

TO: CITY MANAGER

1993 MARCH 16

FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

OUR FILE:

SUBJECT: **"PLANNING OURSELVES IN" PROJECT**

PURPOSE: To inform Council of the expected role and level of participation of Planning Department staff in the "Planning Ourselves In" Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of 1993 March 8, Council received correspondence from the Women In Planning Steering Committee with respect to their plans to conduct a project in the Forest Grove area in Burnaby. The project, entitled "Planning Ourselves In", will explore creative, interactive and progressive ways in which municipalities can involve community women in planning. A series of workshops will give a group of women from the Forest Grove area and a core group of five to eight planners an opportunity to work together in a "learning by doing" format.

Council requested a staff report outlining the expected role and level of involvement of Planning Department staff in the Project. This report responds to that request.

2.0 PLANNING STAFF INVOLVEMENT

Planning Department staff are supportive of the concept and objectives of the "Planning Ourselves In" project, and feel they are well placed to assist in a Project focusing on how people can communicate with their local government.

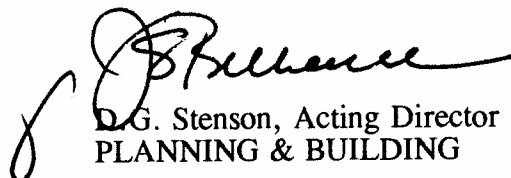
Staff have identified two ways in which they can assist with the Project. The first is as resource persons, supplying data and maps or information about and contacts in the Forest Grove community. A number of Planning Department staff have already contributed to the Project in this capacity and will continue to do so throughout the three month life of the Project.

The second way in which staff can participate is as volunteer participants in the five evening and weekend workshops with the community women. Thirteen Planning Department staff have indicated an interest in participating in this capacity, although none is able to commit the seventeen hours called for in the Project design. To ensure Planning Department participation at all five workshops, staff have taken a team approach, whereby each team member would attend one to three meetings (three to eight hours). Depending on the dates set for the workshops, up to five Planning Department staff could be willing and available to attend each of the workshops. While staff will participate on their own private time, it is understood that they will remain cognizant at all times of their responsibilities as Burnaby employees in serving the larger community.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

"Planning Ourselves In" is seen by Planning staff as a worthwhile and potentially valuable investigation into innovative methods of community consultation. There is a high degree of support for the Project in the Department and a number of staff plan to participate in the workshops in a volunteer capacity. The first workshop involving the community women and the planning staff will take place on March 25, 1993. At that meeting, a small "project" will be selected as a "learning vehicle" and the group will discuss ways to help women feel more comfortable working with planners.

Staff will ensure that the results of this innovative, action research project are conveyed to Council.


D.G. Stenson, Acting Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

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