

SSP 7 Vancouver Planning Citizens Committee Session

2008.10.04 @ Kensington Centre

The Post Mortem & Some Conclusions Draft

Mapping Big Conclusions

- Life is about to change: the energy is gone, the city has to restructure.
- Local food, local industry, alterate mobility modes, a change in basic lifestyle is unavoidable. What directions do we take?
- Energy capture inside the community is as important as food coming from inside the community.
- Realistic and affordable housing options means transition of much of what now exists, some in small ways, some in major ways.
- The Green fingers of sustainable community form is as important as teh ecodensity housing and energy transitions.

Pattern Of Community Shifts

- The city administrative planning boundaries are arbitrary, the personal experience is at a small neighbourhood scale of 5000 or so people, a 10 to 12 block cluster, relating to schools, corner stores, knowing people by sight.
- The natural transition and maturation of any city allows for nodes to become another form of community, an urban village.
- the need to revive streetcar neighbourhoods, corner pub nuclei, and railway line mixed villages and industry makes for another city.....

Governance

- Learning from Boston or the Swiss; the small neighbourhood acts as an open democracy to arrive at mutually happy solutions.
- The city sets some general objectives to work within.... local and regional, that is above and below current concerns.
- The Metro Government becomes elected and accountable and takes on the serious coordination of dozens of now uncoordinated functions: planning, transit, energy systems, health, schools, police, fire department, codes and approvals.

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Vibrant Neighbourhoods?
Urban Villages?
Green Fingers of Sustainability?



1. Arterials Defining Quiet Neighbourhoods
-- and real neighbourhoods are small: 5000 pop.

Urban Community Planning - SSP Section
Review & Assessment - Strategic Planning
2008-10-04

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The Kensington Workshop

Arterials

- Defining Quiet Islands of secure neighbourhoods with self identity.
- A Planning District has 10-20 such neighbourhoods or potential urban villages.
- Industry becomes integrated with the town, not isolated.
- New Green Arterials are added.



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2. Nodes Defining Urban Villages/High Density, Mid rise.
-also real neighbourhoods & small: 5000 pop.

Vancouver Community Planning - SSP Session
Balfour & Associates • Strategic Planning
2006-10-04

Urban Villages

- Node related
- High density (100 upa)
- Mid rise (6.6.6 floor formula)
- Full weekly services within walking distance for urban village and for the single family island neighbourhoods.



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3. Planning for Street car neighbourhoods
But also seizing the River LRT Line now.

Vancouver Community Planning - SSP Section
Balfour & Associates - Strategic Planning
2008-2010

Streetcars & a New River Line

- Conversion to electric drive public transit; arterial streetcars, skytrains, River Rail LRT.
- New Green Arterials for private electric cars in addition to bike ways and pedestrian mews.
- 40% of the city is streets.....



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Vancouver II **SSP POST MORTEM**

Vibrant Neighbourhoods?
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4. Green spaces & Green fingers: opening up the city.
and Electric Car Dedicated Routes

Community Planning • SSP Decision
2009-10-20

Green Fingers

- Marbelization means increasing some density and growing urban villages, but also:
- Green parks, green streets, public gardens make for a new commons, the Green Fingers of Sustainable Community

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5. New Energy Sources:
The whole surface of the city is an energy source:
roofs, yards, streets, wind and below ground too.

Source: Community Planning - SSP Session
Balfour & Associates - Strategic Planning
2008-05-04

Energy Capture

- All the city surface as well as the air above and the ground below is a source of friendly energy to be harnessed.
- Public co-operatives are needed to create the Matrix for some systems; like geothermal.

Marbelization

- The transition of the pattern of community over a short to mid term can provide new housing, new energy, new green spaces, new food sources and new localized industry, all less dependent on long range travel.



Conclusions:

- We also do not have much time to deal with radically needed changes to our pattern of community.
- We knew from the Club of Rome in 1972 and others that we would be at the end of resources in this time period.
- Plan B is now not an option but a reality.