



Vancouver City Planning Commission
 phone: 604.873.7477 email: vcpc@city.vancouver.bc.ca

The Vancouver City Planning Commission is a citizen advisory body that examines long-range planning issues affecting the City of Vancouver. Reporting to City Council, the VCPC has 16 members, 12 volunteer citizens, 1 representative from each of the Vancouver School Board, and Park Board, and 2 City Councillors. The volunteers are appointed for two-year terms.

The Vancouver City Council and the Point Grey Municipal Council established the Commission in 1926. It played a key role in planning the City of Vancouver by retaining the services of Harland Bartholomew and Associates to prepare a plan for the City of Vancouver. This was completed in 1929 and it became the "blueprint" for the design of the contemporary city with its landscaped boulevards and grid layout.

Predating the City's Planning Department, which was created in 1951, the Commission helped develop the City's planning process during the 1940's and 1950's. It also worked with the civic administration to monitor Vancouver's development and reviewed rezoning applications.

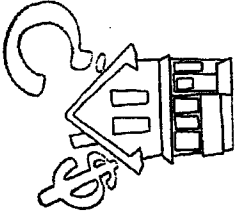
In the 1970's, new or expanded agencies took over several activities of the Planning Commission. The Planning Department began the neighbourhood planning program with substantial citizen input. Council created the Development Permit Review Board and the Urban Design Panel. Council also began to deal more directly with zoning and the VCPC renewed its mandate to engage in long-range planning issues and to prepare a set of goals for the City. "Goals for Vancouver" was published in 1980 and updated in 1987, and a report, "Vancouver's Future: Toward the Next Million", was completed in 1989.

In 1993 and 1998 Council confirmed the duties of the Commission:

- to represent ideas and opinions about the future of the city, as citizens of the City of Vancouver.
- to consider and report to Council on any proposal likely to have a significant effect on the future of the City.

Each year through its bi-weekly meetings and committee meetings the Commission explores and discusses a wide range of long-term issues facing the City of Vancouver. For example, in 1997 the Commission took an active role in examining the issues of sustainability in relation to the planning and development of South East False Creek. In 1998 a major focus of the Commission was the proposed transit system for the Broadway Corridor. More recently the Commission has examined a variety of issues relating to the Public Realm. It sponsors a series of public events, speakers, workshops and public forums. The Planning Commission meets as a whole every second Wednesday at City Hall. These meetings are announced in CityWeek and are open to the public.

Voted most livable ...
 But who can afford to live here?



The Vancouver City Planning Commission
 presents a Public Forum on

The future of housing in VANCOUVER

Science World
 April 30, 2003
 7:00 to 10:00 pm

GOAL:

To engage City Council, city staff and the public in a lively, informed & productive debate as to how the city might address issues of sustainability, housing choice, density & affordability as we reach 2021 & beyond.

FORMAT & PARTICIPANTS:

1. VCPC Chair **Reena Lazar** - welcome & introduction of the Deputy Mayor
2. Deputy Mayor Councillor **Tim Stevenson** - welcomes the public & highlights the importance of the issue
3. **Mr. David Baxter & Mr. Andy Ramlo** of the Urban Futures Institute - a look at Vancouver's demographics; who lives where.
4. A Panel Discussion, moderated by **Mr. David Beers Vice Chair of the VCPC**
 - * Neighbourhood Representative **Helen Spiegelman**
 - * Rental Expert **Vanessa Geary**
 - * Industry Expert "large" developer **Michael Geller**
 - * Industry Expert "small" developer **Robert Brown**
 - * UBC Professor of Planning **Patrick Condon**
5. Moderator & Panelists - Q+A from Moderator (50min.)
6. Moderator, Panelists & Audience - questions from the floor (1 hr.)



The Vancouver City Planning Commission is a voluntary citizens' group advising City Council focused on civic issues critical to the future of Vancouver
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David BAXTER

is the Executive Director of the Urban Futures Institute, which studies and analyzes the transformations affecting population, community, and land use in Canada. He is a recognized authority on the impact of demographics on the North American and international consumer landscape. His particular strength is the ability to analyze demographic shifts and economic trends. He has held academic appointments at the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of British Columbia and at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand.

David BEERS

is a journalist with two decades experience covering cutting edge approaches to urban issues. He has written for Harper's, The New York Times, the Globe and Mail and many others, and is author of *Blue Sky Dream*, a memoir/social history of aerospace suburbia. A former editor and essayist for the Vancouver Sun, he spearheaded the award-winning *Fate of the Strait* series on sustainability in the Georgia Basin. He is Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission.

Robert BROWN

is the principal and founder of Chesterman Property Group Inc., a leading builder of market-based, multi-family projects with a focus on healthy and sustainable practices. For its effort in green building Chesterman received an Ethics in Action Award as well as the Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award. Robert is also the co-creator of ReSource Rethinking Building Inc., which provides practical solutions for building projects that are healthier for people and the planet. As a volunteer he is a board member of Tradeworks Training Society, a youth job training and placement non profit in the Downtown Eastside and is on the Vancouver Branch Executive of the US Green Building Council. He was also a co-founder of the non-profit Canadian Business for Social Responsibility.

Patrick CONDON

holds the UBC James Taylor Chair in Landscape and Livable Environments. He has organized a series of round table multi-party planning and design processes in British Columbia and other parts of North America, with the goal of creating more sustainable new and retrofitted communities. Professor Condon has become well known for working with citizens to produce alternative models for walkable and complete communities, ones that work with the natural capabilities of the site. The resulting community design strategies have received widespread attention throughout the United States and Canada and are provoking a fundamental re-examination of how we plan our neighborhoods and, how we can serve them.

Vanessa GEARY

has been the Coordinator of the Tenants' Rights Action Coalition (TRAC) for the last 5 1/2 years. TRAC works to both preserve and expand BC's stock of affordable rental housing, and has carried out research and public education on the legalization of secondary suites and other housing issues. Vanessa is a volunteer board member of the Mole Hill Community Housing Society. She has a Masters degree from the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning and is a co-instructor of a housing course offered through the SFU City Program.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Michael GELLER

is an architect, planner, and property developer with 30 years experience in both the public and private sectors. During his 10 years with CMHC, he was involved with numerous non-market housing projects, including the redevelopment of the South Shore of False Creek. As a real estate consultant and developer, he was involved with a number of high profile, and often controversial rezoning initiatives in Vancouver and the GVRD. He was project manager on the Westin Bayshore redevelopment and has tried to develop a number of higher density projects in predominantly single family neighbourhoods. He is now the President and CEO of the SFU Community Trust, overseeing the development of a new community on Burnaby Mountain. He is a Past President of the Urban Development Institute, and has served on the City's Urban Design Panel, and the Development Permit Board Advisory Panel.

Reena LAZAR

was trained in architecture at McGill University, and International Affairs at Columbia University. She has worked on sustainable urban development both locally and internationally for the last 10 years. She is the Chair of the Planning Commission and serves as its delegate to the Urban Design Panel.

Andrew RAMLO

is a Senior Research Associate of the Urban Futures Institute. He has an undergraduate degree in urban and economic geography from UBC, and a Masters in Planning from the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning. He has organized and taught courses for both UBC and Simon Fraser University, in addition to providing workshops and seminars for programs at the British Columbia Institute of Technology and SFU's City Program. Mr. Ramlo also holds a seat on council for the Planning Institute of British Columbia, and has co-authored over 40 reports with the Urban Futures Institute including topics on economic and demographic trends to land use control and the management of change.

Helen SPIEGELMAN

is active with the Dunbar Residents' Association as well as with the neighbourhood networking association "Neighbour to Neighbour" and several environmental organizations. She ran as an independent candidate for Vancouver City Council in 1999 with two others under the banner "Neighbourhoods Matter." She sees neighbourhoods as more than "location-location-location!" Rather, they are the places where citizens engage with each other in debating and deciding community priorities.