

Since its incorporation in 1975, the municipality has had a clear community vision and has managed growth and development through its OCP policies, zoning and land use regulations and other senior policy documents. Collectively, these control the location, amount, type and character of development to support the unique sense of place and culture of Whistler. Whistler is now approaching its residential and visitor accommodation capacity and is subsequently recognising the potential of its existing developed capacity. This is creating concern within the community over the impact of further growth, as many community planning policies are being reassessed to align with Whistler's future.

The guiding principles of the SPC are to encourage progressive long-term thinking for the benefit of the resort community as a whole; manage growth and development to achieve the goals of the community vision and OCP; consider risks and effective adaptation to changing and potential future external conditions; ensure balanced and effective use of limited financial, social and natural resources; and include the community at large in community planning, while developing effective and collaborative partnerships that support community goals.

The purpose of the SPC is broad, yet focussed, and will provide advice and recommendations to Council about the resort community's long term needs, based on facts and a deep understanding of Whistler's community vision and OCP, as may be amended from time to time. The Committee will identify and source relevant data needs to assist in understanding the current situation, determine a range of various metrics to monitor and use in scenario planning to proactively manage the resort experience and provide strategic advice to Council surrounding potential community planning needs. Other strategic issues for consideration by the SPC include:

- Potential uses for RMOW-owned lands taking into consideration community values, carrying capacity and preservation needs;
- The extent to which Whistler's long-term housing needs may be met, consistent with growth management policies, while considering the financial implications, associated risks and other factors;
- Institutional facility and service needs assessment to support longer term community needs (e.g. schools, day cares, medical facilities etc.);
- Evaluation of existing and approved future development potential; and
- Potential major amendments of the OCP or major development applications.

The SPC will be chaired by the Mayor of Whistler Council and is proposed to have 11 members, including five community-at-large members with proven skills/experience in strategic planning, community planning and development, community involvement and other select areas as related to the strategic focus of the SPC determined from time to time. Two additional Council members, and three staff (Chief Administrative Officer, General Manager of Resort Experience and Director of Planning) are proposed for the remaining positions. It is also anticipated that other key organizations not directly represented on the SPC, but with a relevant stake in the community, will be engaged at various times throughout the SPC's work for their input to particular topics.

Contingent on Council's endorsement of these Terms of Reference, communication will be prepared for nominations for the community-member-at-large positions ensuring appropriate representation of the community. Nominations would then be brought forward for Council consideration and appointment.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

The recommendation to support the SPC Terms of Reference has the potential to move the community towards many of the Whistler2020 Descriptions of Success and is aligned with the OCP. Select descriptions of success are identified below.

W2020 Strategy	Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Built Environment	Limits to growth are understood and respected	The SPC will establish a base set of metrics that will provide clarity on Whistler's current position and what considerations need to be made for sustainable future growth.
Built Environment	Smart growth policies and initiatives contribute to the financial health of the community	By considering strategic community planning issues, the SPC will be able to provide advice to Council to review initiatives that ensure the financial and environmental health of the community.
	Whistler is globally recognized as a center of excellence in sustainable community development	
Economic	Whistler's tourism economy is progressive and ensures the highest and best use of limited financial, social and natural resources in the long-term	With defined metrics and a longer term planning horizon, SPC will be contribute to enabling a more balanced and effective use of Whistler's available resources.
	Physical and social infrastructure attract and support work and investment	
Natural Areas	An ecologically functioning and viable network of critical natural areas is protected and, where possible restored. Developed and recreation areas are designed and managed to protect as much of the natural environment within and around them as possible.	The natural environment and preservation of natural areas is important to maintaining community character and sustainability, and is important to address through the work of the SPC.
Resident Housing	Housing has been developed close to transit, pedestrian and bicycle routes, and amenities and services to reduce auto dependency	Longer term planning for housing and infrastructure needs will be based on scenario modelling, enabling adaptation for implementation as time evolves.
Transportation	Whistler's local and regional transportation systems minimize encroachment on nature	Long-range planning and metrics will provide guidance on transportation projects.

Endorsement of the SPC Terms of Reference does not move our community away from any of the adopted Whistler2020 Descriptions of Success.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Endorsement of the SPC Terms of Reference will help support Council in achieving the municipality's highest level policy objectives in the long term best interests of the resort community, guided by Whistler's community vision and OCP, as may be amended from time to time. It is important to recognize the relationship between the SPC and the Economic Partnership Initiative Committee, which will intersect on a number of topics and as such collaboration and staff coordination between the committees, and the strategic initiatives of other committees of Council, will be important.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no current budget considerations. Specific recommendations such as research may arise during the course of the SPC, and may require budget allocation, but these will be determined at the relevant time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Community engagement is a key element of the SPC Terms of Reference, and guiding principles refer to the ongoing engagement of the community in community planning work. To note is the community representation on the committee with four members-at-large as well as an expectation of community input throughout the work of the SPC.

SUMMARY

This report presents the recommended Strategic Planning Committee Terms of Reference and seeks Council endorsement.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Metcalf
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