

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE 2021

Held: 4:00 PM, Monday, November 15, 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting

Eighth Public Meeting in 2021:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

1. Director of Development Services

Ms. Giddings welcomed the public to the meeting.

The Director of Development Services welcomed the public to this meeting. This meeting and the meeting on December 20th will review the policies to date with a draft Official Plan available on January 10th 2022 followed by a public meeting on January 17th to review the final draft of the Official Plan to be adopted by Council in February 2022.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proposed Policy #1 – Bradley Wright, Director of Development Services

The Director of Development Services indicated to the public that the policies presented today are in draft format and that additional feedback from the next two sessions can be incorporated into the final draft.

The Director of Development Services informed the public how Council uses the Official Plan. The vision of the Official Plan was reviewed. The Director highlighted the strategic objectives.

Comments from the **Vision Statement** to include the word affordable. Another comment was to replace the word complete with welcoming. Feedback on the word “affordable” being used in the vision may be covered by the word “range”. This will require further discussion.

Strategic Objectives live-work term is not well understood, could it be replaced with working from home. It appears to be very ambitious objectives. Broaden the zoning to allow a home based business. Wondering if the Town is expecting the OP to solve too many social issues. Consider adding collaboration with existing communities as well to provide healthy, complete and sustainably designed neighbourhoods in planning for the impacts of climate change. Need citizen involvement to get citizens involved and take ownership of different initiatives.

Comments on the **Assumptions** under intensification could add something around dividing a house so that each tenant owns the house in common. To provide creative and innovative solutions to the housing crisis. Consider changing the wording to read intensification and innovation into the wording.

In areas that are being built having someplace that seniors can go for social events without having to travel across town. Look into innovation to have better wellness communities and opportunities for socialism.

Review of **Complete Communities** reveals “What was old is new again”. Want mixed use and walkable communities. Going back to what original settlements were.

Feedback on this idea includes seeing front porches come back as part of the complete community instead of garage doors. The more public spaces we have in our town the more relationships we will build. "Going back to the Future".

Active transportation provides residents with options for travel reducing the number of car trips, and is better for people's health and the environment.

Something to consider with future developments is providing back alley lanes with the garage at the back of the house. Housing standards could require single garages to be in-line with the front of the house making the front porch more prominent at the front as opposed to the large garage.

Natural Heritage Tree Cover

The Facilitator reviewed what town staff had asked the public and the responses received.

Council shall increase the tree cover of the Town. The Director reviewed ways this could happen including the existing site plan tree preservation plan which identifies significant trees to be retained during the construction process and the Tree Conservation By-law.

Tree cover will now have its own specific section in the Official Plan which is a change from the previous plan.

Can Council require that a developer plant a new tree on every lot? Town staff will review this option and include language to this effect in the final draft.

Parkland Dedication

The Director of Community Services did a Recreation Master plan in 2019 that identified the Town did not have a Parkland Dedication By-law. It calculated the area of lands that the Town has and identified in the Northern end of Town where a playground should be located. It identified that the Town needs more parkland. The Town now has a Parkland Dedication By-law. The report also recommended a Parkland classification system.

This report provided the impetus and support to implement a Parkland Dedication By-law. The *Planning Act* specifies how a municipality can enforce a parkland dedication by-law. A plan of subdivision application is required to provide 5% of lands to the municipality as parkland. The town requires a Cash-in-lieu of parkland of 5% for smaller lots, to utilize these funds for future greenspaces within the town. A good understanding that Council would want to have parkland vs. cash-in-lieu and these lands must be suitable for parkland.

Question about the Parkland Dedication By-law, is there verbiage regarding the location of parks in new subdivisions to have parks centrally located as opposed to being on the fringes? In response to this the Director of Development Services indicated that this can be address as part of secondary plans scheduled for next meeting.

An observation from another municipality consisting of a mixture of single family homes, town homes, with an elementary school in the middle was purposely built for a wide range of people including young children, middle aged adults and seniors. Strategically placed throughout the community were a series of four or five

small parks offering different types of environments from park benches with flower gardens to parks dedicated to children's activities. There were planned walking trails within the subdivision with lots of forward thinking moving away from the one big park. Ask for trails as part of the subdivision plan for example the Golf Course lands.

An additional comment was to encourage pollinator gardens to promote food security to help produce our fruits and vegetables.

Natural Heritage

To have policies to direct the regional and local impacts of climate change. Adding the term climate change into policies. Adding policy language around natural heritage systems not just features. Pre-consultation policies to ensure appropriate studies are completed.

Active Transportation

Reduce the use of private vehicles. Increase the use of bicycles through bike lanes, bike storage. Provide sidewalks with the space for accessibility. Roads/transit/recreational trails as a whole picture that is a piece of the puzzle.

These are all new policies to the OP. Put all the ideas into one spot to clarify.

Add motorized wheelchairs.

Bike lanes to be networked. Update the maps. Where bicycle network would end in the downtown core. Have bike racks in the downtown core so cyclists have places to park bikes. Get town ranked as a bicycle friendly town.

Road narrowing may mean mixed commercial in a main street. Slower traffic because of mixed use commercial. How to design future communities.

Recreational Trails

Building on active transportation. Some established trails. How can we continue to foster recreational trails. Need to provide an active lifestyle. Trails should be connected.

These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the screen notes for additional detail.

Other agencies such as the Rideau Trail Association

Planning for an Aging Population

Need an older adult strategy. Add in porches and common rooms.

Implement vision zero from Gail.

Could we start the next meeting early at 3:30

Engineering

Food Security

Local Food

Growth Management

Economic Development

Topics to be covered next meeting.

2. **NEXT MEETING:**
December 20, 2021 4:00 p.m. Topic: Review of the Policy Statements #2
3. **ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting concluded at 5:31 p.m.