



Merritt Information Item

FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN

To: Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Don McArthur, Planning Manager

Date: October 8, 2020

Subject: North Bench Neighbourhood Development Plan Update – Survey Results

This is provided as information, and no resolution is required. Council may make a motion to direct staff to take particular action if they wish.

In early September, an online survey was conducted to gather input from residents on potential development of the North Bench lands. Additional hard copies of the survey were made available to residents and distributed at the Farmer's Market on Quilchena Avenue on September 12 and 13. A total of 383 people completed the survey.

Not surprisingly, the use of the trail network in the area was a focus for many respondents. 81% of survey respondents indicated they use the trails for walking or hiking. Maintaining the trail network was a concern for 63% of respondents.

25% of respondents indicated they would use a disc golf course, which is a significant number for a recreational activity.

When asked what type of housing should be constructed in the neighbourhood, 65% chose single family as their first choice, while townhomes were the top second choice for respondents. A number of residents indicated there should be more attainable forms of housing, such as affordable housing, tiny homes, or carriage homes. Housing for seniors was also a popular response. 15% of respondents indicated they do not want any housing constructed.

34% of respondents indicated a desire for neighbourhood commercial to be included in the plan, while 22% would like institutional uses, such as a school.

With regard to safety, streetlights, enhanced sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes and off-street paths were the top three responses.

Attachments:

Attachment A: North Bench Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey Summary

Respectfully submitted,

Don McArthur
Planning and Development Services Manager