



NEWS RELEASE

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BROOKSWOOD-FERNRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Applications are now being accepted from residents, property owners, business people, and representatives from organizations who are interested in Brookswood-Fernridge's future and would like to serve on a team that will help guide its development.

In January, Township of Langley Council authorized a minor update to the Brookwood/Fernridge Community Plan for completion of the undeveloped areas. An extensive public engagement program will run throughout the process, which is anticipated to take about 18 months. One of the first goals is to create a Community Planning Team (CPT) that will be in place for the length of the planning process.

The Terms of Reference for the CPT were approved by Council on April 11.

"People are very invested in plans for this community and have made it clear they want a say in its future," said Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese. "We want to be sure the public is involved right from the start, every step of the way, as decisions are being made."

Members of the Community Planning Team will work with and assist Township staff by reviewing materials and ideas, providing input and feedback, and reporting back to the community and their organizations. The Team will attend six to eight weekday evening meetings and workshops throughout the process, from approximately May 2016 to September 2017.

Nominations are currently being sought for up to 17 members of the Community Planning Team, which will be made up of at least 10 people who live in Brookswood-Fernridge, and will include:

- 6 persons owning property and/or residing within the undeveloped areas;
- 2 persons owning property and/or residing within the developed areas;
- 1 person residing in a manufactured home park within the Community Plan boundary, as shown on the map;
- 2 persons owning property and/or residing within the rural area surrounding the Community Plan boundary;
- 2 persons owning a business within the Community Plan boundary (or representatives from the Brookswood Village Merchants Association);
- 1 person representing local seniors (Brookswood Seniors Citizens Centre);
- 1 person representing a Parent Advisory Council member (Local School);
- 1 person representing a local non-profit environmental organization; and
- 1 person representing the development (Urban Development Institute) and/or building (Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association) industry.

Application forms are available online at tol.ca/bfrcpt, and on paper from the Township's Civic Facility and the George Preston Recreation Center. Forms must be submitted to the Township's Legislative Services Department by mail, fax, at legservicesinfo@tol.ca, or in person at the Customer Service Counter. See this week's Township Page ad for details. Deadline for submissions is Sunday, May 1.

Applications will be reviewed and candidates selected by members of Township Council, similar to the Council Advisory Committee process.

"The Community Plan Team will play a vital role as the minor update for the Brookwood-Fernridge Community Plan is prepared," said Froese. "We look forward to working with this group, which will help ensure voices are heard and considered from a broad variety of perspectives before Council makes any decisions."

The update process is being undertaken in accordance with a new Public Engagement Strategy that was endorsed by Township Council in March. The Strategy was developed by a Mayor's Standing Committee on Public Engagement which was established by Froese in 2015 to enhance communications between the public and the Township during planning and development processes.

The Strategy will be implemented over the next two years, and most of the actions outlined will be put in place this year to coincide with the Brookwood-Fernridge Community Plan update.

As suggested in the Public Engagement Strategy, the update process will see engagement efforts organized in phases to make it easy for people to understand what stage the process is in and to review earlier activities and decisions.

It will utilize community dialogue sessions and external consultants, present innovative ways of gathering input during open houses, and ensure information is accessible and provided in a variety of formats to keep the public informed. Every effort will be made to schedule engagement activities that work with residents' schedules, and engagement findings will be clearly documented, explained, and shared throughout the process to ensure transparency.

"This is one of our first opportunities to see the Public Engagement Strategy's recommendations put into action, and we expect it to have a positive impact," said Froese. "We encourage people to get involved and have their say and make a difference when it comes to Brookwood-Fernridge's future."

For more information, visit tol.ca/bfrcpt or email bfrcp@tol.ca.