

7. Triple R Review

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budget meeting on December 15, 2005, received requests to speak on this matter and agreed to refer this item to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on December 15, 2005, to hear speakers.

WHEREAS

Council is starting a new term and this is an opportunity to consider how to make this an effective one for the citizens of Vancouver.

Council should establish policies and priorities that take positive, proactive steps ensuring effective government this term. The inaugural speech spoke of a Triple R Review to consider roles, relationships and responsibilities for the City. Such a framework should define and differentiate political and staff roles and responsibilities. It should establish the different relationships that Council and staff have with the community. It should formalize, in policy, Council's commitment to both good government and ethical public administration.

Community consultation and advice is an essential part of civic government, both to City Council directly and to staff in the development and implementation of policies and programs. The contribution of citizen members of advisory committees, boards and commissions is invaluable. We owe those citizens the respect of Council by establishing mechanisms that allow them to be heard and that makes an effective and efficient use of their valuable personal time. Council should consider what methods of community input best serve citizens, Council and staff.

To be effective, Council must set priorities and goals for this term. With these established Council can evaluate policy, program, financial and staffing decisions. In the absence of priorities and goals not only does it make Council less effective, it also makes it difficult for staff to serve the Council. Council should meet early in the new year to plan its direction for the term.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council establish a Triple-R Review (the "Review") to consider the roles, relationships and responsibilities of Council, city staff and citizens in an effort to ensure that they are properly aligned with the City's overall goals and objectives leading up to and beyond 2010.
2. The advisory bodies considered as part of this Review are only those that were originally formed pursuant to s. 160 of the Vancouver Charter. They include:
 - Peace and Justice Committee
 - Vancouver Food Policy Council
 - Pedestrian Safety Task Force
 - Neighbourhood Engagement Task Force
 - Women's Advisory Committee
 - City Creative Task Force
 - Sustainable Purchasing Task Force
 - Mayor's Working Group on Immigration

- Vancouver Prevention Task Force
 - Advisory Committee on Disability Issues
 - Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues
 - Advisory Committee on Seniors Issues
 - Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee
 - Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee
 - First Shaughnessy Advisory Design Panel
 - Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee
 - Public Art Committee
 - Vancouver City Planning Commission
 - Vancouver Civic Theatres Board
 - Vancouver Heritage Commission
3. One component of the Review will be to consider whether advisory bodies that were in existence as of 19 Nov 2005:
 - (a) should be continued;
 - (b) should be disbanded;
 - (c) the terms of reference of the advisory body should be varied.
 4. The Review will consider whether new advisory bodies should be formed.
 5. Staff report to the January 17, 2006 Council meeting recommending the terms of reference for the Review Panel, with the goal of completing the advisory body component of the Review by Feb 2006.
 6. Staff prepare a strategic planning process for Council early in 2006 in order to establish the directions and work plan for this Council.
 7. The Review will consider the strategic directions and work plan of Council in making its recommendations.
 8. That the Review include the examination of current and alternative methods of input for citizen advice to Council and staff that will be the most effective.
 9. The following individuals will comprise the Triple R Review Panel:
Dr. Allan Tupper, May Brown, Milton Wong, Judy Rogers, Syd Baxter.

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