

February 6, 2006

Vancouver's Co-Directors of Planning to both retire

Ann McAfee and Larry Beasley, Co-Directors of Planning for the City of Vancouver, announced today their plans to retire later this year.

Dr. McAfee, with 32 years of civic service, will retire from her position as Co-Director of Planning and Director of City Plans on June 30, 2006, following the World Urban Forum in Vancouver.

Beasley, who has had over 30 years of experience, will give up his day-to-day responsibilities as the Director of Current Planning on June 30, 2006. He will retire from his position as Co-Director of Planning and relinquish the formal authorities of the Director of Planning and Membership on the Development Permit Board on September 1, 2006 (or earlier pending the appointment of a new Director of Planning).

McAfee and Beasley have been Co-Directors in the City of Vancouver's Planning Department since 1994, and both have had a significant impact on the city.

McAfee was Vancouver's first Housing Planner. She authored policies that formed the City's social housing strategy and contributed to national housing programs which resulted in the first neighbourhood improvement funds for the Downtown Eastside and attracted millions of social housing dollars to Vancouver. As Director of City Plans she authored many of the City's land use, transportation, sustainability, regional, and public participation strategies. She also managed award-winning planning initiatives including: CityPlan; Community Visions; Neighbourhood Centres; and Financing Growth. These programs are contributing to neighbourhood livability and ensuring that new growth pays for the cost of services.

Beasley is widely recognized for the "Living First Strategy" a plan that helped revitalize Vancouver's inner city. He began his career as a neighbourhood planner and later became the City's Senior Area Planner before founding and managing the Vancouver Legacies Program (a project that raised private funding for civic projects for Vancouver's Centennial). Beasley also collaborated in the formation of policies related to community amenity standards; development cost levies; view corridors; the city skyline; green building; heritage, and urban design. He directed award-winning initiatives including: the Central Area Plan; the False Creek North and Coal Harbour community plans; the Central Area Transportation Plan; the Southeast False Creek plan; and the Gastown/Chinatown Heritage Incentives Program.

Mayor Sam Sullivan noted the significant contribution that both McAfee and Beasley have made to the citizens of Vancouver. "We are sad to see them retire as these two planners have played a decisive role in creating the remarkable city that we enjoy today," said the Mayor. "Their vision, tenacity and thoughtful advice has helped Vancouver achieve the status as one of the world's most livable cities. We thank them for their all their work over the years."

With these retirements, the City has decided to combine the two co-director positions into that of a single Director of Planning. An international search will begin immediately with the goal of having a new director in place no later than September 1, 2006. City Manager Judy Rogers promised, "There will be no interruption in the top quality planning services provided by this vital City department."

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