



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: October 17, 2023
Submitted by: Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division
Subject: OCP Community Dialogues and Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop –
Engagement Summary

Purpose

To present the engagement summary for the OCP Community Dialogue sessions and the Seaview Workshop and discuss next steps in the OCP Update process.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT the report dated October 17, 2023, from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding OCP Community Dialogues and Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop – Engagement Summary be received for information.

Background

At the Regular Council Meeting on October 12, 2021, the following resolution was passed:

RC21/406 and 424

THAT staff report back with a budget and timeline for developing a more comprehensive and interactive process that looks at the areas identified in Survey No. 2—Moody Centre Transit-Oriented Development Area, Oceanfront, Murray Street, and Kyle Centre—in detail, that outlines all aspects, including potential community benefits and impacts of each potential scenario.

In response to this direction, a recommended approach for an interactive community engagement process was presented at the February 1, 2022 Special Council Meeting and the following resolutions were passed:

CW22/003 (as amended by CW22/004)

THAT the recommended approach for an interactive community engagement process as outlined in the report dated December 2, 2021, from the Community Development Department - Policy Planning Division regarding Response to Interactive and Comprehensive Process Direction - OCP 2050 Update be endorsed;

AND THAT a budget of \$19,500 to facilitate an interactive engagement process for the OCP 2050 Update be approved and referred to the Finance Committee for identification of a funding source;

AND THAT Survey No. 3 be completed prior to additional engagement being undertaken.

The recommended approach endorsed on February 1, 2022 included a series of thematic community conversation sessions to allow for dialogue on key topics that emerged from Survey #1 and Survey #2. This evolved into a series of four OCP Community Dialogue sessions and a Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop.

Discussion

Community Dialogues

The Community Dialogues Sessions gave the public an opportunity to engage in dialogue on topics and themes that emerged from the OCP community surveys. The project team facilitated four dialogue events (3 in-person, 1 on-line) in February 2023 covering the same topics and agenda to give multiple opportunities to those who wished to attend.

These events were intended to:

- share public feedback from previous engagement;
- give participants an opportunity to discuss topics they are interested in and listen to various perspectives; and,
- bring the community together to encourage excitement around the OCP and future opportunities.

Each event was facilitated in a world café format where participants engaged in three rounds of discussion on topics that will inform the Draft OCP. Community members were given time at the beginning of the event to read and reflect on background information and key directions for each topic area before starting the dialogue. With each round, participants chose which topic they wanted to discuss, which included:

- neighbourhood character;
- community amenities;
- parks and open spaces;
- transportation and mobility;
- housing; and
- economic development.

Guided by a facilitator at each table, participants cross-pollinated ideas and made connections by building on what came up in previous rounds before them.

Attachment 1 includes the engagement summary for the Community Dialogue Sessions and details on the feedback received for each topic area.

Several important and overarching ideas were heard across all topic areas, specifically highlighting opportunities to:

Strengthen Port Moody's identity as the 'City of the Arts' by:

- incorporating art and storytelling in public spaces and community programming;
- promoting a broader diversity and representation of the arts; and
- supporting local artists through live-work spaces and affordable units.

Leverage transit-oriented development opportunities by:

- integrating new mixed use development with regional transportation connections and active transportation infrastructure;
- centralizing locations of key services and community amenities within walking distance; and,
- supporting denser forms of development to make gains in the space of affordability.

Form a clear picture of equitable distribution of community green spaces and safe connections to them by:

- prioritizing the continuity of bike lanes and pedestrian pathways that link public green spaces;
- planning parks and distribution of greenspace equitably across neighbourhoods; and,
- ensuring safe and accessible design of bike lanes, trails, sidewalks, etc.

Support a growing community of all ages, including young people who wish to stay in Port Moody and seniors who wish to age in place, by:

- increasing diverse and affordable housing options that range in type and tenure;
- providing community amenities and programming that serve all stages of life; and,
- prioritizing accessibility of infrastructure and public spaces.

Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop

The Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop was hosted on March 4th at the Glenyare Community Centre. This workshop gave community members the opportunity to discuss what is most important to them about their neighbourhood, what might be improved, and a collective vision as Seaview continues to grow and develop. Feedback will inform specific planning directions for the neighbourhood as part of the OCP Update. Sixty-seven community members attended the event.

The workshop followed three rounds of activities. In groups, attendees first participated in a community mapping exercise to understand Seaview's current conditions. Participants shared their favourite places and neighbourhood features, as well as what is needed and areas for improvement. The room then came back together for a collective visioning activity facilitated through an online platform (mentimeter) and a vision board where participants could add their ideas and comments. In the final activity, participants broke out into groups to discuss how Seaview may achieve this vision through future OCP policies and directions.

Under "What works well?", participants shared a love for Seaview's:

- natural environment, including its mature trees and creeks, and spaces to enjoy nature like trails and open space;
- community feel, noting that the neighbourhood is safe, quiet, and has a "small town, community feel within a busy region";

- balance of family housing options; and,
- walkability of the neighbourhood, which contributes to a strong sense of community as people enjoy seeing neighbours outside.

Under “What is missing?”, participant shared that Seaview could benefit from:

- a clearly defined ‘neighbourhood heart’ – a gathering place for residents to see each other;
- safe walking and cycling connections. This included road crossings, complete sidewalks, and traffic calming. Challenges related particularly to the topography, traffic speed, and connections on Clarke Rd, Glenayre Dr, Cecile Dr, Angela Dr, and St Johns St.;
- improved transit connections;
- improved in and out vehicle access, particularly for emergency services;
- small-scale, local businesses to meet daily needs (e.g., groceries, coffee, etc.). Hilltop was identified as a potential area for improvement;
- a public library and community centre;
- outdoor active and passive recreation amenities;
- elementary and high schools to meet the needs of a growing population;
- higher density housing options, ranging from infill to apartment buildings; and
- improved support to the fire hall.

Participants often shared a vision of Seaview that:

- encourages a sense of community, through walkability and access to amenities for all ages, from children to seniors;
- supports affordable shops and housing, particularly for families and first-time homeowners;
- protects ground-oriented and family housing while introducing creative and diverse housing options;
- plans for an increased density, including safe and connected transportation networks, a thoughtful mix of densities, and protected greenspace; and
- maintains mature tree canopy cover and park space.

Attachment 2 includes a summary of the key policy considerations for Seaview for each of the six key topic areas: neighbourhood character; community amenities; parks and open space; transportation and mobility; housing; and economic development.

Attachment 3 includes photos of each engagement worksheet organized by topic area and dialogue session.

Attachment 4 includes photos of the discussion captured on the Seaview maps, the results of the mentimeter visioning exercise and photos of the discussion worksheets with input on the six key topic areas.

The input received as part of these interactive engagement sessions, as well from previous engagement phases, will help inform the Draft OCP anticipated for completion by the end of 2023.

Other Option(s)

This report is for information only; therefore, no other options are being provided.

Financial Implications

A budget of \$186,000 was approved to undertake a focussed OCP update for the four neighbourhood areas identified in the original project scope. As additional scope for the OCP update was directed, additional funding in the amount of \$42,000 for OCP Survey No. 3 and \$19,500 to facilitate an OCP interactive engagement process (community dialogue sessions) was approved.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiative

The Communications and Engagement Strategy for the OCP Update was approved by Council on October 20, 2020. In accordance with the Strategy, from December 2020 to January 2021, staff held visioning workshops and launched a community survey to gather feedback on the vision and goals outlined in the current 2014 OCP.

In response to further Council direction, the engagement phases and associated timelines were revised to include an additional engagement (Community Survey No. 2) with the 2021 property tax mail out to be included as a communication medium. Community Survey No. 3 on potential land use scenarios was undertaken in Spring 2022 and was also distributed to every household in Port Moody.

As part of further Council direction for additional community engagement that included an OCP interactive process, four OCP Community Dialogues and a Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop were held in February and March 2023.

Council Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendations in this report align with the following Healthy Community Development Council Strategic Plan Goals:

- Strategic Goal 3.1 – Create compact and connected communities through balanced growth;
- Strategic Goal 3.2 – Provide safe, efficient, and accessible transportation options.
- Strategic Goal 3.3 – Enhance community wellbeing.

Attachment(s)

1. Community Dialogues and Seaview Workshop Engagement Summary.
2. Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop Summary (Appendix A)
3. Recorded Comments from Dialogue Sessions (Appendix B)
4. Recorded Comments from Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop (Appendix C)

Report Author

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Engagement Summary for OCP Community Dialogue Sessions and Seaview Workshop.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attachment 1 - OCP Community Dialogues Summary.pdf- Attachment 2 - Appendix A - Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop Summary.pdf- Attachment 3 - Appendix B - Recorded Comments from Dialogue Sessions.pdf- Attachment 4 - Appendix C - Recorded Comments from Seaview Neighbourhood Workshop.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 10, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kate Zanon, General Manager of Community Development - Oct 5, 2023 - 5:59 PM

Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services - Oct 6, 2023 - 7:11 PM

Lindsay Todd, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Oct 6, 2023 - 9:45 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Oct 7, 2023 - 10:47 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Oct 10, 2023 - 9:03 AM