

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

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

December 1, 2008

Re: Invitation to Heritage Hall Social - December 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

Dear Mayor and Councillors Elect:

As you may know, Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV) is a city-wide organization of neighbourhood groups that includes residents' associations, CityPlan Vision implementation Committees, ratepayers' associations and other community groups. We congratulate Vancouver's new Mayor and Council and welcome this opportunity to renew the vital relationship between Vancouver's neighbourhoods and City Hall. We are currently organizing an event on **December 9th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Heritage Hall 3102 Main Street**, both as an opportunity for NSV members to meet and greet the new Mayor and Council and to initiate a new and productive partnership.

We are encouraged by commitments that the Mayor and Council elect have made to progressive, inclusive and responsible government and particularly to restoring City Hall's commitment to Vancouver as a "City of Neighbourhoods." Through the Community Visions process, Vancouver neighbourhoods, without exception, have genuinely embraced core CityPlan principles to ensure that Vancouver remains an inclusive and environmentally sustainable City for all of its citizens. NSV supports the Livable Region Strategic Plan and encourages the City to work with regional partners and with the Province to ensure that Vancouver's commitment to a green and sustainable future is shared by surrounding municipalities and supported by Victoria.

The key to success, however, is to ask Vancouver's neighbourhoods how to achieve this "shared vision" and partner with them to facilitate its implementation. The essential element of CityPlan is that core objectives, including densification, are to be achieved and accommodated in a way that preserves and promotes the distinctive character and qualities of local neighbourhoods. Vancouver's neighbourhoods want to be more complete, inclusive and sustainable communities. What they need is the City's support to achieve this vision with the benefit of unique local perspective, wisdom, and initiative.

Consequently, we are reassured by commitments that Vision and COPE candidates have made in response to the NSV Candidates Questionnaire and, especially, by a clear commitment to CityPlan as "the primary basis for future planning." It is time to realize progressive Community Visions that have resulted from a decade-long neighbourhood-based planning process rather than to impose city-wide re-zoning initiatives that seek to by-pass local-area planning. CityPlan has already established ample scope for new density and has garnered

broad community support and confidence. New initiatives like laneway housing should be implemented through the CityPlan process, not around it. Community Visions can continue to evolve through the implementation phase by considering new initiatives within the framework of existing Directions and with appropriate consultation to gauge related support and to provide specific guidance.

NSV looks forward to working closely with our newly elected City Council. Only by working together can we build a truly sustainable “City of Neighbourhoods.”

Congratulations and best regards,

Ned Jacobs
On behalf of
Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

Group contact email: nsvancouver@hotmail.com

Neighbourhood Groups participating in the NSV network:

- Advocates for Hastings Sunrise
- Arbutus Ridge Concerned Citizens Association
- Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shahnessy CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Britannia Neighbours in Action
- Building Better Neighbourhoods
- Citywide Housing Coalition
- Douglas Park Residents Association
- Dunbar Residents' Association
- East Fraser Lands Committee
- Friends of Southlands Society
- Grandview Woodland Area Council
- Hastings Sunrise CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Kensington Cedar Cottage CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Kitsilano Arbutus Residents' Association
- Kitsilano Point Residents' Association
- Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society
- Norquay Neighbours
- North West Point Grey Home Owners' Association
- Reinstate Third Party Appeals
- Riley Park / South Cambie CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Shahnessy Heights Property Owners Association
- South Hill Initiative for Neighbourhood Engagement (SHINE)
- Southwest Marine Drive Ratepayers' Association
- Upper Kitsilano Residents Association
- Victoria Fraserview Killarney CityPlan Committee
- Victoria Park Group
- West Kitsilano Residents Association
- West Point Grey CityPlan Vision Community Liaison Group