

SWACA QUESTION # 1:

What do you perceive the 3 most important issues of concern to residents of Area A.

The 1st most important issue here is to elect a Director who provides good leadership and strong representation on the RDN Board.

Residents want a Director that will be their strong voice and advocate to ensure Area A interests are supported and protected.

Residents want to have confidence in that their tax dollars are being spent on initiatives and programs that are necessary and beneficial.

They want a Director:

- to have pride in their community and respect for the Diverse people they represent.
- to be proactive in dealing with infrastructure, economical, environmental and social issues.
- Above all to be accessible, honest, ethical, reliable with the highest of integrity and to use common sense.
- In the case of school closures or other issues residents want a director to take up their cause and lobby on their behalf.

I adhere to all of these objectives and qualities

The 2nd issue

Is The Official Community Plan Review.

The OCP is to provide direction on how the plan area will grow and change over time. Recently proposed and large scale development proposals such as Sand Stone and Cable Bay have potential to significantly impact our Area.

The proposed Nanaimo Regional Airport runway expansion has transportation implications that affect the plan area and beyond.

In Addition urban growth brings concern about the affect that development is having on the natural environment.

The existing OCP contains objectives and policies for protecting the natural environment.

3rd. issue

Schools play a very important role in the community, not only for education but also to provide opportunity for community recreation and cultural activities.

We have to continue to support PAC and to convince SD#68 that the schools serve other purposes besides education and must remain open to provide a facility where children and adults can go to join in community programs and activities. I will take an active role in this issue.

SWACA QUESTION #2:

*Currently Residents are informed of zoning amendment changes to an official community plan and development projects only after a developer has held negotiations with the RDN staff. This system creates a reactive response from the community rather than allowing residents to have a pro active role in their community planning.
As the Area Director how will you address this issue.*

The wording of the question certainly suggests that there is some concern or perception that there is a great deal of discussion and negotiations with developers before an application goes public. This is not the case.

This is an **unfortunate perception** and is difficult to combat that perception but in fact any preliminary discussions that occur with staff pertains to how any proposal fits within the current plans and regulations in the area RGS and OCP zoning.

This discussion is aimed at directing development in the shape and form that is expected by the community as expressed in their community plan. Many applications do not see the light of day because they are too far from the communities expectations.

The pro active role residents have is by participating in the planning process such as The RGS Review and the OCP Reviews etc. to ensure that the plans collectively represent the overall vision for the community as expressed by all of the community.

The community plans provide the guidance for RDN staff to review applications and provide advice to the Board. The other important aspect is the importance of implementation of Community Plans.

Chairman Joe Stanhope said it quite well during his challenging community official plan implementation process that “if we do not intend on implementing our plans then we must consider why we spend the time and resources in preparing them”.

The RDN has a very highly developed public process to change community official plans, zoning and other bylaws that ensure and provide for public input in the process. Some of this process is required (statutory) and some have been implemented as policy (Public Information Meetings for example) the staff can not refuse an applicant. Only the Board can make the decisions on these changes. Once the application is complete (has enough information to be described in detail) then the Board triggers the public input and involvement if changes to existing bylaws are required.

When developers make application they are encouraged to hold public information meetings

Staff take these processes (Public Information meetings) very seriously as does the Board in formulating whether or not to accept a proposed change. The public plays a key and a very influential role in the process.

SWACA QUESTION #3

Sustainability requires that we recognize the interrelationships between our society and the economy with our environment. If you support planning that puts a priority on sustainability what environmental issues do you see as a priority for Area A.

The answer to the question lies in the Regional Growth Strategy and Official Community Plan. These documents provide the fundamental guidance to how development if it is to occur does so following a set of principals that emphasize sustainability and the environment.

The Goals of the RGS are quite explicit in favouring compact development where appropriate within urban containment, supporting alternate transportation, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, protecting rural areas and agriculture uses and the provisions of efficient servicing.

The new RGS will reinforce fundamental principals of sustainability which is very much aligned with the Boards own strategic plan and the priorities expressed in the Electoral Areas.

I am well aware of the particular issues of environmental protection in Area A.

- That there is safe and sufficient supply of water.
- important eco systems and ecological features are protected
- the air is clean and safe to breath
- all natural resources are conserved and renewable resources are available in perpetuity
- energy requirements are reduced
- energy is obtained in ways that minimize negative impact on environment and green house gases are minimized.
- land and resources are efficiently used and the negative impacts of land use and development are minimized
- waste is minimized, treated and disposed using environmentally sound methods.

We must adapt design principals that preserve sensitive and important eco systems by restricting development and only allow development activities on non sensitive lands.

Educate land owners, developers, realtors involved in development about bylaws and development process and other policies designed to protect our eco systems and agriculture and forested land for the future.

There are significant issues to be considered: particularly around the supply of safe and secure drinking water and consumption .

Focused development in compact areas helps in these regards. as will the Action On Water Program. Understanding the watersheds in the region will give us additional information and evidence for where, when and how development in the RDN is appropriate, and perhaps more important where, when and how it is not.

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