

NORTHWEST SECONDARY PLAN

Community Focus Group Terms of Reference

The Northwest Secondary Plan

The Northwest Secondary Plan will be a land-use policy document with mapping schedules that will guide future development and become part of the City's Official Plan through the Planning Act amendment process. As an addition to the City's urban area boundary, this new Greenfield area represents a unique prospect to undertake a secondary planning exercise that embodies complete community principles, considers opportunities, constraints and potential for integration with the surrounding communities to the best extent possible.

In addition to be required under approved Region of Niagara Official Plan policies, a secondary plan process allows the City to take a more detailed, contextual level review in determining how best to accommodate a mix of land uses and manage expectations of both City and Regional priorities for infrastructure investment, housing and economic growth while ensuring land use compatibility, long-term sustainability and vibrant, healthy neighbourhoods.

The Community Focus Group

The Community Focus Group will participate in a strategic planning exercise for the Northwest Secondary Plan area that will help generate:

- A Vision Statement,
- Goals,
- Objectives and Priorities

Members of the Community Focus Group will require an open-minded approach that will help the City develop a long-term vision to benefit the neighbourhood and the community at large. Growth management, including planning for growth on the City's available Greenfields, represents a positive and proactive approach to shaping our City for future generations.

Participation

In addition to Community Focus Group participation in the exercise, an extensive consultation process is anticipated over the course of this project, which will include consultation with the general public (public open houses, surveys, and commenting requests), scheduled and structured meetings with stakeholders, outside agencies and municipal partners, all of which will be reported to Council.

The Community Focus Group is expected to participate in an initial facilitated strategic exercise that will follow a SWOC process (strengths, weakness, opportunities, and constraints) to help in identifying future development potential. The CFG will set out a vision statement, goals and objectives, as well as identify priorities for the for the City (or responsible agencies) to pursue through study or policy. The initial facilitated meeting will be scheduled for half a day to allow for extensive dialogue on subject matter areas of focus. The results of the strategic session will be reported to Council for their information and awareness on how the CFG sees this area of the City developing in future.

Subsequent meetings will be scheduled after hours to afford attending members more flexibility with personal schedules. Members will be polled with optional dates to gain optimal attendance. As many as two or three additional meetings may be warranted as the results of background study work may precipitate a need to revisit direction taken on the Plan's potential. At least one of the CFG meetings will be dedicated to a hands-on approach, emulating a design charrette with several options for consideration being generated. Staff will consider the options, produce or synthesize a single draft land use concept from which measure of the vision statement, goals and objectives will be tested. An ideal outcome will have the endorsement of the CFG and be presented to Council as part of a Draft Official Plan Amendment.

The process of a secondary plan is estimated to take between a year to a year and a half depending on background studies being completed and a fulsome consultation schedule having successfully completed. The CFG meetings would be scheduled at appropriate intervals aligning with the work program.

CFG Composition

The Community Focus Group will consist of a balanced volunteer profile of 10-12 members with varying interests that represent a cross section of the community, ideally in the following categories:

- Long time area residents (2-3 members)
- New area residents (2-3 members)
- Business/Industry Owners (2-3 members)
- Community Organization Representatives (2-3 members)
- Residents at-large (2-3 members)

Submissions for participation on the Community Focus Group is not limited to those residing or owning lands within the Study Areas. Owner/developer participation (not agent representation) on the Community Focus Group will be considered as well. Community Organizations or other associations shall be limited to one representative per group or association.

Representative Selection Process

Interested participants will be assessed against representation of the categories listed on the Request for Expression of Interest for the Community Focus Group and chosen based on group representation, background and identified specific interests. Should the number of interested participants within a representative group (as noted above) exceed the intended balance of the Group, participants that share similar interests and profile, as assessed by the City, will be selected based on the date of submission.

Participants should provide a brief description of their background, specific interests, experience and/or any other involvement within the Niagara Falls community as well as if they are a member of a community group or other association active in Niagara Falls.

The names of those submitting their expression of interest and those selected to participate will become part of public record and may be published in relation to this planning exercise.