

NORQUAY VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE PROGRAM

WORKSHOP #2 – MARCH 7, 2009

Participant Group #4

Themes/Categories for Goals, Objectives, Principles

- Shops and Services
- Housing
- Public Realm (streets, sidewalk, parks, other public spaces)
- Character / 'Place' (cleanliness + attractiveness + heritage)
- Parking, Traffic and safety
- Transportation : auto, transit, bike, ped
- Sustainability, Green Building and Natural Environment
- Community Facilities and Amenities

Principles, Goal and Objectives gleaned from:

- CityPlan
- Community Visions
- Transportation Plan
- Eco-Density Charter
- Cultural Plan for Vancouver
- Supportive Housing Strategy/Homeless Action Plan
- Workshop 1 (February 28/09)

Shops and Services

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- Retail should be continuous along the ground floor of buildings on Kingsway
- Provide a wide range of shops and services
- Auto-oriented services should be discouraged
- Add a Grocery Store to the area
- The shopping area along Kingsway between Nanaimo and Earles Streets should be strengthened as a major neighbourhood shopping area and special community place.
- Redevelopment of the 2400 Motel and Eldorado Hotel should support new, needed commercial and, or residential uses and should include significant public consultation

From CityPlan

- Create neighbourhoods that provide residents with a variety of housing, jobs, shops, local services and public places that are safe and inviting.
- Strengthen neighbourhood centres, define neighbourhood character, improve safety and better target community services

From Eco-Density

- Densify and manage change in ways that constantly enhance and reinforce a city of walkable, complete neighbourhoods.
- Achieve a significant community gathering place (outdoor or/and indoor) strategically located

- Provide info on Norquay shops & services
- Small n'hood oriented stores
 - Small grocery
 - Bookstore
 - Grocer
 - Barbershops
 - Providing array of daily needs
- Think about allowing some retail off Kingsway (ie. Earles)
- No big box stores

Housing

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- Allow additional housing types – including mixed use development on Kingsway along with a mix of apartments and townhouses in areas adjacent to Kingsway.
- *Housing types approved* = seniors housing
- *Housing types 'uncertain'* = infill housing, duplexes, small houses on shared lots, cottages, traditional rowhouses, low-rise apartments
- *Housing locations 'uncertain'* = around Nanaimo + 29th Skytrain stations, around schools, around parks, scattered throughout the single family areas

From KCC Vision

- *Housing types approved* = Rowhouses, 4-plexes and 6-plexes (revised direction says only in K+K and 41st + Victoria nodes)
- Infill on large lots as a tool for character retention
- Mixed-use developments should be better designed and have more variation in housing types.

From CityPlan

- Create neighbourhoods that provide residents with a variety of housing.
- Give people the opportunity to stay in their neighbourhoods as their housing needs change, and, by doing so, take a share of regional growth.
- Increase the supply of subsidized and lower cost market housing

From Eco-Density

- Achieve greater (housing) densities where livability and environmental gains are highest (e.g. around walkable shopping areas, fixed transit, employment areas etc).
- Report back with options for laneway housing and to increase/improve options for secondary suites

From Transportation Plan

- Planning and development policies re: housing should support local retailing and services.

From Supportive Housing Strategy/Homeless Action Plan

- Create more opportunities for subsidized, supported housing throughout the city
 - Consider limiting all towers on Kingsway (22 is too tall)
 - Consider taller forms at nodes ie. Arterials, Earles; Slokan, etc.
 - Think about Live/work housing
 - Need for more family housing (ie. 3 Bed –not just 1 bed apt)
 - Build Human Scale not tower / downtown scale
 - Keep “character” of single family – but allow for multiple small units-shared backyard, ground oriented etc.

Public Realm

streets, sidewalks, parks, public spaces

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- Street trees should be planted on Kingsway and the sidewalks improved.
ie. Especially southwest quad of Norquay Study area
- Provide more Park Space in poorly served areas
- The proposed heart of the village is Norquay Park
- There should be more usable Parks and School Grounds

From KCC Vision

- Kingsway's image should be improved by adding more and safer crossings at key intersections, more and improved bus shelters, more trees and other plantings, and better clean-up and maintenance along the sidewalks and boulevards.

From Eco-Density

- Apply ecological "best practices" for public realm and infrastructure design

Character/‘Place’

cleanliness + attractiveness + heritage

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- There should be continuous weather protection for shoppers in the form of canopies or awnings
- The appearance of the shopping area should be improved through beautification by private owners and the City of Vancouver
- Street trees should be planted on Kingsway and sidewalks should be improved
- Merchandise displays on the sidewalk should be encouraged but controlled.
- Sidewalks, gutters, lanes, parking lots, storefronts etc should be kept cleaner and maintained better by private businesses and by the City
 - Keep sidewalks clean & snow, leaves, etc – by business & owners

From KCC Vision

- Views to the mountains and water from public places and major streets should be protected.
- Private sites should be greener and existing trees and shrubs should be preserved or recycled to other locations if possible at the time of redevelopment.

From CityPlan

- Support the creation of a distinctive look and feel for each neighbourhood and use guidelines based on this character to determine the design of new developments.
- Create neighbourhood centres that become the civic, public heart of each neighbourhood.

From Eco-Density

- Design new density to achieve both sustainable, timeless design, and respect for authentic neighbourhood values, context
- Promote “gentle”, “hidden”, or “invisible” forms of density...in locations that respect neighbourhood identity and sense of place

From Cultural Plan for Vancouver

- Work with the community to address needs and opportunities for spaces/places for creation/exhibition of artistic expression
- Integrate cultural planning into our community planning initiatives

- Better lighting including pedestrian scale lighting, street lights – do specific /unique light/ ???
- Wayfinding
- Info on local businesses
- Make sure all signs are multi-lingual
- Make all sidewalks wheelchair accessible
- Make Wally’s a donut place
- Remove nonconforming billboards
- Wider sidewalks

Parking, Traffic & Safety

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- It should be easier and safer for pedestrians to cross Kingsway, especially to and from Norquay Park

From KCC Vision

- Shopping areas should provide enough parking - on-street wherever possible and in major parking locations when such sites are redeveloped.

➤ Crosswalk light that show # of seconds peds have to cross

From Transportation Plan

- Identify pedestrian priority areas in neighbourhood centres
- Improve pedestrian facilities by reducing barriers and providing incentives to walking

PRIORITIES

1. WALKING
2. CYCLING
3. TRANSIT
4. GOODS MOVEMENT
5. PASSENGER CAR

- City Wide curb side permit parking (to encourage people to use their garages more)
- Bring back the streetcar on Kingsway
- Synchronize traffic light better – get cars thru faster
- Parks – make accessible entrances & safer for kids
- Safety (of all sidewalks) / Accessibility – for wheelchairs / strollers, walkers & children
- Lengthen signal timing
- Think about making some streets
 - Woonerfs / home zones / shared street
 - Create more play space for kids ie. North side of Earles Park or part of Dundee

Transportation

auto, bike, pedestrian, transit

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- Pedestrians should be able to cross Kingsway more safely and easily especially at Norquay Park.

From KCC Vision

- Shopping areas and other local destinations such as community centres should have more bike parking.

From CityPlan

- Enhance the transportation system to provide a greater emphasis on transit, walking and biking within and between neighbourhood centres and the downtown

From Eco-Density

- Density and manage change in ways that reinforce a city of walkable, complete neighbourhoods to de-emphasize auto use

From Transportation Plan

- Pedestrian priority areas will be identified in neighbourhood centres – pedestrian environments to be encouraged in neighbourhood centres.
- Limit road capacity to 1997 level
- Increase the provision and use of transit
- Maintain efficient network for goods movement
 - More biking (safer for kids)
 - Free Transit
 - Bring back streetcar
 - Upgrade lanes / alleys to be green walkways
 - Add more bike routes – not on busy streets
 - Provide safe lock-up place for bikes

Sustainability, Green Building and the Natural Environment

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- Individuals/businesses should be supported by City to conserve water and energy
- Support initiatives to improve Still Creek, restore and preserve Renfrew Ravine and add public space

From KCC Vision

- Energy conservation should be an important in constructing/operating buildings

From CityPlan

- Make improving the environment a priority in decision-making with particular attention to air and water quality.
- Encourage land that reduces the demand for travel by creating neighbourhood centres, focusing more jobs in these centres

From Eco-Density

- Remove/mitigate disincentives to greener building design practices
- Develop tools to measure ecological footprint performance at various scales and contexts in order to assess progress
- Design city and neighbourhood patterns to enhance urban food production/access to local food
- For sites of 2 ac. or more require additional green design including rainwater management plan, transportation demand management etc.

- **Permeable backyard surfaces – don't allow concrete backyards**
- **Country lanes that work**

Community Facilities and Amenities

Norquay Neighbourhood Centre

From R-C Vision

- Provide more community facilities – recreation, library, public plaza

From CityPlan

- Neighbourhood Centres will be the civic and public heart for the larger neighbourhood
- Expand partnerships between arts organizations, civic institutions and the private sector that reflect neighbourhood needs, cultural diversity and the artist's role

From Eco-Density

- Report back on additional financial tools/methods to provide appropriate levels of amenity and support density including amenity bonusing, new partnerships, joint use of facilities etc.

- Good access to information about the neighbourhood
- 2400 site a focus are for amenities
- Existing library – another amenity may be needed, in addition to a larger library
- Norquay Village arts & seniors centre