



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 25, 2005
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TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of CityPlans

SUBJECT: City of Vancouver wins "Award of Excellence - Honourable Mention" from the Planning Institute of British Columbia for the Kingsway and Knight Neighbourhood Centre Housing Area Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the report for information.

PURPOSE

This report informs Council of the "Award of Excellence - Honourable Mention" bestowed upon the City of Vancouver by the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) for the Kingsway and Knight Neighbourhood Centre Housing Area Plan.

DISCUSSION

Each year the Planning Institute of British Columbia presents awards for planning excellence. The awards are designed to recognize the efforts of members of the profession as they shape the communities, land and waters of British Columbia and the Yukon. In 2005, the awards were presented in conjunction with the PIBC Annual Conference, April 19-22, in Victoria.

The awards are based on the following criteria:

- Planning Process - Engagement of the public, decision-makers, and other stakeholders at appropriate times and in meaningful ways;
- Community Impact & Implementation - Fit with community context, and community impacts and benefits in the short and long term;

- Innovation & Originality - A visionary, original, or innovative process or design solution;
- Transferability & Professional Impact - A process or design solution readily applicable to other jurisdictions or similar issues, with significant impact on the profession of planning;
- Presentation - Design and clarity of written and graphic material

The Housing Area Plan for Kingsway and Knight was approved unanimously by Vancouver City Council in July 2004. The process leading to the Plan resulted in community support for two new zones that will allow small scale ground-oriented housing to be integrated into this existing single family neighbourhood.

This work is an important part of the implementation of CityPlan and Community Visions. A key direction is to increase neighbourhood housing variety, so that people will have opportunities to live in their neighbourhood at all ages and stages of their lives. Over the next 20 years, the Housing Area Plan may result in approximately 800 more dwellings and 2400 residents enjoying the Kingsway and Knight neighbourhood. While the new zoning is being introduced in this area, it will be offered in other Vancouver communities that share similar aspirations regarding housing variety. This work may also serve as a model for densification from within, and sustainable neighbourhood evolution in many North American cities.

In presenting the award, the Jury commended the outstanding leadership and public participation demonstrated by the City in meeting the challenge of providing additional density and housing options to accommodate growth and changing population in established neighbourhoods. The Jury also commended the presentation of the Housing Area Plan as readily understandable by both the lay person and the professional.

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