

# **DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE LOCAL AREA PLAN**

## **WORKSHOP ON WORKING TOGETHER (Version 3)**

**HELD IN THE VANCOUVER NATIVE HEALTH BOARD ROOM ON APRIL  
28<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

**Prepared from notes taken by Tom Wanklin and Michael Clague**

**Members in Attendance;** Dr Liz Whynot (Facilitator), Wendy Pedersen (Co-chair), Michael Clague (Co-Chair), Mona Woodward - Kelvin Bee (Aboriginal Front Door Society), Scott Clarke - Grace Tait (ALIVE), Phoenix Winter (Carnegie Community Action Project), Karen Ward (Gallery Gachet), Colleen Boudreau (Sex Workers Representative), Kevin Yake - Tracey Morrison (WAHRS), Tami Starlight (Resident at Large), Rob Morgan (Resident at Large), Beth Malena (Resident at Large), Victoria Rose Bull (Resident at Large), Hendrik Hoekema (VUCCWA), Karen O'Shannacery (VUCCWA), Rika Uto (Vancouver Japanese Language School), Angelia Ellis (Strathcona Parents Advisory Association), Alice Kendall (DTES Women's Centre), Amanda Gibbs (Resident at Large), Joji Kumagai (Strathcona Business Improvement Association)

**Absent Seats;** Harsha Walia (DTES Power of Women), Kim Tang (Chinese Seniors), Jordan J Eng (Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Association), Strathcona Residents Association (Seat held open), Jeff Sommers (Resident at Large), Angela Marie MacDougall (Resident at Large), Carol Madsen (VUCCWA), Wesley Regan (Hastings Crossing BIA), Dave Hamm (VANDU), Herb Varley (DNC Alternate), Jon Stovel (Gastown BIA), Henry Tom (VCRC)

### **1. WELCOME**

The Co-chairs welcomed the participants and explained there would be no opening or closing ceremony or protocol as this would be discussed during the meeting. They acknowledged the unceded Coast Salish territory. The Co-chairs explained the purpose of the workshop would be to formulate principles for how we would work together and get going on planning to help build a stronger community. It was also explained the venue had to be changed at the last minute and that the agenda was prepared by the 'governance' sub committee of volunteers.

### **2. VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

The members each took the opportunity to introduce themselves and tell a little bit about themselves and the role they have in the community, they also shared their hopes and dreams for the future of the Downtown Eastside in ten years time. These hopes and dreams are as follows:

- Our vision is stated in the CCAP visioning document: Condos are stopped; there is a stop to more zones of exclusion and a future place where Low Income people are feeling at home; safe; with decent housing; social housing; good things; special and innovative places; a place of sanctuary; where there is social justice.

- I also agree with the CCAP vision; Strong sense of community; we are all talking together; a place for the Low Income people; creative people; safe for women; SRO's are replaced; enough shelters; end to police brutality.
- I see us building a local economy; controlled gentrification; zoning control; a local economic /special development zone - someone to be able to choose to live according to their needs and affordability; sharing; not only one income group would be in DTES.
- I see education being a priority, regardless of income; concerns related to cleanliness.
- There will be a lot of balance for mixed retail and industrial businesses; opportunities for small businesses; green zone initiative - to be the greenest business district; partnering with social services; balance in housing; more green spaces; preservation of the artistic community and heritage; use economic opportunities for people to develop as people and a community.
- A safe vibrant social, environmentally sustainable community; Aboriginal people will be fully housed and involved; LAPP would not be ending, gardens on roofs, green this place, training, build existing businesses: DTES not isolated - de-colonising ourselves to embrace opportunities; establishment of a Coast Salish Village and UN recognition of Aboriginal rights.
- Developing community around children and youth; safe; hope that the LAPP brings us together.
- Assist Urban Aboriginal people who gravitate to the cities to settle here and live positively; Deal with the police on a Police Review Committee.
- Remove the labels piled around people; people will see me as a human being; there will be equalness from the bottom up; we will see change with affordable housing; there will be equality;
- A place where we have citizens and not consumers; shared public amenities and facilities; everyone feels comfortable; mixed communities; truly welcoming spaces; all backgrounds; employment, safe spaces and housing.
- More collaboration and unity of all people; full of strength and drawing on what the community needs; city creating spaces dealing with homelessness and safety; all people feel welcome.
- I do not want to go there - buildings will come up regardless; we are here because we care; nothing will be here; a lot of us will not be around - I want to see a big community centre; parks are far in between; need a park in the community; affordable housing for all of us; Work together and our voices must be heard.

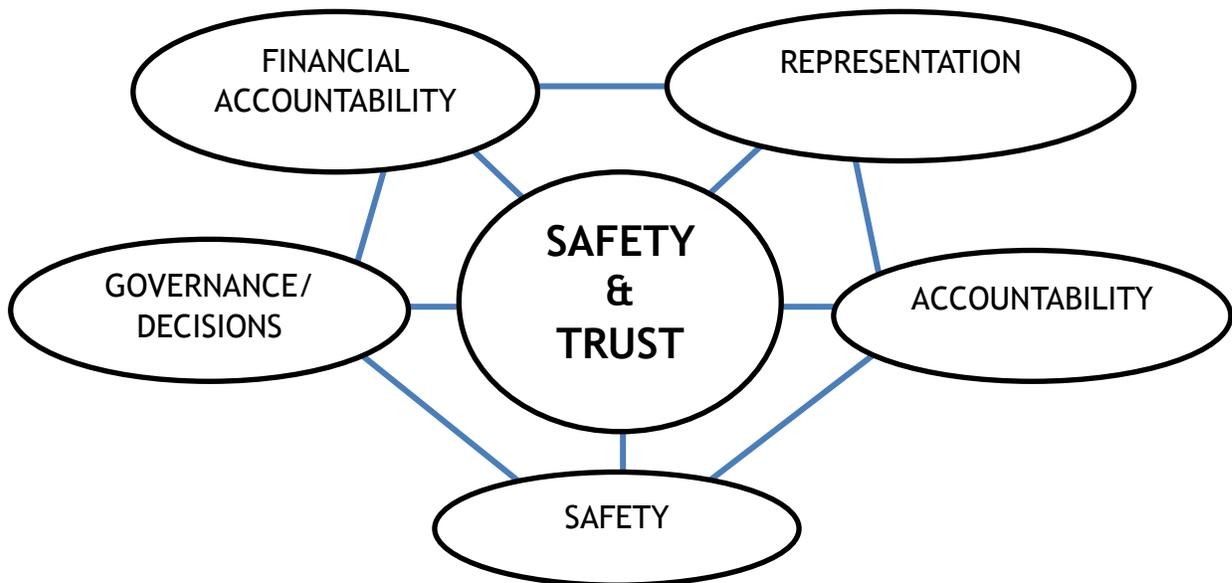
- A place where community can care and there is a place for everyone; Tax dollars not being spent on cops and ambulance calls - no health care by ambulance; wake up - no ambulance or police sirens; no lights from a next door agency; green spaces; need to know our history.
- To see marginalised people empowered; protected; not dependent on resources from elsewhere; built up assets; our own food- - other vision space for privileged to share spaces; understanding; welcoming people rather than condo's being pushed in.
- There will be social housing at welfare rates; self contained with bathrooms and kitchens; no need to show ID when you're visiting friends; community space for studios; aboriginal culture creativity; where people are not pushed away; keep existing services here for residents; end homelessness; job and business opportunities - self employed; stop the police brutality.
- There will be disappointments; we are forming this committee just to appease the city; the end result will be people fighting for their lives.
- Our Aboriginal Children will be our leaders; going to university.
- I am concerned about new agencies; very concerned - the bar needs to be raised for the Low Income housing standards; new definition starting at the 100 block; SIA to start there as well; new housing plan; restored service agencies; Sex workers to have rights; with brothels and they will have choice, safe and be able to see an area for the sex workers; community education and empowerment; history must come back to this neighbourhood; embracing all residents as one community with equal recognition of people; no divisions between us; all to have a right to live here; vulnerable have opportunity; unity.
- I see a peer run society in the artist community with opportunities for affordable artists spaces; Artists will not have to get permission for using local space;
- There will be people helping people; harm reduction; much needed services for the marginalized; people getting work; people will have self esteem and housing will be affordable.
- Through working together we can create a safer space and a classless community; Low income people should have a choice to stay here; having the most voice in the LAPP;
- In ten years time, the Low Income Housing goals are met; affordable housing for those beyond core need; everybody's home regardless of class; neighbours care and support each other.
- I am hopeful; know we can have a really strong healthy inclusive neighbourhood, live and work together, play together regardless of income or background; protected mixed community; safe for everyone; no bullying; a place that has a local swimming pool; people can work here, encourages jobs,

a community that continues to be extremely generous, fair and listens and treats each other equally; a community dedicated to the community.

- There is a need for preserving the services for the communities, there will be a sense of belonging; but we need to ensure the most marginalized feel comfortable first, then all will feel comfortable.

### 3. TRUST BUILDING

The topics of safety and trust building were introduced to the workshop and members discussed a diagram showing the critical issues relating to trust building, namely; Financial accountability, Representation, Accountability, Safety and Governance/Decisions (see diagram below).



It was agreed that clarity needs to be achieved through discussing these issues. It was also indicated it is important that the issues are fully understood, that any other important issues also be identified and then the workshop should formulate a process to resolve those issues. Participants were requested to speak clearly in its use of language. The workshop discussed the identified issues, as follows:

#### 3.1 Representation

Clarity on the Terms of Reference was provided by the Co-chairs (and a copy of the document was circulated to the participants) the process by which Council established the committee, the co-chairs and the agreed Terms of Reference, as follows:

- The process of selection of groups was described as a long negotiation process with the city, with an emphasis on representation of the low income community because it is the largest population (as per the first principle);
- Invitations were extended to residents to apply for 'Residents at Large seats' through a public meeting announcement in December.
- The principles of the Terms of Reference are well known and have been discussed before.

Members described how the committee had been challenged because of the need to make urgent decisions rather than being convened as a group. This had resulted in a lot of positioning. Members called for us to work with issues rather than take positions and asked for a sincere approach to be brought to the meetings. It was suggested that we need to get down to work and be prepared give something up and maybe gain a lot more in the planning process.

### 3.2 Accountability

It was felt several questions need to be dealt with at the next meeting:

- How do we ensure the groups/organizations we represent are kept informed on the LAPP?
- Are there any other groups who should be represented? How could their voices be heard
- Why is the Strathcona Residents Association not taking up its seat and could they maybe take up its seat in future?

### 3.3 Safety

How do we ensure all participants feel safe to speak freely with no fear of being criticized or bullied?

### 3.4 Working Together

The workshop felt the following:

- We need to be respectful of each others ideas
- All need to be to be free and safe to ask questions
- The group should be able to respond to those questions
- We need to agree on the Committee work and process

### 3.5 Financial accountability

Time was not available to address the following:

- How was the finance arranged?
- Financial details are available for everybody to consider, but time is need to achieve this,
- To be discussed at next meeting.

The members discussed a number of issues relating to:

- feelings of hope because the different diversity of the members reflects the differences in the community, adding it is critical the minority voices are heard,
- there has been insufficient time to get started with planning because of the urgent issues relating to rezoning's and development permits,
- the need for the committee to be able to take or not to take positions as an advocacy group,
- the options of forming a working group or for people to send in the written proposals for how we should work together.

Members appealed to the others to stick to the meeting rules, keep a positive tone in the meetings, not use names and focus on content. Some members left the meeting.

The co-chairs recommended the workshop focus on conflict resolution and opening and closing protocols.

### 3.6 Opening and Closing Protocols

The workshop discussed the following:

- How do we deal with each other on opening and closing protocols?
- We have not ever discussed the protocols
- Assumptions being allowed to exist here

After discussion the following proposed Protocols were suggested:

- At every meeting we will acknowledge the Unceded Territory: If a member of the Coast Salish Nation is present the right will be extended to that person; If no Coast Salish person is present, a member of a neighbouring Nation will be invited; if there is no person from a neighbouring Nation, then the chair for the meeting may undertake the acknowledgement
- The opening and closing welcome statement or prayer does not need to be performed by the same person who acknowledged the territory; the welcome statement or prayer will set the tone for the meeting; put out good wishes and reach out to all present; the meeting is the place or views and opinions and will not be part of the protocols.
- The acknowledgement of territory and the welcoming statement or prayer will be respectful of those who choose to not observe or participate.

### 3.7 Conflict Resolution

The following principles were suggested:

- We need to have rules and stick to them
- Keep the tone respectful
- No naming of people
- Speak about content
- Stick to the agenda
- Freedom of religion and participation
- Co-chairs should help us to safely identify the conflict
- Co-chairs need to be neutral
- Conflict resolution belongs in this forum
- Conflict resolution is not to be taken out to a small committee outside
- Do not use vague language
- All have a right to abstain
- All have a right to religion
- All have a right to culture
- Principles of conflict resolution
- Safety is about how we are feeling
- Transcribing of our meetings forces us into positions
- There should be no positions taken by groups or individuals
- We should focus more on interests and issues

#### **4. WORKING TOGETHER**

Insufficient time was available to deal with this matter in detail and it was recommended to the next meeting of the LAPP Committee.

#### **5. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the LAPP Committee will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at Maclean Park, Seniors Centre common room, Keefer Street.

#### **6. CLOSURE**