

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

JUNE 24, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at 2:06 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson*
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerry Jang*
Councillor Raymond Louie*
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Tim Stevenson (Sick Leave)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager
Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting of June 10, 2010, were adopted.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth

THAT the Committee adopt Item 4 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

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VARY THE AGENDA

The Committee agreed to vary the agenda to deal with item 6 prior to item 5 in order to hear from speakers. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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1. Vancouver City Planning Commission 2009 Report and 2010 Work Plan
June 9, 2010

The Vancouver City Planning Commission Chair reviewed the report and responded to questions. The City Manager and Director of Planning also responded to questions.

The Committee heard from four speakers, two of whom were opposed to the proposed work plan, and two who requested strengthening involvement of Vision Implementation Committees and non-visioning neighbourhoods.

MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive the Vancouver City Planning Commission's 2009 report and 2010 work plan for information;

FURTHER THAT it be noted the "Sustainable City, Sustainable Neighbourhoods" is an initiative of the Vancouver City Planning Commission, not the City of Vancouver;

AND FURTHER THAT in Council's opinion, the proposed project would have a higher advisory value to Council if more pre-planning time were taken to:

- (a) meet with and consider existing Vision Implementation Committees' plans and work;
- (b) develop more robust strategies for outreach to neighbourhoods without Vision Implementation Committees; and
- (c) meet with the Greenest City Planning Team (GCAT) and consider how this work fits into their current engagement work on the GCAT 2020 plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Jang absent for the vote)

2. Proposed Amendment to Subdivision By-law Number 5208 - Reclassification of 2552 East 54th Avenue
May 31, 2010

The Subdivision Approving Officer responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the application to reclassify the property at 2552 East 54th Avenue from Category B to Category A of Schedule A, Table 1, of Subdivision By-law Number 5208.

- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law for enactment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor Robertson and Councillor Jang absent for the vote)

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At 3:59 pm Councillor Reimer stepped down from the Chair, and Councillor Deal as Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair. Prior to hearing speakers for item 3, Councillor Reimer returned at 4:22 pm and resumed the Chair.

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3. Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study
June 11, 2010

Planning and Engineering staff reviewed the report and along with the City Manager, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from six speakers, five of whom were in support of the study and some of whom provided additional comments.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council endorse undertaking a Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study on a phased basis, generally in accordance with the Terms of Reference in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated June 11, 2010, entitled "Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study".
- B. THAT Council approve the request for consultants, temporary staffing and other program components to undertake a first phase of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study as outlined in the budget in Appendix B, at a cost not exceeding \$300,000; source of funds to be \$300,000 from the 2010 Streets Basic Capital Budget and direct the City Manager to return to Council with the results of phase one and for direction on next steps.
- C. THAT the "Land Use Options Analysis" section in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated June 11, 2010, entitled "Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study", include:
- "4. Exploration of opportunities for increased recreation and cultural facilities."
- D. THAT the following be added to the end of no. 3 of the "Land Use Options Analysis" section in Appendix A of the Administrative Report

dated June 11, 2010, entitled "Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study":
"being mindful of meeting Council's objectives to build more
affordable housing."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Jang absent for the vote)

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At this point in the proceedings, it was

MOVED by Councillor Deal

*THAT, under Section 2.3 (c) of the Procedure By-law, Council extend the length
of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting to 6:30 pm.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Councillor Jang absent for the vote)*

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Deal

*THAT the Committee postpone Item 5 to deal with Item 6 which has registered
speakers.*

*CARRIED
(Councillor Anton opposed)
(Councillor Jang absent for the vote)*

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4. Canada Day Fireworks
June 18, 2010

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve a grant of \$10,000 to the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society
to help offset the costs of purchasing and presenting a Canada Day fireworks
show in Burrard inlet off Canada Place; source of funds to be 2010 Contingency
Reserve.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

5. Development Cost Levies: September 2010 Inflationary Rate Adjustments for the Vancouver (City-wide) and Area Specific DCL By-Laws
June 14, 2010

Planning staff responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the full inflationary adjustment of the Vancouver (City-wide) DCL By-law rates, with new rates to be effective September 30, 2010 as follows:
- i. From \$7.70/square foot (\$82.88/m²) to \$10.42/square foot (\$112.16/m²) for residential development at a density greater than 1.2 FSR and for non-residential (e.g. commercial and retail) development;
 - ii. From \$2.20/square foot (\$23.68/m²) to \$2.43/square foot (\$26.16/m²) for residential development with an FSR of 1.2 or less and for a laneway house; and
 - iii. From \$3.10/square foot (\$33.37/m²) to \$4.17/square foot (\$44.89/m²) for development in an industrial zone;

AND FURTHER THAT Council hold unchanged the nominal Vancouver DCL By-Law rates for school, parking garage, child care, temporary building, and community energy centre uses.

- B. THAT Council approve the following inflationary rate adjustments for the Area Specific DCL By-law Districts:
- i. Full inflationary rate adjustments, as shown in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated June 14, 2010, entitled "Development Cost Levies: September 2010 Inflationary Rate Adjustments for the Vancouver (City-wide) and Area Specific DCL By-Laws", to the following Area Specific DCL Districts: Arbutus; Burrard Slopes; Cedar Cottage/Welwyn Street; Downtown South; Dundas/Wall; False Creek Flats; Grandview Boundary; Oakridge/Langara; and South East False Creek, with new DCL rates to be effective September 30, 2010.
 - ii. Limited inflationary rate adjustment to the Triangle West DCL District from \$9.36/square foot (\$100.75/m²) to the recommended City-wide DCL rate of \$10.42/square foot (\$112.16) for residential development at a density greater than 1.2 FSR and for non-residential (e.g. commercial and retail) development, with the new DCL rate to be effective September 30, 2010;

FURTHER THAT Staff report back to Council on a review of the Triangle West Public Benefit Strategy and any further DCL rate adjustments by July 2011;

AND FURTHER THAT Council hold unchanged the nominal Area Specific DCL By-Law rates in all Area Specific DCL Districts for school, parking garage, surface parking lot, child care, temporary building, works yard and community energy centre uses.

- C. THAT Council instruct staff to notify the development industry and affected stakeholders regarding Council approved changes to the Vancouver (City-wide) DCL rates and all Area Specific DCL rates prior to by-law amendments.
- D. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward amendments to the Vancouver DCL By-law No. 9755 and the Area-Specific DCL By-law No. 9418 to implement the inflation adjusted DCL rates for September 30, 2010, generally in accordance with Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated June 14, 2010, entitled "Development Cost Levies: September 2010 Inflationary Rate Adjustments for the Vancouver (City-wide) and Area Specific DCL By-Laws".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on June 22, 2010, referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on June 24, 2010, in order to hear from speakers.

WHEREAS:

- 1. The poverty rate in British Columbia continues to be among the highest in Canada, and child poverty rates in B.C. have been the highest of any province for six years in a row;
- 2. At least six Canadian provinces either have poverty reduction plans or are in the process of developing them;
- 3. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has launched a call to the Government of British Columbia for a comprehensive poverty reduction plan that includes legislated targets and timelines;
- 4. The Coalition has supported its call with an open letter "A Call for BC Poverty Reduction Plan";
- 5. An increasing number of municipalities, organizations and individuals have endorsed the Coalition's open letter;
- 6. In "Mending Canada's frayed social safety net: The role of municipal governments" (<http://www.fcm.ca/english/View.asp?mp=1&x=1297>), the report looks at poverty statistics in 24 Canadian metropolitan areas with a total of 17 million people (54% of Canada's

population). Of the 24 cities, Vancouver has the highest percent of population with low income; the highest percent of working poor families; and the largest and fastest growing income gap between rich and poor. Welfare income was also very low in Vancouver, and Vancouver had the second highest number of households which paid more than 30% of their income for rent and/or lived in inadequate housing. In March 2009 26.6 % of Vancouver residents had low incomes. Vancouver was also worst for "community affordability." That means that the combination of low income plus high cost of living makes the poorest fifth of Vancouver residents worse off than those in other cities;

7. A national call for an poverty elimination plan, supporting anti-poverty act, and sufficient social services through the Dignity for all Campaign organized by Canada Without Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice, strengthens the support for a BC poverty reduction strategy;
8. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, along with 350 other groups and 69 parliamentarians have recently endorsed the Dignity for All campaign demonstrating national support across municipalities and in government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council endorse the Coalition's open letter (as contained Appendix A of the motion) as well as the Dignity for All Campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council send the following resolution to UBCM and request that they sign both the open letter "A Call for BC Poverty Reduction Plan" (<http://bcpovertyreduction.ca/>) and the Dignity for All Campaign (<http://www.dignityforall.ca/>):

"Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia City of Vancouver

WHEREAS the poverty rate in British Columbia continues to be among the highest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS many impacts of poverty are experienced at the local level, and local residents pay for poverty in increased health care costs, higher crime, higher demand for community, social and charitable services, lack of school readiness, reduced school success, and lower economic productivity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Government of British Columbia to follow the lead of several other provinces by adopting a comprehensive and accountable poverty reduction plan, with:

1. Legislated targets and timelines to:

- (a) reduce BC's poverty rate by 30 per cent within four years, and by 75 per cent within 10 years,
 - (b) ensure the poverty rate for children, lone-mother households, single senior women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities and mental illness, and recent immigrants and refugees likewise declines by 30 per cent in four years, and by 75 per cent in ten years, in recognition that poverty is concentrated in these populations,
 - (c) within two years, ensure that every British Columbian has an income that reaches at least 75 per cent of the poverty line,
 - (d) within two years, ensure no one has to sleep outside, and end all homelessness within eight years (ensuring all homeless people have good quality, appropriate housing).
2. Specific policy measures and concrete actions, including;
- (a) providing adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed, and removing policy barriers so that recipients can build and maintain assets,
 - (b) improving the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce,
 - (c) improving food security for low-income individuals and families,
 - (d) addressing homelessness and adopting a comprehensive affordable housing and supportive housing plan,
 - (e) providing universal publicly-funded child care,
 - (f) enhancing support for training and education for low-income people,
 - (g) enhancing community mental health and home support services, and expanding integrated approaches to prevention and health promotion services."

carried unanimously

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the motion.

Following the hearing of speakers, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Local Election Task Force Follow-up

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on June 22, 2010, referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on June 24, 2010, in order to receive information about the status of the meeting between Council's Subcommittee on Electoral Reform and the Provincial Minister.

The motion below contains a revision in B to the original motion, which was accepted by Committee.

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver made a submission to the BC Local Governments Elections Task Force on April 12, 2010;
2. The Task Force delivered its recommendations to the Province of British Columbia and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in the Report of the Local Government Elections Task Force on March 28, 2010;
3. While the Province should be commended for some excellent work, Vancouver City Council's unanimous call for contribution limits, ongoing political contributions disclosure, public financing and providing the City with the ability to institute the electoral system of its choice were not part of the Task Force's 31 recommendations;
4. Election contribution limits are particularly crucial to ensure that undue influence is taken out of municipal politics;
5. Since the Task Force has made its report public on May 28, the Task Force co-chair and then Minister of Community and Rural Development Bill Bennett has said he was willing to meet with Vancouver City Council to consider further changes for election campaigns in the City of Vancouver;
6. Many UBCM members have stated that the electoral reforms the City of Vancouver have advocated for are not relevant to the majority of BC's Municipal Governments; and

With election campaign spending nearly quadrupling from \$1.3 million in 2006 to over \$5 million in 2008, the electoral challenges facing Vancouver are unique when compared to the other 188 BC local governments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver bring a motion to the UBCM requesting that it ask the Provincial Government to implement a specific contribution limit for individual and organizational donors that respects the needs of different communities.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver bring a motion to the UBCM requesting that it endorse the City of Vancouver's right to seek additional changes to the Vancouver Charter to address outstanding electoral reforms that were not included in the Report of the Local Governments Elections Task Force.
- C. THAT the City of Vancouver bring a motion to the UBCM requesting that the Provincial government meet with the City of Vancouver as part of a process to develop new legislative provisions to solely improve the electoral process by the 2011 civic election for the City of Vancouver.

amended

The City Manager responded to questions.

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At 6:30 pm, it was

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT, under Section 2.3 (c) of the Procedure By-law, Council extend the length of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting by an additional ten minutes.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT the motion be struck and substituted with:

THAT the Mayor write a letter to the Provincial Government expressing our concerns for the omission of important items in our recommendations submitted to the Local Government Elections Task Force: contribution limits, on-going disclosure, ban on union/corporate/foreign donations, tax credits for political donations, as well as Vancouver's choice of electoral system;

AND FURTHER THAT a meeting with the Minister be requested to discuss legislative provisions that would improve the electoral process in Vancouver for the 2011 civic election.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the amendment be amended as follows:

- In paragraph 1 following the words "Provincial Government", insert the words "and the UBCM"; and
- In paragraph 2 following the words "legislative provisions", insert the words "including Vancouver Charter changes".

CARRIED
(Councillor Anton opposed)

The amendment to the amendment having CARRIED, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the Mayor write a letter to the Provincial Government and the UBCM expressing our concerns for the omission of important items in our recommendations submitted to the Local Government Elections Task Force: contribution limits, on-going disclosure, ban on union/corporate/foreign donations, tax credits for political donations, as well as Vancouver's choice of electoral system;

AND FURTHER THAT a meeting with the Minister be requested to discuss legislative provisions including Vancouver Charter changes that would improve the electoral process in Vancouver for the 2011 civic election.

The Committee adjourned at 6:30 pm

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

JUNE 24, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at 6:30 pm 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 Gregor Robertson
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Tim Stevenson (Sick Leave)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
June 24, 2010

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

1. Vancouver City Planning Commission 2009 Report and 2010 Work Plan
2. Proposed Amendment to Subdivision By-law Number 5208 - Reclassification of 2552 East 54th Avenue
3. Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study
4. Canada Day Fireworks
5. Development Cost Levies: September 2010 Inflationary Rate Adjustments for the Vancouver (City-wide) and Area Specific DCL By-Laws
6. Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia
7. Local Election Task Force Follow-up

Items 1 - 7

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of June 24, 2010, as contained in items 1 - 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

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 Cadman

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 6:31 pm

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