

G V R D

POLICY COMMITTEES NEWSLETTER

No. 1 -- July 16, 1973

This is the first issue of a Newsletter by means of which we hope to keep Committee members, politicians, administrators and other interested citizens up-to-date on the activities of the nine Policy Committees established under the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Livable Region Programme. The Newsletter will appear from time to time as the deliberations of the various Committees progress. Any additional information on any of the Policy Committees may be obtained from the GVRD Planning Department at 731-1155, local 164.

"INPUT"

"Input" is a programme which will be shown on Channel 10 television on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. starting on Monday, July 16th. The programme will be concerned with the work of the various Policy Committees and will provide viewers with an opportunity to make known their ideas and suggestions for a more livable region. The first two programmes are being arranged by the Transportation and Transmission Policy Committee.

Following is a summary of the current activities of the Policy Committees.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSMISSION

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in the GVRD offices, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 25th. Seven meetings held to date.

Membership. Approximately 25-30 members, including experts in various areas of transportation and representatives of handicapped and elderly groups. Good regional representation.

There are four sub-committees:

Goods and Services are looking at conflicting modes of moving goods and energy and the possibility of recommending one central authority to co-ordinate each means of transporting goods. They plan to invite experts to answer questions which they have been evolving.

Economics and Finance are looking at present and potential financial social (hidden) costs of various means of transportation -- dial-a-bus, private automobile, free public transit, rapid transit.

Technical Transit has been investigating ways to improve buses to allow for wider public use (e.g. by elderly and handicapped persons) and a more attractive transit service. They are developing a report on necessary modifications to existing fleets and specifications for future bus purchases. They hope to be able to actually try out the improvements suggested.

Livability and Transportation feel that transportation is an important element in the concept of a livable community and are looking at ways of improving this element in the region, particularly in suburban areas.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Meeting Time and Place. Every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the GVRD offices, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver. Thirteen meetings held to date.

Membership. Approximately 20-25 members. Fairly representative by interests and areas.

There are three sub-committees:

Philosophy of Residential Living have been looking at population growth in the region and have agreed that it should be controlled. A list of suggested means is being worked into policy statements. They have begun to discuss alternative lifestyles and the concept of a neighbourhood.

Land Supply and Devices have been looking at questions of land assembly and devices to reduce land costs as a major cost of housing.

Special Design Needs have been looking at housing requirements for senior citizens, the handicapped and single parent families. Their recommendations are being worked into policy statements and they expect to have a draft report by the end of August.

RECREATION

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the GVRD offices, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver. Next meeting is Thursday, July 19th. Six meetings held to date.

Membership. Approximately 20 people. Most are citizens interested in various kinds of recreation; no representatives of sports organizations. No representation from the North Shore.

There are two sub-committees:

Outdoor Recreation are investigating problems such as access to the water, hiking trails and boating facilities. They are also concerned with the current Regional Parks Plan and the policy of buying land for recreational purposes.

Re-creation are looking at the multiple use of public buildings, the administration of amateur sports to enable more people to participate, the desirability of financing major spectator sports like the Winter Olympics, and community recreation facilities.

EDUCATION

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in Greater Vancouver Real Estate Board, 1101 W. Broadway, Vancouver. Next meeting is Thursday, July 19th. Five meetings held to date.

Membership. Membership is a major problem with this Committee due both to size and to fluctuation. They are attempting to get more members, particularly students.

This Committee has not yet determined its objectives or work programme. They have been looking at the concept of community schools and the weaknesses in the traditional educational system. There are plans to present a brief at a public meeting protesting the Vancouver School Board's plans to sell property on Burrard Street opposite St. Paul's Hospital.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Tuesday at 7.45 p.m. in the GVRD offices, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver. Next meeting is Tuesday, July 24th. Eight meetings held to date.

Membership. Approximately 20-25 people. Shortage of members from official social service agencies. Heavy emphasis on community-level organizations, particularly day care. Every area of the region represented, but most members are from Vancouver.

This Committee has been concerned with problems of licensing of community care facilities and is preparing a brief for the three ministers responsible for the administration of the Community Care Facilities Licensing Act. The brief is to consist of three parts -- what the Committee believes to be the structure and the process, including an outline of the difficulties involved in obtaining this information; a thorough, chronological documentation of the difficulties and frustrations, including legal problems, experienced by Committee members in trying to deal with government; and recommendations for greater client participation.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Meeting Time and Place. Every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in the Inservice Education Building, Vancouver General Hospital, 12th Avenue, Vancouver. Seven meetings held to date.

Membership. Approximately 15, mostly health professionals. Adequate regional representation.

The Committee has been trying to identify the health problems of the region by inviting a series of guest speakers, both professionals and consumers, to express their views. A one-day conference is being planned for Friday, August 17th at UBC to which various agencies delivering health care are being invited with the purpose of further determining the problems and deficiencies in this area as a basis for the Committee's recommendations to the Board. The Committee also hopes to compile a directory of health service agencies and the services they provide which they hope to place at the front of the telephone directory.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce, 6446 Nelson Street, Burnaby. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 18th. Five meetings held to date.

Membership. Membership is a major problem of this Committee. There are approximately 8-10 members, not representative either by interest group or by area.

This Committee has not yet defined its work programme but has agreed to concentrate on two major topics: (a) maximum and minimum population targets and major economic controls to achieve these; (b) financial problems, including equalization of assessment and how these relate to the structure of government and the rate of growth.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in the GVRD offices, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 18th. Seven meetings held to date.

Membership. Approximately 30 members. Good cross-section of technically competent people and ecologically concerned citizens. Adequate regional representation.

There are three sub-committees:

Pollution are obtaining information on various types of pollution (air, water, noise, solid waste) from guest speakers and from reports and other printed material. They have come up with two recommendations to the Board, one urging greater control of toxic waste disposal and one concerning modifications to the GVRD's appeal regarding the Annacis Island sewage treatment plant. They are now looking into ways in which the recommendations in a recent report on the quality of the air can be implemented.

Land Use are looking at the Fraser River and in particular the various governments or agencies which have jurisdiction over the River. They plan to meet with the various municipal officials involved to discuss their eventual recommendations.

Recreation and Conservation are conducting on-site inspections into specific threatened areas which should be preserved for recreation purposes, eg. Sturgeon Banks, Burrard Inlet, Barnston Island.

GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

Meeting Time and Place. Every second Wednesday at 8.00 p.m. in Room 242, Douglas College, 8th Avenue and McBride Boulevard, New Westminster. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 25th. Five meetings held to date.

Membership. Membership is a major problem with this Committee. There are approximately 10 members, not representative either by interest group or by area.

The Committee has been considering the decision-making process by looking at three case studies which are of concern to other Policy Committees or to the GVRD Public Programme -- the problems connected with the licensing of community care facilities, the Annacis Island sewage treatment plant, and the expansion of the Vancouver airport. They have not yet been able to spell out their objectives.

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