

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

November 2, 2010

Mayor Robertson and Councillors
City of Vancouver
453 West 12 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson and Councillors:

Re: Norquay Village Neighbourhood Centre Plan

Please accept this as our comments on the Norquay Village Neighbourhood Centre Plan to be considered by Council on November 4, 2010.

We are highly disturbed about the process undertaken with Norquay's residents who have faithfully engaged in discussions, Working Group meetings, information sessions, workshops, and open houses over a period of three and a half years.

A community-wide survey conducted in 2007 and the Norquay Working Group have both made it clear that there is not community support for the proposed plan. The community has offered its own input at workshops and Working Group meetings, most of which has been manipulated or disregarded.

And further, the "consideration items" that were brought forward without public consultation only two weeks ago add even more height and density than was proposed for public input at the open houses.

No social value has been attached to the existing stable, relatively affordable, family-oriented Norquay community, which already has a balanced 32% low income population. A major decision that affects the future of 10,000 residents and hundreds of acres is to go before City Council with little specific notice and no broad advertisement.

Therefore, Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver **DOES NOT SUPPORT** the Norquay Plan brought before City Council. We urge Council to direct staff to revise the plans to reflect community input and to act in good faith with the Norquay Working Group.

If Council approves this proposal for a Norquay Neighbourhood Centre, and especially any of the last-minute "consideration items", it will be widely regarded as contempt for the CityPlan principle of community involvement in decision making, and it will increase residents' distrust of both planners and councillors throughout the city.

Sincerely,

Ned Jacobs
On behalf of the Steering Committee
Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver
Group contact email: nsvancouver@hotmail.com