

Tanya Vrebosch-Merry – Oct 16, 2010

1. We have a Green Plan, we have a plan for the Airport Industrial Park, we don't really have a plan for anything social but I would love to see a Housing Strategy, we have a trails strategy etc. I guess what we maybe need to do is what you said - create a vision. The next council should sit together and create one organized vision for the next 4 years+ and it wouldn't hurt to do another charette like we did with the Official Plan to see what the constituent's vision is for the next 4+ years. The vision, much like a strategic plan should be reviewed at least annually. We've had good communication and poor communication - what we need to do is create a communications policy or plan so that we have a balanced approach. One Mayoral candidate mentioned a parks/green space committee and I would support this - I think that this committee would be beneficial and will give people/constituents a voice.
2. I talk to people, and not just about controversial issues. I live and breathe council and city issues - not everyone does this or has to do this which is why talking to people is the best way to educate them on various issues, get their points of view and figure out what their concerns are. Just a couple of weeks ago, talking to the Living Fit Group we talked about a way to improve communication is to fix our website and make it more user-friendly. Many municipalities and agencies (big and small) have a Communications Officer - the City of North Bay does not. We can work on the communications strategy/policy that I mentioned above so that we have a balanced approach on how to consult with constituents. Please note that I do not believe that we should be hiring a Communications Officer at this time - there are many other areas that we could spend the money if we had it. I also want to mention that we do offer other opportunities at the planning level, committee level and council level for the public to speak and relay their concerns/comments.