



Minutes

Electoral Area 'G' Citizen's Committee

Meeting of *Monday, April 19, 2021*

Via Zoom

Present:

Mel Kotyk, Resident and Chair of the Citizens Committee
Andrew English, Resident
Trisha Mills, Resident
Gerald Partridge
Bill Arnott, Resident
Anne-Marie Whittaker, Senior Planner, EcoPlan
Jordan Konyk, Project Planner, EcoPlan
Evelyn Riechert, EcoPlan

Absent:

Anne Knight
Stanley Bobowski
Gary Lawrence
Doug Woods
Duncan Baynes
Rajinder Boora
Melodie Kolisnyk

RDOS:

Director Tim Roberts
JoAnn Peachy, Planner, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

1. CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Chair of the Committee / Approve Meeting Minutes (March 8th)
3. Project Update
4. Review the Background Report
5. Mapping Exercise
6. Other items
7. Next meeting date
8. Adjourn

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

2.1 No changes or omissions noted for the Meeting Minutes of March 8th, 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 adopted.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Welcome

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

Welcome from Director Roberts. The Area "G" OCP is a really important process for residents - it provides a common vision for the whole community. The OCP enables changes to be made, but not deviate from the real desire of the community. Thank-you to everyone on the Committee for participating and working to create this plan together.

6.2 Chair of the Committee

Committee Chair: Mel Kotyk (volunteered as Committee Chair)

The Chair of the Committee will act as the point person and liaison to the RDOS. The chair will be tasked with opening committee meetings, asking if members have questions or concerns that need to be addressed and/or items added to the agenda.

EcoPlan: Will provide administrative support, facilitate and listen to Committee Members and incorporate input and feedback into the planning process.

6.3 Project Update

See attached committee meeting slides for project update information.

We are beginning Phase 2. 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 and the RDOS Regional Connections site engagement and survey.

Discussion: What have you been hearing in the community?

Direct mail out postcards to residents – some members received these, others did not. Is there an issue with Canada Post for those living in the postal code – VOX 1N3? Due to current public health guidelines, many residents are not out and socializing and therefore there is less discussion of community issues.

One of the biggest areas of confusion is about what an Electoral Area is, how it differs from a municipality, what the OCP will do, etc. - this could be a good topic for a mail-out.

Action Item: 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 Item: Committee member to discuss the project with neighbours, friends and family when opportunities arise. Post to social media and email RDOS Regional Connections website to networks.

At the previous Citizens Committee Meeting, members noted it would be helpful for the RDOS/EcoPlan to share the project stakeholders list with the Committee. In response, the Committee may be better able to provide additional input on community engagement.

See attached committee meeting slides for stakeholder list provided by EcoPlan.

Discussion: Who have we missed? In particular, are there additional community groups within Area G that we can connect with?

Additions to the stakeholder list provided by the Committee include:

- Similkameen Trails Society
- South Okanagan Immigrant Services
- El Farro / Comfort Support Organization (for newcomers/temporary workers)
- Seniors Centre
- School District (is there a way to connect with youth?)
- Grist Mill Society – Hedley Museum and Visitors Centre
- Community Club
- Similkameen Country Club (Chamber of Commerce)
- Similkameen Valley Planning Society
- Leadership Program
- South Asian Community – Faith Based Groups (provide documentation in Punjabi)
- Wineries in the Area
- Heritage Society (Hedley)
- Museum (Keremeos)
- Cathedral Lodge and Resort

Action Item: Committee members to provide any additional suggestions via email. Contacts are welcomed.

An upcoming open house is scheduled in June 2021. Due to health guidelines and COVID restrictions, this open house will likely be held online or require an online component.

Discussion: How can we best connect with residents for the community open house? What are the barriers and issues?

Comments and committee suggestions included the following:

- Inconsistent bandwidth and internet service is an issue.
- Digital engagement is a challenge for many residents.
- Direct mail outs to residents and an in-person component would be beneficial. This is the culture of the Area and how things are discussed (in person) – referenced for Hedley in particular.
- Can the Community Hall / Seniors Centre host something in person, within health guidelines?
- Ideas for in-person components include – staffed kiosks, boards with a question/answer component, handouts, smart boards, placards
- Could we delay the open house till health guidelines permit an in-person engagement?

EcoPlan - to remain on project schedule, it would be important to hold the open house in June, but this could be delayed till the end of the month. Could also have an online session with an in-person community component to the open house (i.e. kiosks, outdoor focus groups or boards in the community) to ensure a variety of opportunities to provide input.

6.4 Community Profile/Background Technical Report Review & Mapping Exercise

See attached committee meeting slides for Technical Report Review.

Committee Discussion: Members were asked to discuss findings along with slide review.

- Similkameen trails, in particular, Red Ridge – to Cawston, it would be important to have the OCP support and endorse these existing and proposed routes; currently working to resolve property infringements, the Similkameen Trail Society has secured funding in place and is currently working with the RDOS.
- Trail networks provide safe routes for residents to travel, are supported by businesses and encouraged as a tourist attraction/activity.
- Note: Hedley Health Centre
- Additional context needed for facts and information (noted); some additional context and information is within the full report.
- Review access for hiking and entry to Keremeos Columns Park
- Note: additional flooding data has been completed in 2014 – LIDAR mapping that assesses flood risk.
- Resource allocation, history, resource extraction and development; these activities are all integrated and contribute to the increasing risk of flooding or flood events.
- Ollala is also undertaken a FireSmart program/initiative
- Note: communities should be considered as Hedley, Ollala, Rural Keremeos and also mobile home parks (55%) of residents.

6.5

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Closed at 8:48pm

7.

Next Meeting Date

7.1 Next Committee Meeting is Scheduled for: **Monday, May 17th at 7pm**

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 7 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