

Citizens Needed for Parksville's OCP Advisory Committee

The City of Parksville has embarked on a review of the Official Community Plan, expected to take between 18 and 24 months. As one of the first steps, the City of Parksville is looking for nine citizens to assist with the Official Community plan process. Citizen members should reside, be employed and/or own property within the City and should represent as best as possible, a cross section of the City's population, bringing expertise from the business community that includes industry, development and tourism, arts and culture, health and social services, environmental stewardship organizations as well as members of the community at large who represent youth, seniors and families.

Led by consultant H B Lanarc of Nanaimo, the OCP review is a priority for City of Parksville Council. Community involvement is a key component of the OCP review which should reflect the ideas and input of Parksville residents. It is the advisory committee members that will assist in identifying the issues facing the community and to ensure the OCP reflects the community's ideas and values. This committee will serve as advisory committee to Council and does not replace broad community participation in the OCP review process. Each phase of the review will provide for public consultation and much community engagement.

The OCP advisory committee will act in an advisory role to staff, the consultant and Council on the community engagement process and will review and provide general guidance on background information, materials and vision statement. Members will monitor, from a public perspective, the quality of the process and its outcomes and will assist in informing the community about the OCP review process and encourage participation by diverse members of the community.

The City's current OCP, adopted in 2002 has served the City well. Parksville has grown from an estimated 8,400 in 1994 to about 12,000 today. The OCP outlines the City of Parksville's long-term vision.

The BC Local Government Act defines an OCP as a "statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management, within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government" It will also outline a general framework of policy or directions for action that will lead to a vision. In broad terms, an OCP sets out as a blueprint, the location, type and density of all types of land use, from residential and commercial to utilities and parks. An OCP can also include policies relating to social needs and sustainability.

To date, the City has received a number of applications for appointments to the advisory committee. With summer holidays and so that the public has sufficient time to respond, the City has extended the deadline for applications to August 10, 2010. To be considered for an appointment, letters must be submitted by 4 pm on Monday, August 10, 2010. Submissions may be made in person, by mail to PO Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3, by fax 250 954-4685 or by email to planning@parksville.ca.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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