

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 3, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 2:10 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 Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs

ABSENT: Councillor Heather Deal, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence -
Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth (Sick Leave)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager
David McLellan, General Manager, Community Services Group

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the Committee adopt Item 2 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**1. Proposed Amendment to Subdivision By-law No. 5208 - Reclassification of
4888 Pine Crescent
February 10, 2011**

Permits and Licensing staff provided an overview of the report and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from four speakers; two of whom were in support of the recommendation, one who was opposed, and one who provided information on the neighbourhood.

MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council refuse the application to reclassify the property at 4888 Pine Crescent from Category E to Category B of Schedule A, Table 1, of Subdivision By-law No. 5208

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2. Proposed Amendment to Subdivision By-law No. 5208 - Reclassification of
2820 West 33rd Avenue
February 10, 2011**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

A. THAT Council approve the application to reclassify the property at 2820 West 33rd Avenue from Category D to Category A of Schedule A, Table 1, of Subdivision By-law No. 5208.

B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law to amend the Subdivision By-law implementing the required change.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**3. Metro Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1136
February 15, 2011**

Planning staff reviewed the report and along with the Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department, Metro Vancouver, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from five speakers; all of whom were opposed to the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

A. THAT the City of Vancouver accept the proposed Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1136, 2010, entitled "Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future".

- B. THAT the Policy Report dated February 15, 2011, entitled "Metro Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1136", and its recommendation be forwarded to Metro Vancouver.

CARRIED
(Councillors Anton and Cadman opposed)

4. Cuts to Family Reunification Program

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on March 1, 2011, referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on March 3, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced its intention to cut the number of immigrants admitted to Canada under the family reunification program to 11,000 in 2011 from 16,000 last year; and

WHEREAS there are already more than 100,000 waiting on the list for approval, meaning their wait times could double from six years to nearly 13 years according to immigration experts; and

WHEREAS family reunification has been one of the most important goals of thousands of Vancouver residents who have settled in our city; and

WHEREAS access to family reunification has been one of the commitments the Government of Canada has made to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have made their lives here in the expectation that ultimately they would be reunited in Canada with loved ones.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver appeal to the Federal Government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to reverse this decision and maintain family reunification approvals at least at current levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be forwarded to the LMLGA and the UBCM for their consideration.

carried

The Committee heard from one speaker who read comments on behalf of another who was in support of the recommendations.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the Motion be struck and replaced with the following:

WHEREAS:

1. The following motion has been proposed to council:

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced its intention to cut the number of immigrants admitted to Canada under the family reunification program to 11,000 in 2011 from 16,000 last year; and

WHEREAS there are already more than 100,000 waiting on the list for approval, meaning their wait times could double from six years to nearly 13 years according to immigration experts; and

WHEREAS family reunification has been one of the most important goals of thousands of Vancouver residents who have settled in our city; and

WHEREAS access to family reunification has been one of the commitments the Government of Canada has made to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have made their lives here in the expectation that ultimately they would be reunited in Canada with loved ones.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver appeal to the Federal Government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to reverse this decision and maintain family reunification approvals at least at current levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be forwarded to the LMLGA and the UBCM for their consideration.

2. The 2010 target range of family class immigrants is set out below with 59,029 actually receiving visas:

FAMILY CLASS (2010)		
Spouses, Partners and Children	42,000	45,000
Parents and Grandparents	15,000	18,000
Total Family Class	57,000	63,000

3. The 2011 target range for family class immigrants is set out below and shows an increase of 2500 over the 2010 numbers:

FAMILY CLASS (2011)		
Spouses, Partners and Children	45,500	48,000
Parents and Grandparents	13,000	17,500
Total Family Class	58,500	65,500

4. The statement "WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced its intention to cut the number of immigrants admitted to Canada under the family reunification program to 11,000 in 2011 from 16,000 last year" is incorrect in 3 ways: (a) the Government has made no such announcement; (b) the proposed target is greater than in 2010; and (c) the proposed target is in fact 65,500, not the 11,000 suggested in the motion.
5. Family immigration is targeted to be above current levels, and the motion to "maintain family reunification approvals at least at current levels" would be a request to do less not more.
6. The total immigration target range for 2011 is between 240,000 and 265,000 immigrants.
7. Total immigration to Canada for 2010 was 281,000, a 50 year high.
8. The City of Vancouver is enriched by ongoing strong immigration to Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver encourage the Government of Canada to continue with its recent strong immigration numbers.

LOST

(Councillors Cadman, Chow, Jang, Meggs, Reimer and the Mayor opposed)

The amendment having LOST, the motion was put and CARRIED with Councillor Anton opposed.

The Committee adjourned at 5:19 pm

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

MARCH 3, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 5:20 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 Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer

ABSENT: Councillor Heather Deal, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth (Sick Leave)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, 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
March 3, 2011

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

1. Proposed Amendment to Subdivision By-law No. 5208 - Reclassification of 4888 Pine Crescent
2. Proposed Amendment to Subdivision By-law No. 5208 - Reclassification of 2820 West 33rd Avenue
3. Metro Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1136
4. Cuts to Family Reunification Program

Items 1 - 4

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of March 3, 2011, as contained in items 1 to 4, 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 Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 5:21 pm

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