

Thursday » March
6 » 2008

City forum misleading

Richmond News

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

The Editor,

The feedback form for the Garden City lands open houses is misleading in a number of items.

For example, feedback form item six ends with this question: "Do you support the development of the Garden City lands based on the principles of Smart Growth?" The problem is that the question is introduced by a misleading 59-word statement about how the proposed development of the Garden City lands supposedly follows the principles of Smart Growth.

I guess the city was hoping that nobody would check what "Smart Growth" means. Well, I encourage you to check out the Smart Growth Principles page at Smart Growth B.C., www.smartgrowth.bc.ca (under "About Us"). There you will see, as I did, that the proposed Garden City lands development does NOT follow the principles of Smart Growth.

Smart Growth Principle Six states, "Preserve open spaces, natural beauty, and environmentally sensitive areas." Similarly, Smart Growth Principle Seven reads, "Protect and enhance agricultural lands. A secure and productive land base, such as BC's Agricultural Land Reserve, provides food security, employment, and habitat, and is maintained as an urban containment boundary."

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