



City of Revelstoke

Discussion Paper

File No.: OCP 6520-20

To: His Worship Mayor Sulz and Members of City Council
From: Marianne Wade, Director Development Services
Date: July 9, 2020
Subject: OCP Vision Focus Group Results and Staff Recommendations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

Staff is presenting to Council the results of the OCP Vision Focus Group to aid in their consideration of adopting an updated vision and list of community priorities.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Revelstoke Official Community Plan (OCP) was last updated in 2009. OCP's typically plan for 20-years, however, a lot can change and evolve in that time frame and Revelstoke is a prime example of that. Since 2009, the population has grown and shifted, development interests are increasing, and affordability is becoming more challenging.

Development Services is responsible for completing an OCP vision check-in with the community and then updating the OCP accordingly. The vision check-in first engagement phase was launched October 8, 2019 and was completed December 9, 2019. An [OCP Vision Check-in Report & Recommendations](#) was prepared for Council and at the February 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, where Council was presented options.

Council supported amending the OCP vision to include key comments from the survey and engage with a Focus Group on proposed modifications along with confirming priorities from the 2019 vision check-in survey and the 2009 OCP additional community priorities ([page 14 consolidated](#)).

Given COVID-19 and changes to public engagement as per the Provincial Health Officer, City staff retained a consultant to develop a pre-recorded presentation highlighting the results of the OCP Vision Check-In Survey, provide an online workbook for Focus Group members to complete and return to Development Services. Focus Group invites and explanation of the engagement process were sent to the following Committees:

- Advisory Planning Commission
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Commission
- Social Development Committee
- Tourism Initiatives



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- Collective Impact Leadership Team
- Chamber of Commerce
- Youth Committee

Focus Group workbooks asked respondents to choose one of 3 vision options and provide comments on suggested changes and what must stay the same. This included community priorities. In addition, staff asked the Focus Group to provide suggestions on representatives that would serve on a Focus Group/Steering Committee for the OCP Update. Twenty-one surveys were completed. Of the completed surveys, 4 chose the existing vision as their preferred vision, 11 chose the revised version of the existing vision, and 6 chose the shorter, new vision. A [summary report](#) of the Vision feedback from the Focus Group (May-June 2020) is attached to this Discussion Paper.

DISCUSSION:

To help guide the amendments to the OCP vision, it is important to distinguish between vision and priorities to better understand how each of these help frame the OCP.

Vision:

A statement that inspires action toward the future the community hopes to achieve.

Priorities:

Action items that are to be addressed as a community in order to achieve the community vision. The priorities will inform the OCP review and update. It is important to note, there are certain items Council and administration do not have decision making authority on within the municipal boundaries.

Staff have analysed the Focus Group workbook results and utilized key considerations for the updated vision and community priorities:

- Keep what continues to resonate with the community (sustainability, rich heritage and history, environment)
- Update elements to more strongly reflect results of community and Focus Group feedback (the *community* of Revelstoke, affordability and housing options, climate action, reduce length of statement)

Further public engagement will help refine the Community Priorities, which will inform policy under the following four identified themes that will be used to organize the OCP:

- Growth Management (housing, development, infrastructure, financial tools, economic development and affordability)
- Natural Environment (conservation, protection, access)
- Culture (arts, heritage, programming)
- Community (sense of community, education)

Based on the preferences and the feedback on the vision options, staff is recommending the following vision be considered by Council. By revising the vision and the priorities, this new



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version respects the original version while updating to reflect community engagement and Focus Group feedback from October 2019 to June 2020.

Proposed Vision

Revelstoke will pursue a sustainable mountain community by balancing environmental, social economic and cultural values within a local, regional and global context. Our rich heritage and stunning natural environment inspire us to be forward thinking, inclusive, resilient and welcoming. We will create a supportive, vibrant community for those that live, work and visit here today and in the future.

Proposed Community Priorities

To achieve the future we envision, our community priorities are:

- A range of housing options and affordability;
- Environmental protection and stewardship;
- Climate change action;
- Personal and community economic growth and stability;
- A responsive and caring social support system;
- Opportunities for lifelong learning;
- Fostering of diverse cultural and spiritual values, and,
- A range of recreation and activities for residents and visitors.



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Comparison of Existing Vision (2009) to Proposed OCP Vision Amendment:

| Original Vision | Proposed Vision Amendment |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Revelstoke will be a leader in achieving a sustainable community by balancing environmental, social and economic values within a local, regional and global context.</i></p> | <p><i>Revelstoke will pursue a sustainable mountain community by balancing environmental, social economic and cultural values within a local, regional and global context.</i></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original vision stated it will <u>achieve</u> a sustainable community. However, the concept of sustainability evolves and adjusts as communities change. The proposed vision suggests Revelstoke will <u>pursue</u> a sustainable <u>mountain</u> community. Mountain communities have unique challenges and opportunities compared to non-mountain communities. Mountain community is an important aspect of Revelstoke compared to other municipalities in Canada and was also in the original vision. Culture added - it is an important piece of sustainability and the culture, uniqueness, 'vibe' of Revelstoke was commented on numerous times in the community feedback. | |
| <p><i>Building on its rich heritage and natural beauty this historic mountain community will pursue quality and excellence. Revelstoke is seen as vibrant, healthy, clean, hospitable, resilient and forward thinking.</i></p> <p><i>It will be committed to exercising its rights with respect to decisions affecting the North Columbia Mountain region.</i></p> | <p><i>Our rich heritage and stunning natural environment inspire us to be forward thinking, inclusive, resilient and welcoming. We will create a supportive, vibrant community for those that live, work and visit here today and in the future.</i></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term <i>Building on its rich heritage</i> was revised to, ...Our rich heritage... in order to personalize the phrase. <u>Natural</u> environment was highlighted numerous times in the community survey and the Focus Group feedback. <i>Natural beauty</i> from the original vision has been updated to; <i>stunning natural environment</i>. The original vision referenced: vibrant, healthy, clean, hospitable, resilient and forward thinking Updated vision: forward thinking, inclusive, resilient and welcoming. And, a statement regarding a supportive, vibrant community has been added to reflect the overwhelming feedback in the community survey and supported by the Focus Group that it is the people of Revelstoke that make it special and should not be lost. The sentence referring to exercising rights affecting the North Columbia Mountain region was removed as it is a very specific strategy at a regional scale. Reference to the North Columbia Mountain region was not an outcome in the community survey however, it was mentioned in a Focus Group response in relation to environmental protection and climate action. | |



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Comparison of Original Community priorities (2009) to proposed Community priorities

| Original Community Priorities | Proposed Community Priorities |
|--|---|
| <p><i>Community priorities include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opportunities for youth;</i> • <i>Economic growth and stability;</i> • <i>Environmental citizenship;</i> • <i>Personal safety and security;</i> • <i>A responsible and caring social support system;</i> • <i>A first-class education system and local access to lifelong learning;</i> • <i>Spiritual and cultural values, and</i> • <i>Diverse forms of recreation.</i> | <p>To achieve the future we envision, our community priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of housing options and affordability; • Environmental protection and stewardship; • Climate change action; • Personal and community economic growth and stability; • A responsive and caring social support system; • Opportunities for lifelong learning; • Fostering of diverse cultural and spiritual values, and, • A range of recreation and activities for residents and visitors. |
| <p>Removed/reworded from the original version:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for youth - removed. The point was made during the feedback period that while youth are an integral part of the community, Revelstoke does and should offer opportunities for all demographics, including youth. • Economic growth and stability. Revised to personal and community economic growth and stability. • Environmental citizenship. Changed to environmental protection and stewardship. • Personal safety and security. This falls under the priority of the people who live and work here as personal safety and security are an aspect of that. • Responsible and caring social support system. Revised to a responsive and caring social support system. • First-class education system and local access to lifelong learning. Revised to opportunities for lifelong learning. • Spiritual and cultural values. Revised to fostering of diverse cultural and spiritual values based on feedback from the Focus Group. • Diverse forms of recreation. Revised to a range of recreation and activities for residents and visitors. | |



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Options for Discussion:

Option 1: Support the proposed OCP Vision and Community Priorities, as presented

Staff would prepare a report to Council for their consideration of First Reading and Second readings of a OCP Bylaw Amendment to replace the existing vision the proposed vision as presented in this report. This would complete commitments by the consultant assisting in this section of the process.

Option 2: Amend the proposed OCP Vision and Community Priorities

Council may wish to make revisions to the updated vision. If amendments are made by Council, the revised version would be presented to Council for consideration at first reading. This option may require some additional scope of work with the consultant assisting in this section of the process.

Option 3: Direct staff to gather more feedback on the proposed OCP Vision and Community Priorities.

This option would extend the timeline and resources for the OCP vision check-in process.

IMPLICATIONS:

Strategic

This discussion aligns with Council's priorities for Livability, Infrastructure and Sustainability. If Council chooses to support option 2 or 3, it builds upon the community's priorities not incorporated into the 2009 OCP Vision which were strongly supported in the 2019 Vision Check-in engagement process.

Financial

The estimated cost of the Focus Group recruitment, engagement, analysis and report development was \$5,000. To date, \$3,465 has been spent. If additional work is required, the remaining funds (\$1,535) are available to help cover the cost. The cost of any additional work will depend on the scope requested by Council.

The financial implications have been reviewed by the Director of Finance

Administrative

Additional research and engagement will increase workload for staff and increase timelines on the Vision section of the OCP update. The Vision and priorities are critical to informing policy updates to the OCP.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Wade, Director of Development Services