



REPORT TO COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 2, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Kim Capri, Vice-Chair
Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie

ABSENT: Councillor Suzanne Anton, Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor David Cadman (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

1. University of British Columbia: Future Plans (File 01-5500-60)

Dr. Martha Piper, President and Vice-Chancellor - University of British Columbia (UBC), provided the Committee with an update on future plans for UBC noting:

- it is important for a great city to have a great university;
- overview of history of UBC, its programs, international connections, students, faculties and human resources;
- a large part of the current construction on campus is for research and instructional facilities;
- success in bringing federal funding to the province;
- end goal is to create a university town similar to other prominent universities and transform a commuter community to a living community.
- working with the GVRD to support the Livable Regional Strategy; and
- cities that will thrive will be those that care about creativity and create an environment where citizens can live.

Dr. Piper responded to questions regarding classroom space, affordable housing, amalgamation with the City, institutional development and the nature of the research undertaken at UBC.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the presentation on future plans for the University of British Columbia be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **3669 West 4th Avenue - Private Liquor Store**
Development Application Number DE409920 (VanRIMS No. 11-3500-10)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated February 10, 2006, in which the Director of Current planning sought Council's advice on a development application to change the use of a portion of the ground level of an existing two-storey building at 3669 West 4th Avenue to provide for a new private Liquor Store (Type 1 - Wine only). The General Manager of Community Services submitted the choice of either approving or not the application for consideration.

Bill Boons, Development Services, provided an overview of the report, the site and surrounding area, noting the reason this is before the Committee is because it is technically opposed to liquor policy guidelines established by the City. Mr. Boons also provided a brief overview of these guidelines.

Leslie Olsen (*brief submitted - on file*) and Peter Seabourne, the Applicants, requested Council endorsement of their application, noting:

- they are not interested in creating problems for neighbourhood;
- 4th Avenue is effusive in support for a VQA store;
- goal is to be hands-on to better serve the neighbourhood;
- they have no financial affiliations with any pubs or hotels; and
- overview of BC VQA stores and products they sell.

The following delegations provided information on current issues facing liquor licensing in British Columbia:

Mariana Fiddler, ABLE BC
John Teti, Barwatch

Their comments included:

- impressed with staff not being locked in by guidelines;
- there are only 26 VQA licenses in British Columbia;
- 4th Avenue wine store application is not a liquor store - it can never expand into spirits or beer; and,
- VQA stores are appointed by the government to sell only VQA wines.

The following delegations spoke in opposition to the application:

Jennifer McKenna, British Columbia Government Employees' Union (BCGEU)
Kevin Park, BCGEU

Their comments included:

- concerns about over-servicing;
- overview of services available at liquor stores;
- Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is prioritizing customer service and is training up staff to high levels of customer service; and
- new products will be brought in if management is made aware they are wanted;
- there are no exceptional reasons to endorse the application here; and
- absence of VQA products in BC liquor stores is easily fixable by what already exists;

MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the Director of Planning be advised that Council would favour approval of Development Application Number DE409920 for a Private Liquor Store (Type 1 - Wine Only) at 3669 West 4th Avenue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. 6169 Fraser Street - Private Liquor Store
Development Application Number DE409667 (VanRIMS No. 11-3500-10)**

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated February 10, 2006, in which the Director of Current Planning sought Council's advice on a development application to change the use of the ground level of an existing two-storey building at 6169 Fraser Street to provide for a new private Liquor Store (Type 1- Beer and Wine). The General Manager of Community Services submitted the choice of either approving or not the application for consideration.

Bill Boons, Development Services, reviewed the report and clarified the definition of liquor store; gave an overview of the consultation process with the liquor industry, the

neighbourhood & BIAs regarding liquor policy; and noted individual applications will appear before Council periodically when they do not meet existing guidelines.

Mr. Boons, along with Paul Teichroeb, Chief License Inspector, responded to questions regarding the consultation process, the type of store that will be in place, the impact of private liquor stores on neighbourhoods, and the applicant's affiliations with other businesses in the City.

Jonathan Baker, Lawyer, represented the applicant noting there is only one relaxation of policy required for this application, staff must be free to exercise discretion within the guidelines, noted objections are not material, and liquor requires provincial licensing.

Mr. Baker responded to questions regarding public consultation.

The following delegations spoke in opposition to the application

Jennifer McKenna, BCGEU
Kevin Parks, BCGEU
Suzanne Smythe
Barbara Forster-Rickard
Brian Ramor
Law Dai Chan
John Benetti
Lauren Carter
Susan Faehndrich-Findlay
Mary Sutherland
Mark Ross
Helen Beer
Mary Remedios

Their comments included:

- application does not fully comply with policy or guidelines;
- there are other liquor stores nearby;
- neighbourhood does not fit a liquor store and it will not help with neighbourhood growth;
- store is proposed for a residential building where the Neighbourhood Integrated Services Team (NIST) has been called in;
- concerns about the quality of the establishment;
- Triage dual diagnosis facility is being built nearby and easy access to alcohol will put patients at risk;
- concerns about public consultation process and notification;
- crackdown on Downtown Eastside (DTES) pushed many problems to the Fraser Street (South Hill) area;
- easy access to alcohol will put dual diagnosis patients at risk;
- staff did not make any reference to proximity of the dual diagnosis facility; and
- wishes of the majority have not been considered recently in plans for the area.

The following delegations provided information on private liquor stores:

John Teti, Barwatch
Mariana Fiddler, ABLE BC

Their comments included:

- overview of private liquor stores and provincial Signature Liquor Stores;
- there are consequences for the behaviour of private liquor stores; and
- private liquor stores have been in the province since the 1980s and do give back to communities.

Bob Niger, Applicant, noted he has lived in the area for 21 years, the picture painted of the neighbourhood by those opposed is not accurate, he is an experienced operator and is requesting Council support his application for a small store. Mr. Niger responded to questions regarding store layout.

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the Director of Planning be advised that Council would not favour approval of Development Application Number DE409667 for a Private Liquor Store (Type 1- Beer and Wine) at 6169 Fraser Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Support for Childcare (VanRIMS No. 08-0500-12)

At the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets on March 2, 2006, Council referred a motion entitled "Support for Childcare" to the Standing Committee on Planning & Environment meeting on March 2, 2006, in order to hear from speakers.

Accordingly, the Committee had before it the motion, originally submitted by Councillor Deal at the Regular Council Meeting on February 28, 2006.

Sharon Gregson, Vancouver School Board Representative to the Civic Joint Childcare Council, spoke in favour of the motion, noting:

- need for affordable daycare in Vancouver;
- Vancouver is a leader in daycare provision;
- Federal government has a major role to play in the provision of daycare;
- current plan of the new Federal government does not create more choice for Vancouver families;
- it is not appropriate to provide income support with childcare dollars; and

- urgent need for a letter be sent to the Prime Minister urging support of the childcare agreement.

Mary Remedios spoke in opposition to the motion, noting parents should have a choice of where they put their children.

Sheila Davidson, Child and Youth Advocate, encouraged support of the motion and responded to questions regarding the cost of childcare and current issues surrounding the national childcare program.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver has a long tradition of providing leadership in the development and support of licensed, non-profit childcare.
2. The previous federal government committed almost \$5 billion over 5 years to establish a national childcare program, of which \$633 million was to come to BC.
3. The current federal government promised to rip up these agreements in March of 2007.
4. The current federal government is replacing the national childcare plan with individual payments to families with children that are in fact taxable family bonuses and will do nothing to further develop a national childcare program.
5. The suggested bonus of \$1200 a year will cover just over one month's cost for children under 18 months.
6. There is a lack of facilities for younger children, including those with parents who can afford to pay for child care.
7. The provincial government has been slow to raise opposition to this plan, despite very public concern expressed by other provinces, families and the childcare community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the City of Vancouver write a letter to the federal government urging that they maintain their commitment to the Federal Early Learning and Childcare Agreement.

2. THAT the City of Vancouver write a letter to the province encouraging them to be more proactive in opposing the elimination of a national childcare program.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Ball

THAT the resolves of the motion be struck and replaced with:

1. THAT Council acknowledge that the primary responsibility for funding and administering comprehensive childcare programs rests with senior levels of government.
2. THAT Council affirm its commitment to work cooperatively and in partnership with the provincial and federal government to ensure we meet the city's overall targets for developing new child care spaces.
3. THAT Mayor and Council write a letter to senior levels of government indicating that every effort should be made to ensure Vancouver families have access to affordable and accessible child care through the establishment of a national child care program.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT paragraph 3 of the resolves be amended as follows:

- strike the phrase "establishment of" and replace with the word "established"; and
- add the phrase "and support for its continuation" following the word "program".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendments having been approved, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION AS AMENDED

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver has a long tradition of providing leadership in the development and support of licensed, non-profit childcare.

2. The previous federal government committed almost \$5 billion over 5 years to establish a national childcare program, of which \$633 million was to come to BC.
3. The current federal government promised to rip up these agreements in March of 2007.
4. The current federal government is replacing the national childcare plan with individual payments to families with children that are in fact taxable family bonuses and will do nothing to further develop a national childcare program.
5. The suggested bonus of \$1200 a year will cover just over one month's cost for children under 18 months.
6. There is a lack of facilities for younger children, including those with parents who can afford to pay for child care.
7. The provincial government has been slow to raise opposition to this plan, despite very public concern expressed by other provinces, families and the childcare community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT Council acknowledge that the primary responsibility for funding and administering comprehensive childcare programs rests with senior levels of government.
2. THAT Council affirm its commitment to work cooperatively and in partnership with the provincial and federal government to ensure we meet the city's overall targets for developing new child care spaces.
3. THAT Mayor and Council write a letter to senior levels of government indicating that every effort should be made to ensure Vancouver families have access to affordable and accessible child care through the established national child care program, and support for its continuation.

The Committee adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 2, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 5:51 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie

ABSENT: Councillor Suzanne Anton (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor David Cadman (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Lee
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Planning and Environment March 2, 2006

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment. Its items of business included:

1. University of British Columbia: Future Plans
2. 3669 West 4th Avenue - Private Liquor Store
Development Application Number DE409920
3. 6169 Fraser Street - Private Liquor Store
Development Application Number DE409667
4. Support for Childcare

Items 1-4

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of March 2, 2006, as contained in items 1 to 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Chow

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Suspension of Fraser Street Local Shopping Area (LSA) for Development Applicants for Liquor Stores (VanRIMS No. 01-600-10)

Councillor Louie requested staff provide an information memo on the advisability of suspending the Fraser Street Local Shopping Area as a considered area for development applicants for liquor stores.

2. Including Spirits in Beer and Wine Stores: Rationalization of Process and Neighbourhood Consultation (VanRIMS No. 01-600-10)

Councillor Ladner requested staff provide an information memo on the advisability of including spirits in beer and wine stores and whether the process can be rationalized with or without going through neighbourhood consultation.

The Council adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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