

B.7

MOTION ON NOTICE

7. Transparent Neighbourhood Consultation

MOVER: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS

1. Neighbourhoods across the City of Vancouver are engaged in making their communities and Vancouver as a whole work for everyone;
2. Neighbourhoods have serious concerns about transportation, safety, affordable housing, homelessness, density, spot rezonings and other community issues;
3. Many neighbourhoods have concerns about their ability to be fairly, accountably and transparently heard by City Council and staff;
4. Many citizens have raised concerns that existing planning processes such as visioning are taking too long, not reflecting the work or opinions of the volunteer community groups and associations, and not respecting community directions;
5. Many neighbourhoods have one or more volunteer neighbourhood association and community groups which address their neighbourhood issues within;
6. These associations do not have a clear mandate from the City of Vancouver to speak on behalf of their neighbourhoods to Council;
7. The existing planning processes and ad-hoc rezoning is not consistent with the City of Vancouver mission, values and objectives (as posted on the city website), and in fact fosters negative rather than positive consensus building in communities and neighbourhoods;
8. Honest and open collaboration and consensus-building between planning staff, community groups, individual citizens, and City Council is vital if we are to realize the City-supported goal of creating a Vancouver that is more engaged and open.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Council direct staff to immediately provide dedicated staff familiar with the city's planning process to provide dedicated support to community groups seeking information and clarification around proposed developments and rezonings, and any other area that will help allow community groups to gather information that can help them inform their neighbourhoods about the developments impacting them.

2. Council invite all broadly supported community groups and residents associations, including CityPlan Vision Committees, to work collaboratively with their dedicated planning staff contacts to reach consensus on an alternative planning and zoning processes that would strengthen neighbourhoods and allow staff and Council to benefit from transparent, grassroots input on planning, policy, land use and community issues.
3. The membership of the agreed upon alternative planning and zoning processes must take into consideration demographic info, the real lack of power of marginalized people, and the need for membership to be elected.

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