



CITY OF VANCOUVER

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 13, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Peter Ladner, Chair
- Mayor Sam Sullivan*
- Councillor Suzanne Anton
- Councillor Elizabeth Ball
- Councillor David Cadman
- Councillor Kim Capri*
- Councillor George Chow*
- Councillor Heather Deal
- Councillor B.C. Lee
- Councillor Raymond Louie, Vice-Chair
- Councillor Tim Stevenson*

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- Judy Rogers, City Manager
- James Ridge, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

- Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of February 28, 2008, were adopted.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT agenda item 3 be adopted on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Capri, Chow, Stevenson and the Mayor absent for the vote)

1. Allocation of City-Wide Development Cost Levies to Brant Villa Day Care Society - Learning Tree Day Care

March 11, 2008 (VanRIMS No. 05-4000-30)

Staff from Social Planning was present to respond to questions.

The Committee heard from the Chair of the Day Care in support of staff's recommendation.

MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve a grant of up to \$595,000 to Brant Villa Day Care Society - Learning Tree Day Care, towards the replacement of the child care facilities. The source of funding to be \$595,000 in City-wide Development Cost Levies (Child Care Allocation) previously approved for the development of a 69 space City-owned Brant Street child care hub.
- B. THAT Council authorize the City to enter into an agreement with Brant Villa Day Care Society to:
 - a) set out the terms upon which the grant will be released
 - b) govern the construction of the replacement child care facility
 - c) grant a license to Brant to use that portion of the lands shown heavy outlined on the plan attached as Schedule A to the Administrative Report dated March 11, 2008, entitled "Allocation of City-Wide Development Cost Levies to Brant Villa Day Care Society - Learning Tree Day Care" as a child care facility on the terms set out in Schedule B of the aforementioned report, and as determined by the Director of Facilities Design and Management and the Director of Social Planning, it being understood that no legal rights are created hereby and none shall arise until this agreement is drawn to the satisfaction of the Direction of Legal Services and executed by her on behalf of the City.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillors Chow, Stevenson and the Mayor absent for the vote)

2. 918 Granville Street - 0692591 BC Ltd, Liquor Primary Liquor License

February 25, 2008 (VanRIMS No. 11-4600-23)

Staff from Licenses and Inspections and the Vancouver Police Department responded to questions.

The Committee heard from the applicant in support of this application and in opposition to staff's recommendation.

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT this matter be postponed for 60 days in order to receive a report back with the following additional information related to this application:

- comments from heritage staff and experts in the community on the heritage implications;
- invite input from BarWatch;
- information on how this proposed facility fits with the Granville Street redesign;
- comments from Cultural Affairs staff on how this application might fit into the strategy for cultural facilities and venues for non-profit groups in the City; and

FURTHER THAT staff be requested to include in the report back details on the impact of closing the other Liquor Primary referenced facilities discussed this day; and

FURTHER THAT the applicant be requested to submit examples of his successful business plans for similar businesses, and details of the kind of activities planned for 918 Granville Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(The Mayor absent for the vote)

3. 2008 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging Program
February 25, 2008 (VanRIMS No. 05-4200-10)

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the continuation of the three-year land assessment averaging program in 2008, for the purpose of calculating taxes for Residential (Class 1), Light Industry (Class 5) and Business/Other (Class 6) properties, by approving the bylaw that will come before Council later this day.
- B. THAT, subject to the approval of A above, the Director of Finance be authorized to make appropriate arrangements with the BC Assessment Authority for the production of an averaged 2008 taxation roll at an approximate cost of \$20,000; source of funding to be the 2008 Operating Budget.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**4. Public Consultation on the Property Tax Policy Review Commission
Recommendations**

February 27, 2008 (VanRIMS No. 05-4200-10)

At its meeting on March 11, 2008, Vancouver City Council heard a Report Reference and referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets, on March 13, 2008, in order to hear from delegations.

Staff from Financial Planning and Treasury responded to questions.

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of staff's recommendations A and B and Consideration Items C, D and E.

The Committee heard from two speakers in opposition to Consideration Items C, D and E as set out in the report.

MOVED by Councillor Capri

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council instruct staff to seek an amendment to the Vancouver Charter, to allow the City to use up to five years of land assessments in the land assessment averaging formula available to the City for the calculation of property taxes, as compared to the current formula which allows for three-year land averaging only.
- B. THAT, if the Charter amendment described in A is approved, Council instruct the General Manager of Corporate Services to report back with an analysis that compares the use of five-year land averaging to three-year land averaging in the calculation of property taxes, with respect to their respective efficacy in mitigating year-over-year volatility in property taxes for individual properties.
- C. THAT Council approve a target redistribution of the tax levy, that would shift \$23.8 million proportionately from Classes 2, 4, 5 and 6, to Classes 1, 8 and 9, in order to achieve the Property Tax Policy Review Commission's recommended tax levy distribution of 48% non-residential and 52% residential.
- D. THAT in order to achieve the target redistribution described in C, Council reduce the tax share borne by the non-residential property classes (Classes 2, 4, 5 and 6) at a rate of one percent of the overall tax levy per year, and increase the share borne by the residential classes (Classes 1, 8, and 9) by the same amount until a total of \$23.8 million has been shifted from the non-residential property classes to the residential property classes.

- E. THAT following the achievement of the recommended target tax redistribution described in C, Council keep the tax distribution shares unchanged for a period of five years.

carried

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT C, D and E of the above motion be struck and substituted with the following:

THAT Council approve a question on the November ballot asking voters if they want to keep the present tax ratio where residential property owners pay 47 percent of the City's property taxes, or approve a tax shift that would see taxes shift from business classes to residential classes at 1 percent a year for five years until residential taxpayers pay 53 percent of the City's property taxes.

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Chow, Deal, Ladner, Lee, Louie and Stevenson and the Mayor opposed)

The amendment having LOST, the motion was put. Council agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion, with A and B voted on in one vote, and C, D and E voted on in one vote.

The motion was CARRIED, with Councillors Cadman, Chow, Deal, Louie and Stevenson opposed to C, D and E.

The Committee adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 13, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 12:58 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner*
Councillor B.C. Lee

ABSENT: Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Chow
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets March 13, 2008

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

1. Allocation of City-Wide Development Cost Levies to Brant Villa Day Care Society - Learning Tree Day Care
2. 918 Granville Street - 0692591 BC Ltd, Liquor Primary Liquor License
3. 2008 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging Program
4. Public Consultation on the Property Tax Policy Review Commission Recommendations

Items 1-4

MOVED by Councillor Lee

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of Thursday, March 13, 2008, as contained in items 1 - 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
ITEM 1 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ball

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Capri
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

THAT Council enact the by-law listed on the agenda for this meeting as number 1 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-law.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. A By-law to Average Land Assessments for 2008 (By-law No. 9615)

MOTIONS

A. Administrative Motions

None.

B. Motions on Notice

1. Increase Healthy Food Options in Vancouver

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

WHEREAS the current selection of food sold through street vendors does not reflect the wide variety of cultures and tastes in Vancouver, nor does it provide a range of healthy, nutritional options (as defined by Canada's Food Guide);

WHEREAS a wider selection of food sold through Street Vendors could allow for expanding the use of locally grown food, creating local economic benefits and increasing our food security;

WHEREAS one in four children in Canada are overweight;

WHEREAS there are direct links between poverty and obesity;

WHEREAS every person in Vancouver should have access to affordable, nutritional food in their neighbourhood;

WHEREAS there are low-income neighbourhoods that are underserved by food options that are both affordable and nutritional;

WHEREAS increasing nutritional food options in Vancouver will help our city achieve its health and well-being goals as part of the *Active Communities* initiative, as well as the principles of Vancouver's Food Charter;

WHEREAS New York City has recently introduced a "Green Carts" program to facilitate access to healthy food in neighbourhoods throughout the city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Council request that staff work with the Vancouver Food Policy Council to provide a report on how to proceed with:

1. Expanding the variety of food sold through street vendors in the City of Vancouver, with a focus on foods that are nutritious and represent the cultural diversity of Vancouver;
2. Expanding the geographical area in which street vendors selling food can operate in the City of Vancouver;
3. Increasing access to affordable, nutritious food in low-income communities through the Street Vendor program; and

FURTHER THAT staff seek input from those parties that might be impacted e.g. BIAs, to identify any issues with regard to this proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Ladner absent for the vote)

2. Stratford Hall School - Property Tax Issues

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

WHEREAS Stratford Hall School is a school and is exempt from property taxes; and

WHEREAS Stratford Hall School may have paid more property taxes than are equitably required;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT staff be requested to report back on the property tax issues relating to Stratford Hall School.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Ladner absent for the vote)

The Council adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

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