

# Community Action Against an Unwelcome Development Proposal in the Neighbourhood

— *from the DRA*

You may be aware of concerns reported in December's [2004] *Vancouver Courier* newspaper about a development permit the City is reviewing without sufficient consultation, involving the subdivision of an "orphan" lot at Collingwood and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Here are some suggestions for what to do if you find yourself in a similar situation. If you have questions or concerns, contact the DRA.

## *Checklist for dealing with issues*

1. Find the facts. Check them.
2. Test feelings on the topic to see if opposition is supported.
3. Book meeting room in community centre.
4. Prepare flyer telling people about meeting.
5. Distribute flyers to as many people as possible who will be affected or interested.
6. Hold Meeting.
  - someone has to chair the meeting to prevent it from becoming an unfocused discussion that doesn't achieve anything
  - there should be an agenda or a specific list of things to discuss
  - collect a list of names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses
  - find out who is prepared to get actively involved.
  - from this establish the email list
7. Determine the facts, deadlines, names and addresses of those at City Hall dealing with this and what the process is for the proposal.
8. Establish a leadership structure.
  - try to get someone on each affected block to act as a block captain
  - this person will be responsible for communicating with people on the block and distributing flyers etc.
  - if possible, choose one spokesperson.
  - someone will have to be prepared to take photographs of the present street and compare it to the proposed development.
  - if possible, find out exactly what the process is at City Hall: this may mean visits to the planning department at City Hall to talk to them about the process and the specific development.
9. Prepare new flyer to exhort as many people as possible to write/telephone/ email City Hall to let them know the strength of feeling in the neighbourhood.
10. Prepare another flyer if necessary just before the deadline to get people to email in.
11. Keep people on the email list informed about what is happening.