

## **Cowichan Station Area Association**

### **Community Conversation – Community Planning**

**April 2012**

**Things to pay attention to so that Cowichan Station becomes an even better place to live:**

#### Transportation

- Transportation & trails!
- Transportation in all areas -very poor now
- Transportation connecting Cowichan Station to shopping/Duncan
- Integration of transportation services
- Public transportation
- Walking trails connecting neighborhoods
- Trails walking, biking and riding
- Bus/public transit
- Free shuttle between HUB and Duncan as found in Langford
- Better roads with biking lanes and walking trails
- Walking trails along roads to encourage walking and eco transport
- Bus down Koksilah Road
- Trail to Duncan along tracks and trail down Koksilah from highway to station

#### Environment

- Ensure safe space for elk,.... and swans, western toads, bears etc.
- Protect Bright Angel Park's ecological values – it is a natural gem not a playground
- Needs of the environment come before the needs of the people
- Private forestry regulations to protect ecological values
- Protection of natural resources – logging issues and river protection
- Connected green spaces
- Treat the Koksilah River as a whole watershed – via the Cowichan Watershed Board?
- Koksilah Watershed plan
- Park protection – Fleetwood, Bright Angel, future of developments

#### Services

- Shop locally – farmers market
- Café meeting place, pub
- Art/cultural/healing centre
- School/daycare to encourage families
- Affordable housing
- 21 st Century - High speed, Garbage p/u, Taxi service

- Small scale housing for singles & seniors
- Make at least part of the HUB complex revenue generating by incorporating compatible local businesses
- Some commercial zoning in Cowichan Station so we can have a pub/restaurant.
- Walking tours of areas of interest

#### Agriculture

- Honour farms and agriculture – we all eat
- Sustainable agriculture
- Maintain present farm development
- Rural agriculture growth

#### Community Building

- Strengthen our HUB by finding ways to include all ages.
- Work to ensure inclusivity of all voices of community members
- Community hall
- Find ways to connect people within the community
- Better for families
- Neighbourhood assistance: exchange skills, encourage youth to help elders; open exchange of ideas for the community; sharing of equipment.
- pot luck dinners
- HUB/community notices through postal fliers so that all homes receive information
- Information sharing as a mechanism for community and collective education
- As an outcome of the OCP adjust the Area B/E boundary to reflect the Cowichan Station Community
- Link the Area 'E' OCP with the area B portion of Cowichan Station to ensure integration.

#### Arts and Culture & Recreation

- Encourage the arts
- Live music
- Local recreation opportunities
- Family spaces

### **Thoughts regarding involving Cowichan Stationites in the OCP process:**

#### Youth

- Poetry slam on OCP values –with big prizes to get youth participating
- Social media for youth/contact list

#### Media

- Facebook
- Social media

- Webinar
- Video conferencing
- Online survey with comment areas as well as check lists.
- Billboard ads like AREA D
- Community phone call/conference call

### Meetings

- Social gatherings with information
- Public meetings/consultation not CVRD directed
- Neighbourhood meetings
- Community meetings'
- Septic socials (ask Cheri Ayers)
- Community meetings
- Series of gatherings at the HUB for topical discussions
- Kitchen table conversations
- Make sufficient time available for thorough discussion, i.e., not 2 minute speeches at rare mass meetings.

### Input

- Permanent input collection on site
- Suggestion box for ideas
- Community meetings after surveys – Hope we are listened to!
- Surveys that are not leading
- Use group mailboxes in area to gain local feedback with special feedback boxes
- Through the CSAA
- Personal contact with citizens to acquaint them with the process
- Clickers
- Make a video of special spaces and ask for comments on outcomes of potential change.

### Other

- As Director, I will be as helpful as possible in the OACP review (Loren Duncan)
- Request the feedback of other communities whose OCPs have recently been completed in order to learn from their experience.
- Use the HUB