



## MEETING NOTES

subject: **Grand Forks Sustainable Community Plan – COMMUNITY MEETING PART 2**  
date: December 21, 2007  
meeting date: December 8, 2007  
location: Gospel Chapel  
file: 0788.0015.01 - M

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
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### 1.0 Community Meeting Part 2

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Overview
- Review of Community Meeting Part 1
- Small groups develop draft action plans
- Work with maps – integration
- Summary of Findings
- Next steps: reconvene this group to review draft recommendations

#### **Small Groups – Action Plans**

How do we envision going from where we are **now** to a **sustainable future**? We need to explore how we could address the following questions:

- What existing momentum is there that we can build upon?
- What are the obstacles in our way?
- How will we get there? What are the steps in the process?
- When will we achieve this? What priority (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) is it?
- What support is needed in order for us to be successful?
- How will we monitor successes?

#### **Mini-Report Back to All (1 Minute)**

- Key recommendations
- How far are you in the process?
- Do you need help?
- Process working?

### 2.0 Summary of Themes from Friday Night (December 7): Environment

- Maintain/foster environmental quality
- Reuse and recycling
- Increased respect for natural environment
- Zero waste
- Better environmental control of industry/community

#### **Arts & Culture**

- Performing arts centre
- Culture of solidarity
- Community Center/meeting places

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	<b>Self Sufficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Food</li><li>- Power</li><li>- Etc.</li></ul> <b>Sustainable Land Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Traffic/transit/transportation</li><li>- Housing (affordable/sustainable)</li><li>- Open spaces and trails</li></ul> <b>Government-Community Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participatory budgeting</li><li>- Fair and equitable DCC's</li><li>- Fair and equitable taxes/utilities</li><li>- Communications</li></ul> <b>Economic Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sustainable industry</li><li>- TV &amp; film</li><li>- Community forest</li><li>- Competitive Retail</li></ul> <b>Social Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Youth/seniors programs</li><li>- Safety</li><li>- Medical services</li><li>- Children</li></ul> <b>Tourism – integrated model</b> <p>What assets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Community Treasures</li><li>- Sustainable?</li><li>- Economic?</li><li>- Cultural?</li></ul>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Government-Community Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participatory budgeting</li><li>- Affordable and equitable taxes</li><li>- Mixed messages</li><li>- Creative venues for legitimate public impact/not just complaints</li></ul> <b><u>Momentum</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Primary community meeting</li><li>- Semi-annual public Council meetings</li><li>- Monthly newsletters</li></ul> <b><u>Obstacles</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- People don't read newsletter</li><li>- People don't go to meetings (apathetic consumers)</li><li>- Need to educate people on what a citizen is</li><li>- Alienation &amp; mistrust</li></ul>	Gene Roberts David Pehota Mary Hummel

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	<p><i>How? Steps in the process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Citizen's Bill of Rights premised on fairness &amp; Equality</li><li>- Local government &amp; citizenship classes in school (<i>when</i>) grades 8-12</li><li>- Survey of service with cost made public</li><li>- Propose a bylaw were Council visits neighbourhoods to hear the concerns of the people</li><li>- Define the process of decision making and accountability</li><li>- Understanding the role of the City Manager and staff and understanding the role of Council (<i>when</i>) grades 8-12</li></ul> <p><i>Support Needed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Commitment to breaking down the barriers between City Hall and potential economic stimuli (to encourage smart growth) and become user-friendly</li></ul> <p><i>Monitor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Amount of development permits issued</li><li>- Councillor reports on visits to neighbourhoods</li><li>- Recreation a volunteer coordinator to organize in neighbourhoods BBQ's &amp; picnics etc. where a Councillor attends (Councillor who is familiar with the neighbourhood)</li><li>- Promote volunteerism by City-run daycares</li></ul> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue process</li><li>- Education – motivation – school, talks, etc.</li><li>- Communication – Branding, Marketing, Government, Community, Self organization</li><li>- Citizenship – Ownership, Participation</li><li>- Opportunities – Groups</li></ul>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Self Sufficiency</b>	
	Education	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What is available?</li><li>- Learning centre</li><li>- Perma-culture principals</li></ul>	
	Communication	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public meetings</li><li>- Media</li><li>- Involvement</li><li>- Reward for participating</li><li>- Social and monetary</li><li>- School</li><li>- Community groups</li></ul>	
	Food Safety & Security	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Farm planning</li><li>- Farm opportunity</li></ul>	
		Doug Zorn Peter Matheson Eva Anthony

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Co-op marketing</li><li>- Local support</li><li>- Farm share</li><li>- Community gardens</li><li>- 4H Clubs</li></ul>	
	Power	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- How to generate it</li><li>- Use waste gasifier?</li><li>- Use what is available (e.g. water, solar)</li><li>- Ethanol – alcohol</li></ul>	
	City Sustainability	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Accountability</li><li>- Transparent</li><li>- Composting</li><li>- Reuse recycle</li><li>- Financial</li><li>- Funding</li><li>- Population</li><li>- Services</li><li>- Infrastructures</li></ul>	
	<u>Existing Momentum</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Minimal awareness</li><li>- Provincial start</li><li>- 100 mile diet</li><li>- Abattoir</li><li>- Air quality</li><li>- Farmers market</li><li>- Pockets of enthusiasm</li><li>- Solar panels – pool</li><li>- Heat reuse arena</li></ul>	
	<u>Obstacles</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Apathy</li><li>- Denial</li><li>- Funding</li><li>- Lack of opportunities for exporting</li><li>- Lack of education</li><li>- Regulations prohibiting (i.e. alternate buildings)</li></ul>	
	<u>How</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Government funding</li><li>- Incentives</li><li>- Full community involvement</li><li>- Bring in speakers that have the knowledge</li></ul>	

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- Solar wall – generates power
- Gasifier – burn household waste
- Ground source heat – drill for heat
- Roxul heat waste
- Harness river power
- City/community projects that make money
- City to hold or obtain money from stumpage fees, PST, GST, road fuel tax, toll for environmental polluters
- Incentive for reducers of pollution

} Need studies

**Education**

- School involvement
- Group participation
- Target action groups
- List in open forums
- Demand local product
- Speak with your local food producers

When? Priority?

- (High priority) Now
- With concerns of global warming
- Increased fuel (energy) costs
- Food uncertainty (supply/quality)
- Now is the time!

Support

- City Council to be supportive
- Community ownership participation
- Conservation

Monitor Successes

- Increase in public involvement that can be seen/measured by attendance
- Better communication by our government(s)
- Surveys
- Local market increases
- Start small and be direct
- Set goals
- Break into committees to spearhead ideas and report to larger groups

**5.0 Arts & Culture**

How?

- How do we make people come to the Boundary region?
- Signage, marketing, advertising, press
- Appealing buildings, charm, interesting spaces
- Beautification of the west side of Grand Forks – will draw more people coming into town

Cara-Lee Malange  
Ted Fogg  
Larry Antifaeu  
Lucina Dupee  
Dave Dittrich

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vibrant Town Centre in all Boundary communities ie: Spirit Square</li><li>- Marketing and Development strategy includes:</li><li>- Circle tours e.g. historical, recreational (Trans-Canada Trail), ethnic/cultural, agricultural, arts and garden</li><li>- Marketing and development strategy includes: website, print, better access of information to local community, signage, fund a regional promotions and development coordinator</li></ul>	
	<p><u>Existing Momentum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Chemainus &amp; Winnipeg – private money was contributed to this momentum</li><li>- Town square initiative</li><li>- Branding the community as a green community</li><li>- Better promotion of Boundary as a place to visit</li><li>- Make the Boundary Region a place where people stop</li></ul>	
	<p><u>Obstacles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Access to info (e.g. arts and cultural scan?)</li><li>- How can people access these resources (e.g. website)</li><li>- Disconnect between community members</li><li>- Volunteer burnout</li><li>- Lack of funding/resources for the arts</li><li>- Mindset that arts and culture is not profitable</li><li>- Empty storefronts</li><li>- Existing location of farmers market</li></ul>	
	<p>Existing Cultural Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Doukhobour Museum</li><li>- Art gallery</li><li>- Museum</li><li>- Vibrant, farmers market</li><li>- Heritage home tours</li><li>- Artist studio tours</li><li>- Community theatre groups</li><li>- Strong artist/creative culture</li><li>- Distinct Russian identity</li><li>- Folk art, Food, Sunflowers</li><li>- Semi-retired and retired folks who appreciate the cultural quality of life</li></ul>	
	<p>Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Beautification of downtown core (e.g. empty storefronts) with murals (and other art) created by and for the community – involve everyone, especially the youth</li><li>- Public art</li><li>- Create and promote the Boundary region as an interesting place where people want to visit</li></ul>	

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How? Steps in Process

- Brand Grand Forks as a...e.g. model green community (HIGH PRIORITY)
- Create policy that every public event, public building, etc. adapts this branding
- Provide a comprehensive and accessible definition of green
- Marketing - develop a new mechanism for communication and coordination ie: regional promotions coordinator (housed in library?) – info bank in library (HIGH PRIORITY)
- Develop 'green' signage with a community public art process
- Website that promotes what people want and need (in alignment with green brand)
- Provide community with better access to funding (e.g. library)
- Develop sites of interest using green brand e.g. town centre, murals in empty store fronts like Jim Diers did in Seattle (HIGH PRIORITY)

Support needed

- Invite sustainability experts to speak to community (Selkirk can play a role in this) to spark imagination and to see the possibilities
- Work with library on creating better access to existing and more resources for community.
- Fund regional promotions coordinator
- Develop promotional and marketing strategy for the region based on green mandate
- Branding expert to help us brand the community
- Support for arts based community development for...e.g. Town Square, murals on store fronts working with someone like the Pomegranate Centre

Monitor successes

- How many people attend community events?
- Tourist count and length of stay through visitor centre
- Beautification of town centre and valley
- Marketing efforts measured in both quantitative and qualitative terms
- Drop in crime rate (e.g. specifically, reduction of drug culture) – related, in part, to creating more opportunities for youth
- Increase in businesses, amenities, arts and cultural activities
- Increase in community pride, enthusiasm and involvement
- Development of Grand Forks as a place of interest and distinction – can observe this by physical space as well as increase in use of that space.

### 6.0 Economic Development

1. Limits to growth
2. How big do we want to be (\*biggest obstacle)

Cher Wyers  
Ray LaFleur  
Ayo Adediran

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**ITEM    DISCUSSION**

**GROUP**  
Dan Zabinsky

- 3. What kind of population [composition]
- 4. Target population next 20 years
  - Plan water, sewer, electrical etc.
  - Plan transportation

Obstacles?

- Functioning hospital
- Communications for services provided
- Recreation/pool
- Retaining professional technicians and attracting these type of people
- Service infrastructure for development (power and water levels and upgrades needed!)

How?

- Sustainable business incubator facility
- Trades training facility
- Broadband access
- Small business development
- Transportation difficulties (e.g. taxi)
- Industry incentives (i.e. tax breaks, power discounts/utilities)
- Revitalization of downtown business corridor
- Tourism destination
- Community Forest/Research Forest/Woodlots
  - 1. Recreation
  - 2. Education
  - 3. Heritage
  - 4. Tourism – destination
  - 5. Mining
  - 6. Research
  - 7. Economic generator
  - 8. Environment self sustaining
  - 9. Community legacy
- More educational opportunities
  - 1. Outward Bound
  - 2. Bible college/camps
  - 3. English as a Second Language
  - 4. Religious Groups
  - 5. Private schools/academies (horse camp, golf academy)
  - 6. Internet opportunities (distance education)
  - 7. Home School Association
  - 8. Penal Institute (Federal and Provincial Governments)
  - 9. Trades Training (Federal and Provincial Governments)
- Film industry (LOW PRIORITY)
  - 1. Sustainable?
  - 2. Copyright/post production
  - 3. Local writers

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	Action Plan	
	1. Economic Development office	
	- City, Area D, Area C	
	- Greenwood, Midway, Area E	
	- Funding minimum 5 years	
	2. Growth plan for next 20 years	
	- Phases in 5 years	
	- Plan for infrastructure, social etc.	
	3. Realistic Tourism Plan	
	4. Broadband Access	
	5. Transportation System	
	6. Small business incubator facility	
	7. Community Forest Advisory Committee/Research Forest	
	8. Educational Opportunities Plan	
	9. Downtown Business Revitalization Plan	
	10. Industry – sustainable incentives	
	11. Keep medical and recreation amenities to attract and retain people	

**7.0 Sustainable Land Use**

Existing Momentum

- Trail development
- Council committed to improving trail system
- Bike path to extra foods
- Anti-idling bylaw
- Air quality emissions inventory
- Air quality management plan – Sept '08
- Industrial/commercial water meters
- Parks/environment, how Grand Forks integrates with its environment
- Respect for rivers

Obstacles

- Attitude
- Wildlife impacts
- Money
- Green building code (lack of)
- OCP – encourage green/sustainable development
- Zoning regulations amended to encourage green/sustainable development
- Different standards between City & regional district
- City selling lands (rather than keeping a land bank)
- Riparian area protection (needs to be enhanced)
- No public transit
- Lack of identity
- No community gardens/farms etc.

Chris Moslin  
Roy Ronaghan  
Roly Russell  
Gloria Koch  
Ted Fogg  
Gene Roberts  
Katrin Saxty

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	<u><i>How? Steps in the process</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Xeriscaping (dry landscaping) – Immediate (MEDIUM PRIORITY)</li><li>- Education – Now (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Wildlife management area – Now (MEDIUM PRIORITY)</li><li>- Use living systems (for waste management) - 10-20 yrs (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- 99 year leases for City lands (not sales) – Immediate (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Transportation corridors (e.g. bike paths along rivers – incl. private land acquisitions such as the Black Train Bridge) – Now-10 yrs (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Improve riparian regulation (City additions to provincial regulations) – Now-5 yrs (MEDIUM PRIORITY)</li><li>- Increased role of City in environment management – Now (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Policy enhancement (green building code, OCP, zoning bylaws, etc.) – Now (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Neighbourhood plan for new subdivisions – Now (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Regional transit system – 3-5 yrs (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Branding GF as a sustainable city – 1-5 yrs (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Set environmental targets for the City/Region – tied to Provincial Targets (incl. water) – Ongoing (HIGH PRIORITY)</li><li>- Community Gardens (especially for higher density downtown housing) 3-10 yrs (LOW PRIORITY)</li><li>- Self organization (trails groups, Community gardens, local) – Ongoing (HIGH PRIORITY)</li></ul>	
	<u><i>Support</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- City Council</li><li>- Money</li><li>- Community buy-in</li><li>- Community participation</li><li>- Provincial/federal government support e.g. BC transit</li><li>- Developer buy-in</li><li>- Attitude shift</li></ul>	
	<u><i>Monitoring</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public surveys</li><li>- Vehicle counts</li><li>- Pedestrian counts</li><li>- Total water consumption</li><li>- Water quality/air quality monitoring</li><li>- Updated policies/regulations</li><li>- Awareness/media releases/City newsletter/website</li><li>- Tourism figures</li></ul>	

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**ITEM**    **DISCUSSION**

**8.0**    **Environment**

Green Way of Life

- Who is in charge – federal, provincial, city?
- Air, water, wildlife
- Leadership
- Booklet
- Newsletter
- Gasifer
- Do not limit future options
- Future impact
- Open-minded ideas
- Green sustainability
- Acton to consequence
- Recycle
- Fix stuff
- Reuse
- Reduce emissions
- Seek new ways
- Monitor waste & improve
- Compost
- Reuse greywater
- Workshops
- Speakers
- Promote green, non-polluting
- Apathy
- Community buy-in
- Awareness
- Promote quality of natural environment
- Use what we waste
- Restrictions
- Young people
- How – education, cultural, get schools involved

*How? Steps in the process*

- Bring more people to meetings & televise meetings
- Education for public & for schools & for young people
- Why do we need to do this?
- Local controls
- Highlight changes
- Award
- Green
- Money Award
- Deregulate
- Flexible regulations
- More power to public

**GROUP**

Doug Zorn  
Roly Russell  
Roy Ronaghan  
Lucinda Dupree  
Chris Moslin  
Peter Matheson

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- Show what is green (examples)
- Pool-arena connection
- Change – make it positive
- Public support
- Engage public
- Monitor changes
- Apathy
- Green meetings – printouts
- Green Building Code
- Fliers
- Media
- Letters to editor
- Marketing
- Make changes
- Communicate to public – direct input

Obstacles

- Apathy
- Funding

Green Building Code

- Environmental Coordinator
- Public Meetings
- Peer – population
- Support – government funding
- Encourage Letters to the Editor

**9.0 Social Fabric**

“Mending the Social Fabric”

- Fabric consists of:
  - Youth
  - Seniors
  - Community Safety
  - Community Pride
- Fabric is interwoven with:
  - Industry/economy
  - Social programs/Protective Services
  - Education Facilities
  - Medical Facilities
  - Volunteerism
  - Others: Environment, recreation, Arts & Culture, Spiritual Organizations

Vision: “Grand Forks is the Most Senior Friendly Community in BC”

- 2028: Largest percentage of population will be 65-85 years old
- More sidewalks/paths/bike & buggy lanes
- Walkable community
- Medical services increased, especially specialist services – is that

Gene Roberts  
Joey ???  
Ralph Bluthenthal  
Eva Anthony  
Cara-lee Malange  
David Pehota  
Dan Huang

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sustainable?

- 2028 – maintain current medical facilities – don't lose what you have now)

Momentum

- Good network of drivers to specialists (Trail, Penticton, Kelowna)

Obstacles

- Limited medical services
- Bureaucratic/financial (i.e. Medical)
- Critical mass (population)
- Geographic location

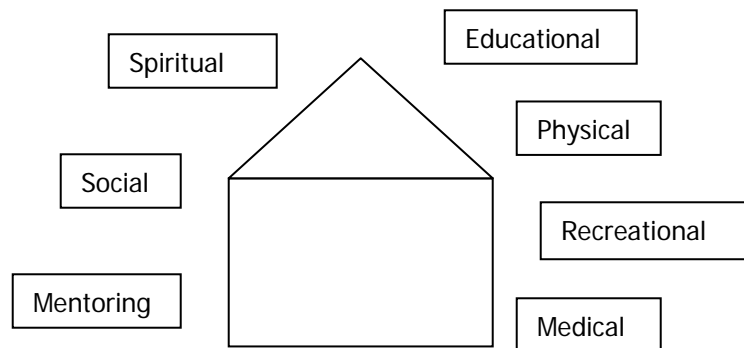
How? Steps in the process

- Seniors dialogue – identify issues, work from there (HIGH PRIORITY)
- Community Youth Table (January 18<sup>th</sup>)

Support

- Community, Council

Youth Fabric



Can it happen under one roof?

- What do youth want? \*Let's ask them!
  - Respect (earned)
  - Challenge
  - Opportunity
  - Mentoring
- Look for multiple victories
- Youth issues – transit, skateboard park not being used, more park, bus service to Phoenix Mountain (partnership/sponsorship)
- Community Youth table is a great start

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Vision: Create a Safe Place(s) for Youth (Gr 5-7 and Gr 8-12)

Momentum

- Yes – 100% support – 500 youth survey
- Community Youth Table

Obstacles

- Perception of youth

How? Steps in the process

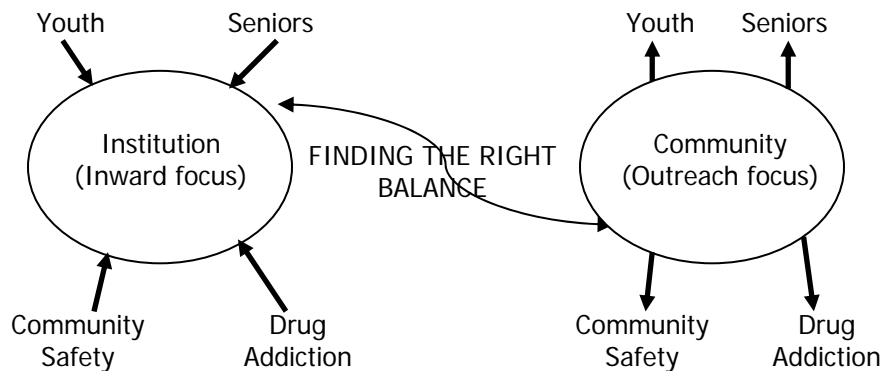
- Buy an old house – youth to restore/maintain
- Build a park
- Graffiti wall
- Create an environment for learning (life/trade skills)
- HIH PRIORITY

Support

- Money
- Community support (buy-in)
- Volunteers for building/designing (excellence)

Monitor

- Attendance/Usage
- Ownership/Pride from youth



The preceding is the writer's interpretation of the proceedings and any discrepancies and/or omissions should be reported to the writer.

**URBAN SYSTEMS LTD.**

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