

MEMORANDUM

TO: SAN JUAN COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: LOPEZ VILLAGE PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE *ad hoc* (LVPRC)
Nancy Greene (chair), Bill Diller, Dan Drahn, Dennis Ryan,
Jamie Stephens, Madrona Murphy, Sandy Bishop (members)

DATE: MARCH 23, 2010

RE: STATUS REPORT: LOPEZ VILLAGE PLANNING

Summary Of Recent Activities

In July 2010 LVPRC reported to Council, noting that the Committee had completed tasks assigned by the Council, and recommended that Lopez Island be permitted to work on the development of a sub area plan for Lopez Village. As identified by the community, key elements for a plan include parking, management of stormwater runoff, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, building standards, landscaping, protection of views and habitat, lighting and cell tower use.

Since the last report, LVPRC's work in the community has continued. To date, the Committee has

- held public meetings twice a month;
- conducted two workshops focusing on key plan elements;
- worked with two groups of University of Washington senior students in Urban Design and Planning (This work resulted in surveys and mapping for pathways and village identity as well as analysis and the framework for a website to be used by residents and planners during the development of a sub area plan.);
- met with planner Colin Maycock in December 2010 to synthesize community feedback and create a working draft document – Emerging Directions for the Village. (It is hoped this draft will help evaluate necessary additional work to be accomplished by CDP, the Lopez community and LVPRC. A copy of the draft has been submitted to CDP.)
- developed an outline of possible tasks for CDP and LVRPC, and
- resubmitted the request to create a sub area plan to CDP at the beginning of March 2011. (Attached is a copy of the March 2, 2011 letter. The Director of CDP, Rene Beliveau is currently working on a response to our request.)

Over the past few months in Lopez Village,

- Public Works has performed extensive work on stormwater control and drainage systems in the Village.
- The new Lopez Village Market opened, and toxic clean up and securing of the old site continues. With the advent of the new market, traffic patterns have changed, moving more traffic to Village Road.
- The recently formed Lopez Community Trails Network is working with Public Works, property owners and LVPRC to establish a walking path between senior housing and the clinic along Village Road. Once installed, this path, a result of community input and volunteer efforts, will also be an important connector as we work towards creating a more pedestrian-friendly Village.

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- The pharmacy plans to vacate its current location next to the clinic and move later this spring to a new site.
- Four new, small businesses will be opening shortly.

The creation of a sub area plan would allow for local and coordinated solutions as the Village changes and grows.

Proposed Work Plan for Creating a Lopez Village Sub Area Plan

LVPRC understands the constraints on County staff time and funding for the development of a sub area plan. The Committee is willing to work creatively with the County to bring cost-effective work solutions to the table.

As outlined in our recent request to Rene Beliveau, LVPRC hopes to create a sub area plan that presents a clear and direct statement to help shape the future of Lopez Village. The plan would form a fundamental framework for principles and policies that would allow for flexibility over time. We would also hope to build in periodic review and reexamination, possibly every two years.

LVPRC proposes to work intensely for 6 months with the County to create a written plan for public review. LVPRC would be a full partner in the planning process by continuing to work locally with the community. We would use and further develop significant volunteer participation to gather information and citizen responses, hold public meetings and review documentation as we work towards a finalized plan.

Through the use of teleconferencing and email correspondence, LVPRC expects to minimize County staff time on Lopez. As needed, the Committee can also work closely with the Planning Commission, Administrator and Council to keep them informed of our progress.

Working with CDP, LVPRC proposes to

- develop the scope and a work plan for advancing the sub area planning effort - one that builds on the capacity, experience and commitment of committee members and the expertise of CDP staff;
- continue analysis and refinement of plan components that emerged from community workshops and discussions, and
- expand LVPRC's newly-established Lopez planning website, using it as a means for outreach and community participation and information gathering, including responses to draft sub area plan elements and alternatives.

Community response to Village planning efforts has been positive. Participants and interested parties have joined a growing email distribution list that keeps them informed about issues and meetings. LVPRC expects that, through continued use of good, clear communication and an open process, there should be broad-based local support for this effort.

Attachments: 3/2/11 Letter to Rene Beliveau

cc: Jamie Stephens (via email)
Rene Beliveau (via email)
Shirene Hale (via email)
Colin Maycock (via email)