

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEETING #3 SUMMARY NOTES

Details:

Wednesday, August 22, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00pm in the Salmon River Committee Room located at the Township Civic Facility (20338 – 65 Avenue).

Present:

Fraser Holland, Gary Jones, Juliet Henderson-Rahbar, Laura Labelle (Fraser Health), Lisa George, Sherry Baker

Regrets:

Amanda Henderson, Austen Bietenbeck, Barb Stack / Ellen Peterson, Chantelle Wegwitz, Deanna Horn, Erin Easingwood, Kristine Carrick, Lisa Saddler, Renge Bailie (Langley School District)

Staff:

Aubrey Jensen, Long Range Planner; Patrick Ward, Strategic/Social Planner

Notes:

1. Staff welcomed the members of the Social Sustainability Task Force (SSTF) and provided a brief project update. Staff indicated that since the SSTF last met on May 8, 2018, a number of public engagement activities were completed and all of the input received was compiled into the Phase 1 and 2 Engagement Summary, which was made available in late July. Staff further noted that work is continuing on the Social Profile, a key background document that will include data for social indicators and trends, an inventory of social services available, and an overview of relevant Township plans, strategies, and initiatives.
2. Staff asked the SSTF if there was any additional feedback on the Thriving TOL Conversations, which several members facilitated in May and June. The following feedback was provided:
 - Overall, the Thriving TOL Conversations were a good public engagement activity and the format encouraged participants to think about broad, community issues.
 - The exercise itself could be improved if there was less paper involved.
 - Some facilitators would have benefited from additional training and/or more time to prepare.
 - Conversation participants would have liked to have received some background information in advance of the conversation.

- Late May and early June can be a busy time of year for project champions to organize and for community members to participate in such conversations.
3. Staff provided an overview of the Phase 1 and 2 Engagement Summary, and asked the SSTF if they had any questions or thoughts about the public input received. The following questions and thoughts were noted and discussed:
 - The relationship between community safety and homelessness was unclear. Specifically, it was not clear whether the public was concerned for the safety of individuals experiencing homelessness or whether the public was concerned for their own safety because of homelessness. Staff clarified that the majority of the input on this issue expressed public safety concerns because of homelessness, particularly with regards to property crime and illegal substance use.
 - The lack of platforms for community members to connect and share stories.
 - The lack of awareness and services in Langley for individuals with mental health and substance use issues.
 4. Staff provided an overview of the draft demographic data and social indicators that have been compiled for the Social Profile, and asked the SSTF if they had any questions or thoughts about this data. The following thoughts were noted and discussed:
 - The increase in both early childhood vulnerability and children and youth living in poverty.
 - The increase in the seniors' population (age 65+), the decrease in residents born in Canada, and the increase in the visible minority population.
 - The increase in homelessness.
 - The finding that 68% of Township residents live within a 5-minute walk to a transit stop, yet 91% of Township residents commute by private vehicle.
 - The finding that Township residents have higher levels of physical activity and healthier diets than the Metro Vancouver average, yet have higher levels of obesity.
 - Whether a future estimate of food insecurity could be obtained or developed, in light of trends like climate change.
 5. Staff provided an overview of the draft inventory of local institutions and organizations engaged in social issues that has been compiled for the Social Profile. Staff noted that the intent of the inventory is to identify strengths and gaps (e.g. what assets and services are currently available and what services are lacking in the community). Staff suggested that the inventory might be even more useful if it was augmented by a discussion about the capacity of some of the services available (e.g. time it takes to receive the services). The SSTF

agreed, and staff encouraged SSTF members to forward any additional comments about the inventory by email.

6. Staff presented some draft suggested refinements to the guiding principles and assumptions that were developed to shape the preparation and implementation of the Social Sustainability Strategy. The suggested refinements were drafted by staff to reflect the input provided by the SSTF at Meeting #1. The SSTF concurred with the draft suggested refinements as presented, and the following additional items were discussed:
 - It was suggested that the Strategy focus primarily on “upstream interventions,” which aim to address the root causes of issues, rather than “downstream interventions,” which aim to address the symptoms of issues.
 - It was suggested that if the Strategy identifies priority issues to address, it should not lose sight of a broader vision of social sustainability. It was further suggested that any process for identifying priorities consider the interconnectedness of various social issues.

Refer to Attachment 1 for the updated guiding principles and assumptions, incorporating all of the SSTF suggested refinements.

7. Staff noted that a key next step for the project is the completion of the Social Profile. With this work in mind, staff noted that the SSTF would probably not meet again until November at the earliest.

ATTACHMENT 1

Guiding Principles and Assumptions (incorporating SSTF suggested refinements)

The following principles and assumptions will guide the preparation of the Social Sustainability Strategy. These principles and assumptions are intended to shape the development of the Strategy's goals, actions, and implementation.

1. **Consider all three elements of sustainability.** The Strategy will focus on our social sustainability, but the interconnected and interdependent nature of sustainability means that advancing our social aspirations may also provide opportunities to advance our economic and environmental aspirations.
2. **Acknowledge our role and responsibilities.** The Township is only one of a number of parties that play a role in addressing social issues. The Strategy's actions must recognize the Township's limited jurisdiction and funding for the delivery of social services. Where appropriate, the Strategy's actions should identify potential partners.
3. **Build on our foundation.** The Strategy should seek a balance between acknowledging and building upon our existing strengths and foundation and identifying new directions and initiatives that address social sustainability.
4. **Be aspirational and realistic.** The Strategy should be aspirational and visionary in nature, but should also be realistic through suitable, strategic, and cost-effective actions and implementation timelines. Undertaking too many new initiatives at the same time will likely mean that existing initiatives will need to be scaled back or additional financial and staffing resources will be required.
5. **Recognize our nature as a "community of communities."** The Township of Langley consists of both a rural and urban area, and within the urban area, each community is unique. While the Strategy is intended to address social sustainability in the Township as a whole, it is important to recognize that social issues may be experienced differently in different parts of the municipality.
6. **Engage the community and build capacity.** The preparation and implementation of the Strategy should provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for community engagement and should strive to improve the capacity of the broader community to address social issues by facilitating dialogue and identifying potential partnerships.
7. **Track and evaluate our progress.** The Strategy should identify key social indicators and baseline data so that progress can be tracked over time, but should also consider ongoing evaluation approaches that support social innovation.
8. **Provide flexibility.** While providing a clear guide for decision-making related to social sustainability, the Strategy should recognize that conditions may change, requiring flexibility as implementation proceeds.
9. **Prioritize upstream approaches.** The Strategy should focus on interventions that address the sources rather than the symptoms of the issues.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEETING #4 SUMMARY NOTES

Details:

Thursday, January 10, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Salmon River Committee Room located at the Township Civic Facility (20338 – 65 Avenue).

Present:

Barb Stack, Deanna Horn, Erin Easingwood, Gary Jones, Janet Burden, Juliet Henderson-Rahbar, Kristine Carrick, Lisa George, Lisa Saddler, Sherry Baker

Regrets:

Amanda Henderson, Austen Bietenbeck, Chantelle Wegwitz, Laura Labelle (Fraser Health)

Staff:

Patrick Ward, Strategic/Social Planner; Russell Nelson, Senior Planner

Notes:

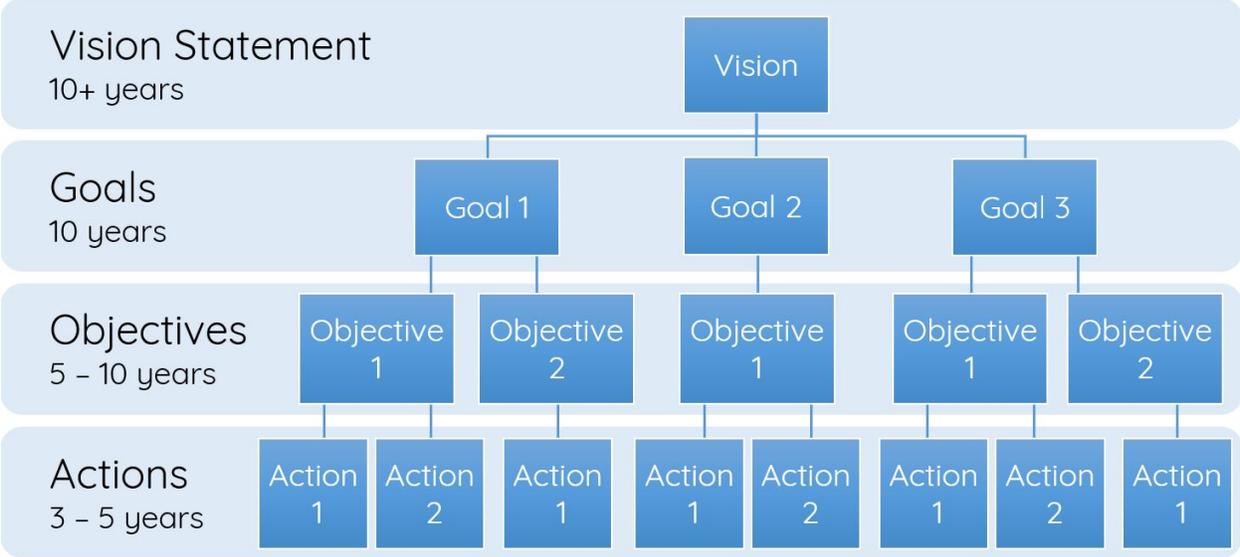
1. Staff welcomed the members of the Social Sustainability Task Force (SSTF) and provided a brief project update. As a reminder, staff noted that the process to prepare the Social Sustainability Strategy is being guided by Terms of Reference that were approved by Council on November 6, 2017. Staff indicated that Phase 1 of the project involved appointing the SSTF, establishing an internal staff team, and raising project awareness, while Phase 2 involved convening a panel discussion, facilitating SSTF meetings, conducting various public engagement activities, and drafting the Social Profile.
2. Staff presented a draft framework for the organization of the Social Sustainability Strategy, which consisted of a 10+ year vision statement, 10 year goals, 5 – 10 year objectives, and 3 – 5 year actions (Attachment 1). Staff also noted that, at Meeting #3, the SSTF concurred that the Strategy should identify priority issues to address, but should also not lose sight of a broader vision of social sustainability. The SSTF confirmed this approach, noting that priority should generally be given to upstream, or preventative, interventions. With regards to the draft framework presented, the SSTF suggested that some actions may have a shorter timeframe than 3 – 5 years.
3. Staff facilitated a discussion on the draft Social Profile with the purpose of identifying any information that was unclear or missing as well as identifying the key findings of the research. As background, staff also presented the key

findings that were identified by the SSTF at Meeting #3 (Attachment 2). The SSTF provided the following comments about the draft Social Profile:

- It did not provide any data on local food production or consumption, only an indicator of overall food insecurity. The SSTF suggested that having access to locally-produced food is important, particularly in light of health and safety issues. The SSTF also suggested that the Social Profile reference the Langley Food System Study that was completed in fall 2018 by the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
 - It did not provide any data on mental health, substance use, or persons with disabilities.
4. Staff presented a list of draft criteria, or tests, that could be used to guide the preparation of draft goals and objectives for the Social Sustainability Strategy (Attachment 3). The SSTF reviewed the draft criteria in small groups and then discussed the draft criteria as a whole. The SSTF provided the following comments about the draft criteria:
- With regards to the draft criteria for the goals, the SSTF noted that “demonstrating leadership and the unique TOL role in the region” could be interpreted in many ways. The SSTF stated that it is important for the goals to be courageous and proactive, but the Township should not pursue a goal simply to be a standout within the region. The SSTF indicated that the goals must respond to the social needs. The SSTF also expressed concern that “reflecting and building on current strengths” would inhibit the Township from addressing a pressing social issue if it did not have any existing strengths to build on. The SSTF suggested that this criterion may be more applicable to guiding the development of the Strategy’s actions.
 - With regards to the draft criteria for the objectives, the SSTF indicated that the objectives should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound). The SSTF also suggested that “enhances inter-community equity,” while important, should perhaps be an optional criteria to provide greater flexibility.
5. Staff noted that the next steps for the project involved the preparation of some early draft goals and objectives, based on all of the input and information collected to date. Staff suggested that the SSTF would likely be asked to meet again in late March or early April to provide feedback on these early draft goals and objectives.

ATTACHMENT 1

Draft framework for the organization of the Social Sustainability Strategy presented at Meeting #4.



ATTACHMENT 2

Highlights identified by the SSTF from the draft demographic data and social indicators presented at Meeting #3:

- The increase in both early childhood vulnerability and children and youth living in poverty.
- The increase in the seniors' population (age 65+), the decrease in residents born in Canada, and the increase in the visible minority population.
- The increase in homelessness.
- The finding that 68% of Township residents live within a 5-minute walk to a transit stop, yet 91% of Township residents commute by private vehicle.
- The finding that Township residents have higher levels of physical activity and healthier diets than the Metro Vancouver average, yet have higher levels of obesity.
- Whether a future estimate of food insecurity could be obtained or developed, in light of trends like climate change.

ATTACHMENT 3

Draft criteria / tests for goals and objectives presented at Meeting #4. The correspondence with the guiding principles and assumptions for the project is indicated in brackets.

Goals:

Meets at least one of:

- Reflects and builds on current strengths of community / TOL [GP&A#3]
- Demonstrates leadership and unique TOL role in region [GP&A#4]

Objectives (Priorities):

Essential – meets all (or most) of:

- Clear role for TOL (in mandate or as influencer / partner / convener) [GP&A#2]
- Not being adequately addressed now [GP&A#3]
- Responds to identified social issue (i.e. highlight of the research) [GP&A#4]
- Enhances inter-community equity [GP&A#5]

Optional – meets one or more of:

- Makes progress on more than one issue or trend [GP&A#1]
- Opportunity to leverage other resources (e.g. provincial, federal, other non-governmental) [GP&A#4]
- Builds community capacity and resilience [GP&A#6]
- Addresses systemic or root cause of social issue [GP&A#9]