

Questions How well thought-out do you think the current Grandview Heights General Use Plan (GLUP) is?

As stated in the GLUP document, the GLUP was finalized in June 2005, after a culmination of a one and one-half year planning and community consultation process, coordinated by staff of the City of Surrey. This document reflects the ideas, suggestions and input received from the Grandview Heights community, with review and input from the Grandview Heights Citizen Advisory Committee (the "CAC"). It also reflects requirements and technical input by government agencies, the Surrey School District, environmental, heritage and engineering consultants, and other stakeholders."

As far as I am aware, there has been no significant consultation and amendment to the plan taking into account the changes into the community. I believe that the council should direct staff to coordinate with Grandview Heights community associations in order to reflect the current situation and any proposed new development. If elected to council, I will put forward such a motion.

What do you think about the extensive density increases that often occur at the Neighbourhood Concept Plan (NCP) level?

I think that often insufficient attention is paid to density issues when neighbourhoods are planned. This is particularly important when approval is given to high rises or townhouse developments. Sustainable development takes into account density issues and ensures greater responsibility for protecting our green spaces and for building in parks, schools and recreational facilities to the community plan. I have long been a supporter of sustainable development and will continue to advocate for it on council. **NCPs are "guidelines" not by-laws. What do you think of the ability of developers to apply for amendments to zoning and other NCP elements?**

When developers apply for amendments to zoning and other NCP elements, they should only be approved if the application end result is of benefit to the neighbourhood. The decision should not be made unless it is with a majority of all parties in favor. It bothers me that developers appear to have the upper hand when it comes to these applications, as my experience has shown that in the majority of cases these amendments are approved against the majority wishes of the members of the community in which the development is occurring. Council can have tighter oversight over these guidelines and can, in fact, choose to move the guidelines to by-law status. **What does 'good environmental and social stewardship' mean to you in relation to city planning?**

Good environmental and social stewardship means that at all costs the natural landscape should be protected. We need to do everything we can to defend the integrity of nature and its green spaces. This is what I mean when I state that I

support sustainable development of our city. We need to be very clear, that growth must be structured, sustainable and agreed to by all. I advocate for open and public hearings where everyone with a vested interest comes to the table and decisions are made from the perspective of the neighbourhood, environment and integrity of the people who live in those neighbourhoods. **In your opinion, who 'owns' a neighbourhood? How do you weigh the 'ownership value' of long-term residents and new residents who plan to stay, over other, shorter term interests such as political pressures and the development industry?**

In my opinion the residents "own" a neighbourhood. We are the ones that invest in the community. We raise families, work, shop, play and go to school in these neighbourhoods. A neighbourhood should never be used for political gamesmanship. If there is a long term plan in place and the neighbourhood has signed onto it, then it is both partners responsibility to ensure that the contract is upheld. Further, I believe that we should revisit NCPs on a regular basis, such as every ten years, to ensure that the NCP continues to reflect the needs of its community. We need all our neighbourhoods to be ones we are proud of, and that any one of us would aspire to live in, be that urban, semi urban or rural.

--

Martin Rooney for Surrey City Council 2014
Effective INDEPENDENT Representation

www.martinrooney.ca

778 888 3671

Twitter @MR1_