to be non-existent or at

least very minimal

- we need to have a "two-way street" in our discussions
- external forces can and are seen as challenging the City; e.g.

developers driving the City

- who has the free time to deal with the *Vancouver Plan* — the average resident? retirees? or?

- it's important to reach out to student groups
- where do you put amenities? is there adequate consultation?
- what concern is given to public safety — fire dept. stations (not one

within RPSC) and police

- there's "an elephant in the room" and that seems to be government and the real estate industry (refer to: work done by **David Ley** at UBC and ***Land of Destiny, A History of Vancouver Real Estate, 2019, Jesse Donaldson***)

- we are pleased to hear that you (Cory) will bring in other departments in the planning process

- when looking at employment opportunities, there should be an effort to improve the status of low paying jobs

- consideration must be given to the rate of change and densification
- tap into the "grassroots" knowledge
- something must be done for those residents earning less than

\$20,000/year

- respect is a two-way street between the City and the residents, sometimes not seen with the CCP3

- we want to see genuine engagement and just tokenism
- Will there be improved communication between Council and

community groups regarding the planning process?

- Is affordability and cost-of-living just hearsay?
- climate change and economic changes are important factors to

consider and will impact the Plan - updates will be necessary

- what kind of City is being foreseen in a couple of decades?
- transformational changes are needed

- an integrated policy is necessary; that is the physical plan, political involvement at the local and Metro levels
- good reporting on the progress and the types of partnerships that will evolve - local, regional, academic, non-profits
- there must be satisfactory accessibility to the process by all parties
- consideration to: equity reconciliation, resilience, empathy and trust
- engagement principles to consider: include all voices, going to where people are, advance recordings, ensuring many ways to be involved, make the process easy/relevant/fun, support community leadership
- the cost of the process is significant and it's imperative that the "conversation kits" are widely distributed (using various mediums) and employ community based groups such as RPSC

RPSC-CVC strongly recommends that all those that have read our ideas refer to our website rpscvisions.ca and specifically refer to *RPSC Community Visions (City Plan)*, November 1, 2005 and *Guidelines for Redevelopment in RileyPark/South Cambie*, March 15, 2016. These documents clearly show the importance of neighbourhood planning rather than city-wide plans and we feel it is imperative that the neighbourhood be the initiator of the process.