
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 9, 2006
File No.: 6430-05
To: City Manager
From: Director of Planning and Corporate Services
Subject: Public Consultation on Sustainability
REPORT PREPARED BY: KARLY HENNEY

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the 4-week regional public consultation on sustainability that starts on May 25, 2006 and culminates in a Citizen's Forum on Sustainability on June 25, 2006.

BACKGROUND

At Council's Inaugural meeting on December 5, 2005, Mayor Shepherd announced the goal for our region to become a recognized leader in sustainability by 2008. Taking stock of how well we as a region are now faring on "sustainability", and making collective decisions about what we want to sustain and how we do it are key components for achieving this goal. The idea for a regional consultation has evolved as a first step to a 'made in the Central Okanagan' approach.

Sustainability is a broad and challenging subject, and there is no worldwide consensus on its meaning. The concept is about providing for the future by taking into account the effect of our decisions today on our next generation's health, environment and quality of life. This involves many factors including land use, air quality, water quality and supply, renewable energy, stable agriculture, thriving business, affordable housing, effective social programs, accessible recreation, and rich community culture. The inherent challenge in this breadth of factors is that trade-offs have to be considered. Sustainability is very much about seeking optimal balance.

Planning staff and a team of consultants met with stakeholders to design a regional workshop. The feedback emphasized the importance of hearing from *residents* of the Central Okanagan about sustainability, rather than engaging staff, elected officials, specific community organizations and other 'experts' in a workshop. The result is a proposal for an innovative 4-week public consultation process that will culminate with a Citizen's Forum on Sustainability. The goal for the process is to develop a common vision of what a sustainable future looks like for our region.

The public consultation will officially launch on May 25, to coincide with the Mayor's Environmental Expo. An engaging, educational and interactive website, www.FUTUREOK.ca, will become 'live' at this time [currently there is 'splash page' placeholder at this URL]. The web site will provide a forum for people to learn about sustainability issues, and provide their

feedback via an online poll. Those interested in registering for the June 25 Citizen's Forum on Sustainability will be able to do so after May 25, either online or by phone. People who complete the survey are automatically entered to win one of four iPod nanos.

The June 25 Citizen's Forum will be a facilitated session for approximately 200 residents from the Central Okanagan to have a dialogue about sustainability. The exciting and innovative process will involve both small group and large group discussions to work toward consensus on what sustainability is for our region. Following the event, the web site will provide a means of reporting back to the community on the input received. Staff will prepare a report to Council on findings and outcomes, including options for next steps. The 4-week public consultation and Citizen's Forum on Sustainability will begin the process for our region to become a recognized leader in sustainability.

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Approved for inclusion

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