

Golden's Youth Engagement process from, Cleopatra Corbett
Manager of Development Services/Planning
Deputy Approving Officer

"Our OCP was adopted in February of 2008. We had a very involved community lead grassroots process which included youth to guide the future of our community:

- Our OCP steering committee made was made up of members ages 12-80. Our two youth members we 12 and 16. They were fabulous. Below is a committee meeting picture that shows our youngest member sitting beside our oldest member. The youth around the table at these meetings were priceless. Their involvement kept other members civilized and the youth didn't have the baggage some others might bring. Their honesty and simple outlook on issues grounded conversations often. The youngest member continually reminded the group of what the planning process was all about. During one heated discussion between committee members about standards for development and requiring more than provincial minimum standards, the young member argued, " But Golden's better than the minimum!" This became some members' tag line throughout the process.



- Both youth members took the initiative to get their schools involved. They knew our goal of simply trying to get as many people involved as possible. The teen rep lead consultative events at the high-school during the lunch hour and our 12 year old gave survey's out to teachers and student at his school. We got 300 youth responses because of their efforts.
- Why did it work? We gave the youth the power to lead their own processes. It wasn't a town official parachuting in to the school doing some boring event. It was their peers educating the students on why this was important, what it was all about and why they should be involved. They participated in planning the future of their community and felt good about it.
- Our broader community events were also not standard, we sat outside grocery stores talking to people, had free skating events and even had a jam night at the pub. This got youth involved through creative events.
- Also, my assistants for the process were College of the Rockies

Co-op students and would be considered youth. They designed and implemented the public participation events. One community member said it was nice to have fresh friendly faces running the events.

Please tell people to check out our OCP on our Town Website and anyone can feel free to contact me.

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