

# BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

## Advisory Committee Meeting Summary - April 26, 2024

### Meeting Attendees

#### The Burnaby Community Assembly Advisory Committee Members

- Ana Maria Bustamante, Manager, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table
- Dr. Andréanne Doyon, Director of SFU's Planning Program and lead on developing a resilience framework for Burnaby
- Jeffrey Yu, Founder of REL Technology and Vice President of the New Vista Society
- Noreen Ma, Manager, Community Development, Burnaby Public Library

#### Representative from the City of Burnaby

- Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development will also attend Advisory Committee meetings as a representative from the City of Burnaby to offer feedback and advice but will not vote on Committee decisions.

#### Burnaby Community Assembly Project Team

- Robin Prest; Phil Chalk; Naiying Xue; Athavarn Srikantharajah

### Updates on the Project Progress

#### The Burnaby Community Assembly Implementation team updated the Advisory Committee Members on the following items (see Appendix A):

- Big Ideas Public Workshop.
- Assembly's emerging vision, focus areas and priority questions ("placemat" diagram).
- Mid-point evaluation results.
- Assembly Member number and composition (now 42 due to attrition).
- Process design of the past 4 meetings planning for Meetings #5, #6 and #7.

- Multilingual engagement planning and confirmed languages\*.
- Plans for recommendations launch event, media amplification, and reconvening event in Spring 2025.

\*Languages were selected for community-hosted workshops to include the top spoken language communities in Burnaby, as well as language communities with emerging needs for outreach and engagement. These include Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese), Spanish, Korean, Farsi, Arabic, Somali, Kiswahili, and Tagalog.

## **Delineate the relationship between the OCP Growth Scenarios and Policy Directions Survey and Assembly Emerging Idea Public Survey**

The OCP Growth Scenarios and Policy Directions Survey, managed by the City of Burnaby, and the Assembly Emerging Idea Public Survey, managed by the SFU Centre for Dialogue, both were released to the public in May. The committee suggested that messaging clearly delineate roles and collaboration so that any public confusion is mitigated.

## **Framing tensions and trade-offs (Appendix A)**

The Advisory Committee spent a significant amount of time discussing how to frame discussion questions and trade-offs that might be used for Assembly deliberations or survey questions (Appendix A).

### **Issue 1:**

- The Advisory Committee discussed how we could allow Assembly Members to give feedback on multiple potential uses for existing road space (e.g. biking, walking, etc.) rather than only the two that were listed, the advantages and disadvantages of using specific examples such as Hastings Street, and how to ensure potential impacts on merchants and transit groups are fairly defined.

### **Issue 2:**

- The Advisory Committee discussed the need to provide more information in the framing of the question, including the relationship between the City's spending on affordable housing and the OCP (e.g. revenues it receives from development).

### **Issue 3:**

- The Advisory Committee discussed how to make this question focus on the right type of housing and for whom, how to relate the question back to criteria set out by BC Housing or CMHC (which Burnaby cannot normally influence), how to recognize the fact that the City does play an active role deciding which partners to prioritize for its funding dollars, and how to relate the question back to the City's existing housing policies, including its definition for those in "core housing need".

#### **Issue 4: No feedback**

#### **Issue 5:**

- The Advisory Committee discussed whether this question should be reframed so that its purpose is more closely tied to the Official Community Plan (OCP), which generates the development and therefore the revenues that fund much of the City's capital plan. The Assembly's mandate does not include discussing the City's operational budget, but does include development revenues and how these can support livability.

#### **Issue 6:**

- The Advisory Committee discussed whether the Assembly might benefit from context about the displacement of tenants in Edmonds and Metrotown. It might also benefit from a broader focus about how to support renters in general, depending on whether it is possible to provide Assembly Members with sufficient background knowledge.

#### **Issue 7:**

- The Advisory Committee discussed the potential of exploring youth centres and seniors' centres separately instead of bundled in the same bullet. The Committee also discussed using a Monopoly-style game for Assembly Members to allocate resources to different services based on real-world costs.

# APPENDIX A: FRAMING ISSUES AND TRADE-OFFS FOR THE BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

The Burnaby Community Assembly has now entered its deliberation phase, meaning that it is working through diverse options and trade-offs across a range of issues, including housing forms, density, priorities for amenities and the allocation of scarce road space. To help the Assembly explore key issues, the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue will name two or more approaches for addressing each issue and work with the Assembly\* to identify:

- The positive and negative impacts of each approach (i.e. trade-offs)
- The Assembly’s preferences for choosing between different potential approaches.

We ask the Advisory Committee to review the following draft issues and approaches and to provide feedback to ensure that they are accurate, minimize bias, and provide enough space for participants to express their opinions.

Issue Framing	Approach A	Approach B
1. On roads such as Hastings Street that have a fixed number of lanes, the City should:	Prioritize high-frequency rapid transit service with dedicated bus lanes and rail-like stations, even if this means displacing existing car parking used by customers of local businesses.	Prioritize existing parking and traffic arrangements to avoid disruptions to merchants, even if this means declining or modifying new higher volume bus services offered by TransLink
2. When the City uses its own money, land and resources to create more affordable housing, it should:	Prioritize creating the greatest number of new housing units possible, even if this means offering less of a discount for each housing unit compared to market prices (example: create 2000 units of “affordable” housing renting for \$2600/month).	Prioritize making each unit as affordable as possible with the deepest possible discounts compared to market prices, even if this means creating fewer total housing units. (example: create 1000 units of “affordable” housing renting for \$1300/month)

<p>3. Who should receive priority access to new affordable housing units when the City uses its own money or land to create this housing?  (rank in order of priority)</p>	<p>Middle-income households</p> <p>Low-income households</p> <p>All residents receive equal access (e.g. lottery system or first-come-first-served)</p> <p>Groups identified as most housing insecure</p> <p>Young people or seniors</p>	
<p>4. If Burnaby needs to add 100,000 new residents by 2050, how should the City concentrate this growth?</p>	<p>Focus as much growth as possible in Town Centers, resulting in higher towers and less change to other neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Spread the growth out by creating new urban villages, development corridors and transition zones between Town Centres and lower density neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>5. Burnaby is one of the few cities in BC without any debt and over time has built a \$2.6 billion capital reserve (equivalent to all planned capital spending over the next five years). Should the City:</p>	<p>Continue to maintain or grow its surplus so that Burnaby saves its resources for future generations and has more financial resilience against coming emergencies like climate change.</p>	<p>Increase the rate of spending so that the surplus reduces over time, with the aim to invest more in solving present-day challenges such as the cost of housing or insufficient amenities for the growing population.</p>
<p>6. When renters are likely to be displaced by a new development, Burnaby should:  (choose one of)</p>	<p>Maintain existing tenant assistance policies where renters are able to return after construction with the same rent and # of bedrooms.</p> <p>Expand the City's role in providing accessible mediation or advocacy for renters locked in disputes with their landlords around issues such as eligibility for assistance, state of repair, etc.</p> <p>Treat housing as a personal responsibility and let the market decide where people live. Leave renters and landlords to resolve</p>	

	<p>their own disputes through direct discussion, the Residential Tenancy Branch or the courts.</p>	
<p>7. What types of new amenities should Burnaby prioritize as it continues to grow? Think both about your own needs and the needs of the wider community.</p> <p>(likely a group activity and/or survey - allocate the City's combined \$1.5 billion 5-year capital budget for amenities and parks/culture with real examples for how much each type of amenity has cost in the past (e.g. page 145 and 147 of capital plan))</p>	<p>Arts and culture facilities such as theaters, galleries or museums.</p> <p>Community centres</p> <p>Outdoor sports such as stadiums, fields and golf.</p> <p>Indoor sports such as iceskating rinks and pools</p> <p>Public libraries</p> <p>Seniors and youth centres</p> <p>Childcare centres</p> <p>Major parks and trails</p> <p>Neighbourhood greenspaces and trees</p> <p>Subsidized office and programming spaces for nonprofits serving the community</p>	

\*The Assembly may also seek input from the wider Burnaby community on these trade-offs and approaches (e.g. guests hosted by the Assembly, online survey to give feedback to the Assembly, etc.).

# APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS 1-4, AND BIG IDEAS WORKSHOP

## Overview

The Burnaby Community Assembly is a representative group of 45 Burnaby residents, selected through a civic lottery, who will create recommendations for Burnaby's new Official Community Plan. The Assembly is led by [SFU's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue](#) in a collaborative, but arm's length partnership with the [City of Burnaby](#). This work is also being supported by the [Civic Innovation Lab](#).

Over the first four Assembly Meetings, Assembly Members have developed their understanding and vision for the city, learning from evidence-based information and diverse perspectives, including discussion materials and presentations from experts and community knowledge holders. Building off of public input from the Big Ideas Workshop, they have also begun to deliberate about municipal policy options and work through trade-offs in relation to their values.

## Assembly Meeting #1 – February 24<sup>th</sup>

The first Assembly Meeting welcomed Assembly Members to the process and outlined how it would work. Members were first welcomed by Elder Jackie Gonzales, a Skwxwú7mech/Musqueam matriarch from the Village of Esh7an, then by Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley. Burnaby Assembly Chair Robin Prest detailed the Assembly process, and Erin Rennie, Senior Planner and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development from the City of Burnaby presented details about the Official Community Plan, and the planning process.

Through a series of activities, the diverse group of Assembly Members got to know each other and the facilitation team, established working norms, and shared initial perspectives and personal experiences related to the focus areas of livability, transportation, climate, growth & housing. The day concluded with the co-creation of a timeline for Burnaby, from time immemorial until today, and the development of a shared narrative for the city.

## Assembly Meeting #2 – March 2<sup>nd</sup>

In the second meeting, Assembly Members built upon and began to prioritize key issues that had been identified in Meeting #1, began to deliberate around the tensions of density a livability through a map-based activity, and developed their vision for the future of Burnaby across the five thematic areas of livability, transportation, climate growth & housing.

A presentation from Erica Lay, Climate Action and Energy from the City of Burnaby provided context for Burnaby's climate goals and key climate issues for the future, and future-focused issues were identified through a panel about the next 25 years in Burnaby featuring Erica, Andy Yan, Director, City Program, Lifelong Learning, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, SFU Urban Studies Program, Graham Cavanaugh, Senior Planner - New Mobility - Strategic Planning & Policy, TransLink and Paul Holden, President of the Burnaby Board of Trade.

### **Assembly Meeting #3 – March 16<sup>th</sup>**

On day 3, Assembly Members reaffirmed key elements of their collective visions for Burnaby, refined their understanding of key issues through presentations from Erin Rennie on emerging policy directions, and from Kyra Lubell, Social Planner II, City of Burnaby on livability, belonging and social infrastructure. Through a 'personas' activity, Members also engaged with issues of livability and density from a diversity of perspectives.

Finally, the Assembly worked to hone the focus of Assembly deliberations as move forward towards recommendations. They prioritized the following focus questions for future discussions:

- How should the City of Burnaby distribute density to accommodate more than 100,000 new residents by 2050?
- What types of neighborhoods and street experiences should Burnaby prioritize and why?
- What are your priorities for community facilities, amenities, and services in the future?
- What types of housing forms should Burnaby encourage to make sure suitable homes are available for all types of residents?
- How should the City of Burnaby allocate existing road space between driving, parking, public transit and cycling?

### **Big Ideas Public Workshop – April 9<sup>th</sup>**

The Big Ideas Workshop provided an opportunity for the broader Burnaby community to engage directly with the Assembly and its Members. Featuring opening comments from Acting Mayor Maita Santiago, 16 Assembly Members and 50 additional members of the Burnaby community gathered to hear about the Assembly, and share their 'Big Ideas' for the Assembly to consider.



# APPENDIX C: BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY – RECOMMENDATIONS LAUNCH

By June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Burnaby Community Assembly will have learned about their City, generated ideas, weighed trade-offs between different options and ultimately, created recommendations for Burnaby's Official Community Plan. The City of Burnaby has committed to receiving and responding to these recommendations, ensuring the process is transparent and accountable. City Council will receive the recommendations at the July 22<sup>nd</sup> council meeting. The following is a summary of activities leading up to July 22<sup>nd</sup>:

**Final Assembly Meeting:** On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Assembly will finalize their draft recommendations after seven Assembly Meetings spent learning and deliberating. The recommendations will be presented in draft at this stage with the City of Burnaby, either through a memo or through in-person representatives at June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Staff Report to Council:** On June 21<sup>st</sup>, City of Burnaby staff will submit a report to Council summarizing the Assembly process in preparation for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> presentation. The report will motion Council to direct staff to explore integrating the Assembly's recommendations into the draft Official Community Plan.

**Embargoed Report and Recommendations:** On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, in partnership with the City of Burnaby, will release a media advisory accompanied by an embargoed copy of the Assembly summary report, which would include the recommendations.

**Celebration!** On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Burnaby Community Assembly will host an event at or near City Hall in honour of the official presentation to Council, with Assembly Members, institutional and community partners invited to join us in celebrating the dedication and time contributed to completing the Assembly. The celebration may be accompanied by meetings with local MLA Anne Kang and media interviews.

**Presentation to Council:** Representatives of the Burnaby Community Assembly will present its final recommendations to City Council on the evening of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, concluding the launch activities.

**Technical Report:** In late-summer or early-fall, the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue will release a technical report with expanded information about the Assembly process, inputs and outputs.

**Follow-up On Draft Official Community Plan:** After the Draft Official Community Plan is released in Winter 2024/2025, representatives from each table at the Assembly will reconvene to reflect

on how their recommendations were integrated into the OCP and provide feedback to the City of Burnaby.

**More information will become available as details are confirmed, stay tuned for updates!**

# APPENDIX D: GUEST LIST -BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

## Meeting 1:

<b>Council Members</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Roles/Activity</b>
Mayor Mike Hurley	Burnaby City Council	Opening Remarks & Observer
Councillor Richard T. Lee	Burnaby City Council	Observer
Councillor Daniel Tetrault	Burnaby City Council	Observer
Councillor Maita Santiago	Burnaby City Council	Observer
Councilor James Wang	Burnaby City Council	Observer
<b>Indigenous Elder</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Nation</b>	<b>Roles/Activity</b>
Elder Jackie Gonzales	Skwxwú7mech & Musqueam Nations	Land Acknowledgment & Observer
<b>Burnaby Community Assembly Advisory Committee Members</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role/Activity</b>
Ana Maria Bustamante	Manager, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table	Observer
<b>City Staff</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Roles/Activity</b>

Lee-Ann Garnett	Deputy General Manager, Planning & Development, City of Burnaby	Presentation: How should Burnaby Grow and Change by 2050 to Create a City Where Everyone Can Thrive
Erin Rennie	Senior Planner, Official Community Plan, City of Burnaby	Presentation: The Official Community Plan (OCP) Project Overview
Rebekah Mahaffey	Executive Director, Civic Innovation Lab	Observer

## Meeting 2:

City Staff		
Name	Affiliation	Roles/Activity
Erica Lay	Manager, Climate Action and Energy, City of Burnaby	Presentation: Climate Change in Burnaby & Panel Discussion: Future Trends of Burnaby for the Official Community Plan (OCP)
External Guests		
Name	Affiliation	Roles/Activity
Graham Cavanaugh	Senior Planner, New Mobility - Strategic Planning & Policy, TransLink	Panel Discussion: Future Trends of Burnaby for the Official Community Plan (OCP)
Paul Holden	President of the Burnaby Board of Trade	Panel Discussion: Future Trends of Burnaby for the Official Community Plan (OCP)
Andy Yan	Director, City Program, Lifelong Learning, SFU	Panel Discussion: Future Trends of Burnaby for the Official Community Plan (OCP)

### Meeting 3:

City Staff		
Name	Affiliation	Roles/Activity
Erin Rennie	Senior Planner, Official Community Plan, City of Burnaby	Presentation: Official Community Plan (OCP) Project: Growth and Density
Kyra Lubell	Development Planner II, City of Burnaby	Presentation: Livability, Social Infrastructure and Belonging
Burnaby Community Assembly Advisory Committee Members		
Name	Affiliation	Role/Activity
Ana Maria Bustamante	Manager, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table	Observer
Noreen Ma	Manager, Community Development, Burnaby Public Library	Observer

### Public Workshop:

Council Members		
Name	Affiliation	Roles/Activity
Councillor Maita Santiago	Burnaby City Council	Opening Remarks
Burnaby Community Assembly Advisory Committee Members		
Name	Affiliation	Role/Activity
Ana Maria Bustamante	Manager, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table	Table Facilitator
Jeffrey Yu	Founder of REL Technology and Vice President of the New Vista Society	Participant

City Staff		
Name	Affliction	Roles/Activity
Lee-Ann Garnett	Deputy General Manager, Planning & Development, City of Burnaby	Presentation: How should Burnaby Grow and Change by 2050 to Create a City Where Everyone Can Thrive
Erin Rennie	Senior Planner, Official Community Plan, City of Burnaby	Presentation: The Official Community Plan (OCP) Project Overview
Rebekah Mahaffey	Executive Director, Civic Innovation Lab	Observer

## Meeting 4:

City Staff		
Name	Affliction	Roles/Activity
Lee-Ann Garnett	Deputy General Manager, Planning & Development, City of Burnaby	Presentation: Official Community Plan (OCP) Project: Growth Scenarios
External Guests		
Name	Affliction	Roles/Activity
Doris A.	Allegria Soy Cultural and Community Society	Walking Tour Guide for the Edmonds Neighbourhood

## Meeting 5:

Multilingual Ambassador		
Name	Affliction	Roles/Activity

Alin Arakelian	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Arabic
Derek Chen	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Chinese
Lana Wei	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Chinese
Alba Nury Correa	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Spanish
Hakim Asher	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Farsi and Pashto
Abdelrahman A Mustafa	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Somali
John Dhieu	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Kiswahili
Vivienne Lee	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Korean
Malou Capacio	Immigration Advisory Council - BIPT	Tagalog
<b>Community Experience Reference Panel</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Perspectives</b>	<b>Afflictions</b>
Doris A.	Afro Caribbean community in Edmonds	Allegria Soy Cultural and Community Society
Ernie Cardinal	Urban Indigenous Population	Spirit of the Children Society
Kam Sandhu	Climate Action Advocate in Burnaby	N/A
Harinder Parmar	Parents with young kids	District parent advisory council

Anita Nambuuza	Young people (South Burnaby)	Youth Advisory Committee (OCP)
Norah Kenward-Richard	Young people (North Burnaby)	Youth Advisory Committee (OCP)
Carol-Ann Flanagan	Unhoused people	The Society To End Homelessness In Burnaby
Melody Monro	Social isolation & Residence Well-being	Fraser Health/Healthier Community Partnership Committee
Heather McCain	people with disabilities	Live Educate Transform Society
Murray Martin	low-income families in Burnaby	BC ACORN
Shiraz Ramji	Senior	Edmonds Senior Society
Yunuen Perez Vertti	Local Artists	We are Burnaby
<b>City Staff</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affliction</b>	<b>Roles/Activity</b>
Lee-Ann Garnett	Deputy General Manager, Planning & Development, City of Burnaby	Housing Panel
Rebekah Mahaffey	Executive Director, Civic Innovation Lab	