

‘FROM DREAM TO REALITY’ (RECAP)



Summary of Katie McCamant’s
presentation hosted by the CCN.

Jan 20, 2022



By Laura Chatham

For Dr. Gord Lovegrove, UBCO Civil Eng.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SAFETY LAB

LABORATOIRE DE SÉCURITÉ DANS LES TRANSPORTS DURABLES



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

INNOVATION.CA
THE INNOVATION FOUNDATION OF CANADA



The Canadian Cohousing Network (CCN)

- Registered non-profit; Board of 11 members
- **Goal:** promote and facilitate “the creation of cohousing communities as a model for sustainable development”
- Database for cohousing (CH) information; existing/forming projects; news/events, and more.
- Membership for cohousing communities
- Current projects:
 - Quarterly webinars (like this one!)
 - Affordable CH working group – UK model
 - Federal government advocacy



<https://cohousing.ca/>



CCN Membership



- Applied as 'Kelowna Cohousing' under *SMARTer Growth Partnership* (Dr. Lovegrove)
- **Costs:** \$50 for first year, then \$20 per household every year after.
- **Benefits:**
 - Listing on cohousing.ca
 - Access to *Classified Ads Page* (homes for rent/sale)
 - News & Events page
 - Input at AGM

Katie McCamant



• 35 years experience: – Architect

– Developer

– Coauthor: “Creating Cohousing: Building Sustainable Communities”

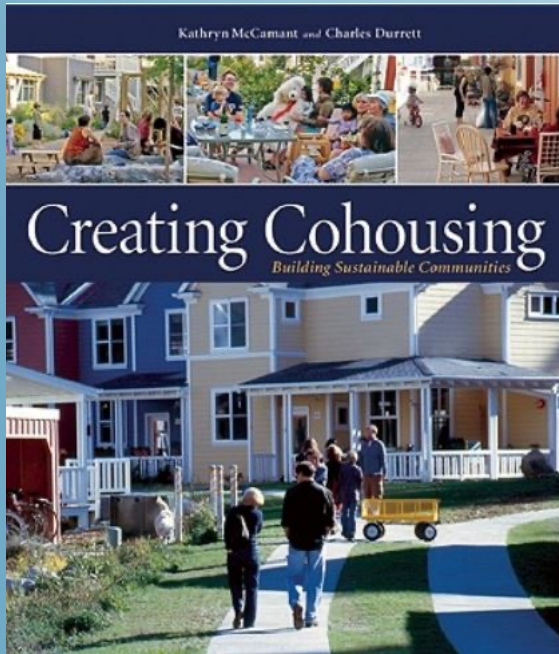
– Co-founder: McCamant & Durrett Architect /The CoHousing co.

– Founder of CoHousing Solutions (development consulting)

– Urban, suburban, and rural communities across NA

– 500 Communities Program (professional training)

– Cohousing resident (30+ yrs)



CoHousing Solutions:

<https://www.cohousing-solutions.com/>

More about Katie:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-mccamant-b41a05b/>

Creating Cohousing:

<https://www.cohousingco.com/products/creating-cohousing-building-sustainable-communities>

'From Dream to Reality'

Notes from Katie McCamant's Presentation

PERCEPTION



7 Keys For Cohousing Success:

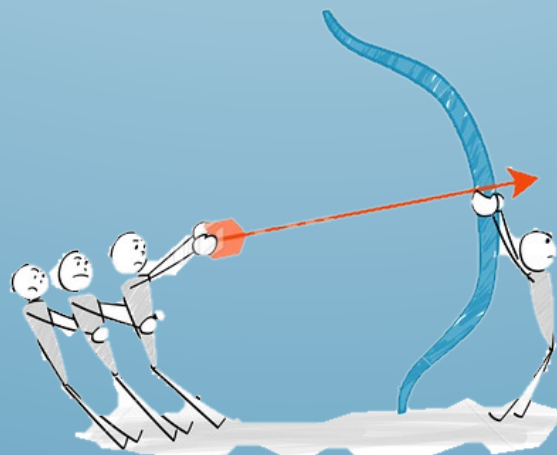
1. Focus on core goals
2. Lay down the \$\$
3. Good expertise
4. Maximize community participation
5. Discipline
6. Give Schemes & step back
7. Hold your budget

REALITY



I. Focus on Core Goals

- Prioritize – don't try to do it all
- Research, discussion, & write things down
- more = more cost
- Understand what is accessible; what can be done now vs. later?
- Scale back expectations



2. “Show me the Money”

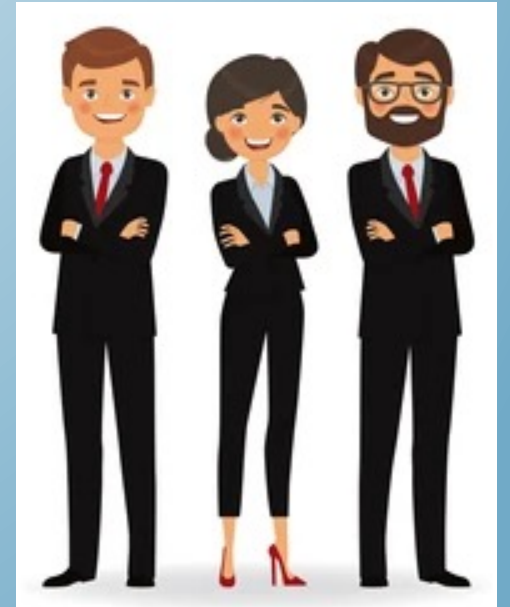
'From Dream to Reality'
Presentation Recap

- Future buys must put up money first
- Talk about this ‘elephant’ sooner rather than later (my words)
 - deposit, budgets,...etc.
- Make sure we’re not just all talk
- Suggested to hire professionals for \$ matters



3. Good Expertise

- Focus on adapting (not changing) real estate techniques
 - //Note for Okanagan Cohousing: like MAE evaluation
- Hire professionals with suitable experience and motivation to see your project through (shop around!)
- Take their advice
 - Be open minded, yet firm on core values
 - Ensure developers have some feeling of ownership of the project

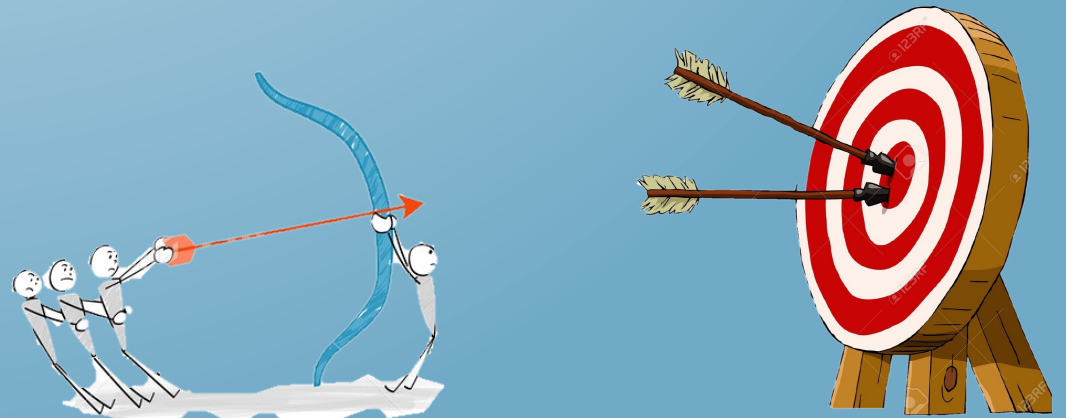


4. Maximize Community Participation

- Begin right away → establish *visions, goals, and program*
 - professionals can help build participatory structure
- Facilitate discussion & participatory decision making
 - how to organize ourselves & make sure everyone is heard?

// A suggestion from outside McCamant's presentation: *Sociocracy*, a team collaboration resource

<https://www.sociocracyforall.org/start-here/>



4. (cont.) Setting the Vision

Example – Okanagan Cohousing

Mission Statement: To facilitate the development of cohousing neighbourhoods in the Okanagan, BC, which provide affordable, quality-built homes and inspire healthy, socially-connected lifestyles. These communities aim for social, economic, and environmental sustainability

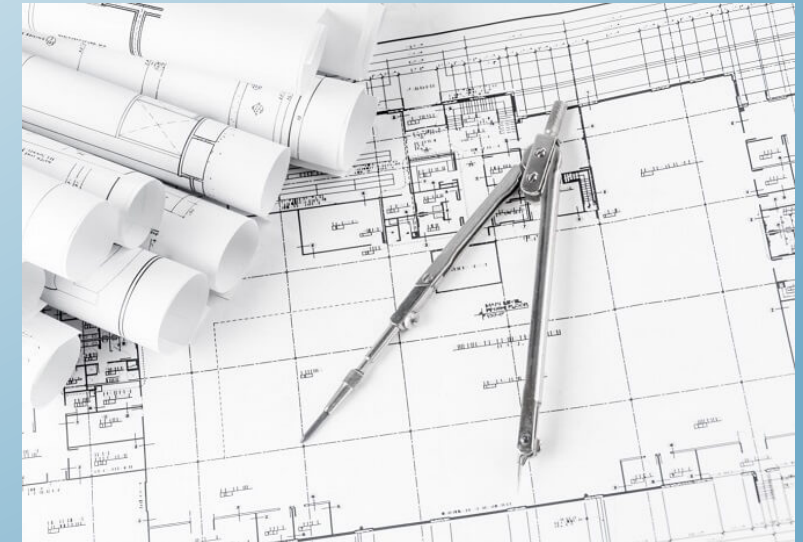
Values: Sustainability • Harmony • Inclusiveness



<https://sustainablecommunities.ok.ubc.ca/research/cohousing/>

5. Discipline

- Stay committed & motivated – help each other!
- “keep messy (personal stuff) at home”
 - BUT, my addition, still want to build community connection



6. Give Plans & Step back

- Give schematic to professionals and let them do their job
- Katie suggests “don’t visit the construction site”...?
 - BUT: (1) level of supervision/In-progress communication? We care about this project and want to make sure it’s going well. 2) option for Sweat equity? Notable to help affordability for families to buy in.

7. Hold your Budget

- Be clear about construction budget
- simplify design, accept imperfection → more / better quality = more \$\$
- AVOID REDISIGN → more time & more \$\$
 - “No group initiated changes during construction”



Additional Considerations

(From post-presentation breakout rooms)

- How to build Community on Zoom?
 - Socials: dinners, b-day/holiday celebrations, Sip & paint??
 - Slack channel has been created to organize these events
 - In spring, we can look to planning something in-person!
- Define our structure
 - Decision making, welcoming new members, next steps... etc.
 - again, something like Sociocracy may help

Thank you!

Please reach out for any questions/comments/concerns



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SAFETY LAB

LABORATOIRE DE SÉCURITÉ DANS LES TRANSPORTS DURABLES



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

INNOVATION.CA
Canada's Innovation Agency



Canadian Cohousing
Network

Photo credits

Slide 4: Katie's photo – <https://cohousing.ca/news-events/cohousing-event-220120/>

Slide 5: Road to success – <https://www.everyvowel.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Success-Road-for-socialv2-2.jpg>

Slide 6 & 9: Bullseye – https://static7.depositphotos.com/1283262/761/v/600/depositphotos_7615195-stock-illustration-target.jpg

Archery team – <https://media.istockphoto.com/vectors/people-aiming-at-a-target-with-a-bow-and-arrow-vector-id1168916363>

Slide 7: Budgeting comic – <https://i.pining.com/474x/fc/52/0f/fc520f5edb82776f7061339b0f82c460.jpg>

Money saving – <https://previews.123rf.com/images/pchvector/pchvector2010/pchvector201000173/156782208-tiny-people-saving-money-in-piggy-bank-isolated-flat-illustration-cartoon-characters-putting-income-.jpg>

Slide 8: Cartoon professionals – <https://image.shutterstock.com/image-vector/business-people-suits-cartoon-vector-260nw-570841111.jpg>

Slide 11: Construction Schematic – <://www.bluentcad.com/images/What-are-the-phases-of-construction-documentation-1.jpg>

Slide 12: Fancy green-tech home – <https://graphicriver.net/item/eco-house-cartoon-vector-flat-illustration/25300388>