

Advisory Working Group Meeting #1 – Summary

Wednesday, September 14, 1:00pm

Overview

As part of the West Side Local Area Plan (LAP) process, the Town invited local residents and business owners to participate in an Advisory Working Group (AWG). The purpose of the AWG is to bring together key stakeholders from the area to [a] provide intimate local knowledge of the area, and [b] work collaboratively with the Project Team to guide the project process and deliverables.

The first AWG session was held on September 14, 2016. The following volunteer members attended:

- Greg Ramsay (industry representative / Ralmax Group / United Engineering)
- Caroline Curtis (resident)
- Jennifer and Danny Jones (residents)
- Geri Byrne (Sidney Economic Development Commission)
- Peter Sandercock (resident)
- Kevin Lowe (resident)
- Jocelyn Gifford (Sidney Community Association)
- David Jones (resident)

Meeting Summary

- Project introduction
- Mapping exercise: identifying key issues (and opportunities)
- Reviewing images and discussing precedents / case studies on topics such as innovation districts, incubators, social hubs, outdoor spaces, and low-impact infrastructure
- Discussion of key principles that could inform the development of the plan
- Discussion of members' vision for the future

Outcomes

- Members identified a number of key issues:
 - Traffic issues and pedestrian safety (specific locations and issues mapped)
 - Galaran Road (and intersection with Beacon Avenue) was a primary area of concern
 - Lack of beautification and substandard 'first impression' of the area
 - Connection and integration with the rest of Sidney
 - Lack of (quality) outdoor spaces or places
- Members identified and prioritized a number of key principles, which will begin to inform the development of the plan (to be further developed at public/stakeholder events):
 - A unique identify / 'sense of place'
 - Connections to and integration with Sidney proper
 - Economic vitality
 - Transportation choices (besides the car)
 - Mix of uses (e.g., industrial, retail, residential)

- In closing, the following conclusions about the West Side were drawn by the group:
 - An important economic engine for Sidney
 - Residents accept being adjacent to industrial lands and enjoy their neighbourhood
 - Needs better integration with Sidney proper and, now, the Gateway development
 - Needs an improved/established identity and developed sense of place
 - Needs beautification, particularly as it relates to the entrances and residential area
 - Needs more and improved public spaces (e.g., the small park on Henry Avenue)
 - Needs better transportation options, particularly to get to Sidney
 - A higher density residential/mixed use may be most appropriate for the residential area (as opposed to industrial, as currently designated in the OCP)