

Subject: [Fwd: Is the SLP process really community driven?]

Date: Fri, 06 Sep 2002 12:34:52 -0700

From: Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: Is the SLP process really community driven?

Date: Fri, 6 Sep 2002 08:55:22 -0700

From: "Irwin Torry" <Irwin_Torry@dnv.org>

To: "Bill Maurer" <billm@millsoft.ca>, "Charlene Grant" <Charlene_Grant@dnv.org>, "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "Eric Andersen" <eric_g_andersen@hotmail.com>, "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

CC: <ocp@seymourvalley.ca>, "Richard Zerr" <Richard_Zerr@dnv.org>

Bill: I have asked Eric Anderson and Jim Cuthbert as co-chairs of the Seymour Planning Committee to meet with you and review the process and your comments on the latest version of the plan. Eric should be getting in contact with you early next week to arrange a meeting.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Maurer [mailto:billm@millsoft.ca]

Sent: September 5, 2002 11:14 PM

To: Irwin Torry; Charlene Grant; Ernie Crist; Eric Andersen; FONVCA

Cc: ocp@seymourvalley.ca

Subject: Is the SLP process really community driven?

Please take a look at <http://seymourvalley.ca/newsgroups.asp?list=ocp> and <http://seymourvalley.ca/ocp> to see how an open public process should function.

What are the key factors in identifying an open process:

- Working documents are publicly accessible
- Document versioning is in effect
- Correspondence is publicly accessible
- There are written responses to public questions and concerns
- There are regular status reports of progress and information on the process
- Input from all people is given equal weight regardless of whether they are casually or heavily involved in the process
- Meeting dates, agenda, and minutes should be public
- Community representatives elected by their communities

How many of these are present in the SLP process?

- Working documents not made available
- Public concerns and suggestions not publicly available
- No written responses to public concerns and suggestions
- No status reports
- Poor notification of important process dates
- SLP residents committee (made up of 11 heavily involved residents) controls and makes virtually all implementation suggestions
- Public input routinely discounted without explanation
- Meetings all held in secret
- Community representatives are all appointed

In this age of computers and the internet there is no significant cost to implementing this kind of public information system. I am clearly concerned and frustrated with the closed nature of the community planning process being facilitated by district staff and the complete lack of auditability of the decision making process being used.

Regards,

Bill Maurer
Chair
Seymour Valley Community Association