

**TO:** CITY MANAGER

1997 APRIL 23

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**SUBJECT:** EDMONDS AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:** To respond to Council's request for comments on the availability of City resources for the continuation of the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** a copy of this report and a letter be sent to the members of the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee thanking them for their hard work and valuable contribution to the community over the course of the last four years.
2. **THAT** a wrap-up meeting for the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee be scheduled in 1997 May or June to provide an opportunity for the Committee to sum up regarding its past experience and future directions for the Edmonds Town Centre.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

At its meeting on 1997 March 10, Council considered a report from the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee recommending continuation of the Committee with new terms of reference and four new members. Council referred the Committee report to staff for comments on the availability of City resources for its continuation. This report provides the information requested by Council, together with background information on the work of the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee in the past.

**2.0 BACKGROUND:**

At the Council meeting of 1993 February 23, Council approved the initiation of a community consultation process in the Edmonds Town Centre Area. Central to that process was the formation of an Edmonds Area Advisory Committee, the members of which were appointed at the Council meeting of 1993 May 10, following two community forums at Stride Community

reflecting the consensus opinion of the local community, providing recommendations in response to issues and concerns that had been raised in relation to the Edmonds Town Centre area.

In the one year following its appointment, the Advisory Committee and its sub-committees reviewed issues and developed proposals for a new Edmonds Town Centre Plan. In 1994 June the draft Plan was distributed in the area and an Open House was held. Following this public review process the Committee submitted a finalized Plan to Council which adopted it on 1994 September 26.

Following adoption of the Plan, the Committee continued with a focus on implementation of the Plan. A valuable service provided by the Committee during this second phase of their work was the identification of a number of priority recommendations vital to the implementation of Edmonds Town Centre Plan, with special emphasis on the following areas.

1. Protection and dedication of extensive park areas related to Byrne Creek, Taylor Park and 14th Avenue Ravine Park.
2. Enhancing community identity, notably through a successful banner program.
3. Pursuing street improvements to promote a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment.
4. Enhancing youth involvement and services.

It was recognized, however, that most implementation initiatives would be pursued by others guided by the adopted Plan, such as landowners, private developers, and also City staff in the normal course of their duties.

### **3.0 THE BROADER CONTEXT:**

The Edmonds Area Advisory Committee was in part modeled on an earlier example, the Hastings Street Advisory Committee, which Council established in 1989 February as an "ad-hoc advisory committee ... for preparation of a revised land use plan for the Hastings Street Community Plan Area". Following a considerable amount of work, the Hastings Street Advisory Committee on 1990 October 01 submitted its final report in the form of the Hastings Street Land Use Plan, thus concluding its assignment and then winding down. Subsequently, Council adopted the Plan in principle on 1990 October 15, and directed staff to pursue public input and an implementation program. It is interesting to note that although the Advisory Committee to Council did not continue in existence, there is a very active merchants' association in the area, which is independent of the City, but makes its views known to Council and other bodies as it deems appropriate.

At present, two area advisory committees appointed by Council are active: the Lougheed Area Advisory Committee which has just completed a draft Plan, and the Royal Oak Advisory Committee which was recently appointed. The work of these committees is recognized as having a high priority, and it is anticipated that they will continue to draw heavily on the City's staff resources, as they work towards new proposals for their respective areas.

Another major initiative which will draw on planning staff resources is the Official Community Plan update scheduled for completion by year end. Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park and Burrard Inlet Management Plans, and various other neighbourhood processes are also under way and scheduled for completion.

In addition, it should be recognized that Council has a number of other committees which utilize staff resources. Many of these deal on an on-going and City-wide basis with important issues that have been identified in various area plans and are in part guided by these plans. These committees, including, for example, the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, Community Planning and Housing Committee, Community Policing Committee, Environment and Waste Management Committee, Traffic and Transportation Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Community Heritage Commission, rely heavily on the City's staff resources.

#### **4.0 THE FUTURE OF THE EDMONDS COMMITTEE:**

In contrast to the Hastings Street Advisory Committee, the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee has had a significant role in initiating implementation of the area plan in the two years following its adoption by Council. Its potential implementation role has naturally diminished, however, as the adopted Plan becomes increasingly known and recognized within the community, and its implementation is integrated as part of the day to day functioning of the City departments, other committees of Council, and most importantly, private landowners, developers and entrepreneurs.

Given the reality of finite staff resources, it is evident that continued support of the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee cannot command as high a priority as areas initiating new community planning and review initiatives (Lougheed, Royal Oak and probably other areas in the future), as well as other Council Committees which deal with various issues from a City-wide perspective on an ongoing basis. The winding down of the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee as a City-supported Committee of Council would therefore be appropriate. It is recommended that a wrap-up meeting be scheduled prior to the summer to give the Committee an opportunity to sum up regarding its past experience and future directions for the Edmonds Town Centre.

It is hoped that the members of the Committee, with their wealth of experience and background, will continue to participate actively in the Edmonds Town Centre community, whether as individuals or as a community group independent of the City. Since Burnaby City Council and

its committees have historically been open to public input from both individuals and independent community groups, it is anticipated that a valuable ongoing contribution could be made.

**5.0 CONCLUSION:**

It is recommended that a copy of this report and a letter be sent to the current members of the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee to thank them for their hard work and valuable contribution to the Edmonds Town Centre over the course of the last four years.



D. G. Stenson  
Director Planning and Building

RR:gk

cc: City Clerk