



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT

NOVEMBER 28, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at 9:35 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson*
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang*
Councillor Geoff Meggs, Vice Chair*
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Tony Tang*

ABSENT: Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Barbara Pearce, Deputy City Clerk
Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Ball
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT items 4 and 5 be adopted on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

1. Report Back on Methadone Maintenance Therapy Working Group

Penny Ballem, City Manager, provided a presentation on the methadone maintenance therapy working group, and along with Suzanne Solven, Deputy Registrar, College of Pharmacists of BC, and Tom Hammel, Deputy Chief Licence Inspector, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from two speakers who thanked Council and City staff for their work and leadership on the methadone maintenance therapy program and working group, and noted there is ongoing work to do, and recommended it is good idea to check back with stakeholders every six months to a year to ensure the program is moving forward.

2. Long Term Security for Community Gardens

At its Regular Council meeting on October 30, 2012, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on November 28, 2012, in order to hear from speakers, following the receipt of information from staff regarding ongoing work on the multiple types of community gardens in the city.

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan includes increasing the number of Community Gardens and garden plots towards the goal of a resilient and sustainable local food system;
2. Longer-tenured community gardens, such as the 22-year-old Cottonwood Garden on Malkin Avenue, offer more security and sustainability for gardeners and plants alike, enabling the growth of perennials, fruit and nut trees, seed-saving gardens and teaching gardens;
3. Community gardens, especially those lasting over decades, contribute to the health, well-being and community engagement of Vancouver residents;
4. Many of Vancouver's community gardens are temporary: established on lots awaiting development in exchange for property tax write-offs, and their loss would negatively impact our Greenest City, Healthy City and Livable City goals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on options to increase the long term security of Vancouver's Community Gardens on lands not under the governance of the Park Board or the School Board, especially older gardens such as Cottonwood Garden;

FURTHER THAT staff include in its report the cost of foregone property tax revenue from temporary community gardens on land slated for development.

carried

Mary Clare Zak, Director of Social Policy, provided an overview of current issues impacting community gardens, and along with Jerry Dobrovolny, Director of Transportation, Grace Cheng, Senior Manager, Long-Term Financial Planning, Financial Services, and James O'Neill, Social Policy, responded to questions.

* * * * *

At noon it was

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee extend the length of the meeting to finish the items on the agenda.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Councillors Meggs and Tang absent for the vote)*

At 12:30 pm, it was

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment recess until 2:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee reconvened at 2:06 pm with the same members present, except for Councillor Meggs and Mayor Robertson who were not in the Chamber.

* * * * *

The Committee heard from 19 speakers in support of the motion.

Following the hearing of speakers, Mr. Dobrovolny, Ms. Zak and Mr. O'Neill responded to questions from Council and to issues raised by the speakers.

Following questions to staff, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillor Jang and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote.

**3. Hasting Park/PNE Master Plan Implementation: Empire Fields, Plateau Park and Greenways - Adoption of Concept Plan
November 15, 2012**

Dave Hutch, Hastings Park/PNE Planning, Cultural Services, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from five speakers who noted concerns with the consultation process, and noted the plan does not secure year-round east-west and southward connections desired by neighbourhood residents.

Following the hearing of speakers, Mr. Hutch and Brenda Prosken, General Manager, Community Services responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council adopt the concept plan for Empire Fields, Plateau Park and Greenways in Hastings Park (as shown in Appendix A, B & C of the Administrative Report dated November 15, 2012, entitled "Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan Implementation: Empire Fields, Plateau Park and Greenways - Adoption of Concept Plan) as part of the implementation work on the Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan.
- B. THAT Council instruct staff to proceed to the next phase - construction tender and award - for Empire Fields, Plateau Park and Greenways in Hastings Park with source of funding to be the project budget for Hastings Park Greening (subject to approval of the 2013 Capital Budget).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Jang absent for the vote)

**4. Proposed New Maximum Fines in City By-Laws
November 5, 2012**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the proposed amendments to the by-laws as set out in Appendix B of the Administrative Report dated November 5, 2012, entitled "Proposed New Maximum Fines in City By-laws", to provide an increase to the current maximum fine and continuing offences.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary amending by-law, generally in accordance with Appendix B of the Administrative Report dated November 5, 2012, entitled "Proposed New Maximum Fines in City By-laws".
- C. THAT the proposed amendments to the Sign By-law and the Zoning and Development By-law, generally as set out in Appendix C of the Administrative Report dated November 5, 2012, entitled "Proposed New Maximum Fines in City By-laws", be referred to a public hearing.
- D. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary amending by-laws, generally in accordance with Appendix C of the

Administrative Report dated November 5, 2012, entitled "Proposed New Maximum Fines in City By-laws", for consideration at the public hearing.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**5. Approval of Council Initiatives - BIA Renewals
November 9, 2012**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

Dunbar Village BIA Renewal:

- A1. THAT Council re-confirm the Dunbar Village Business Association as sponsor for the Dunbar Village BIA.
- A2. THAT Council approve the commencement of a Council Initiative to re-establish (renew) the Dunbar Village BIA, for a further term (5 years) commencing April 1, 2013;

FURTHER THAT Council forward the application of the Dunbar Village Business Association to a hearing of the Court of Revision.

- A3. THAT the City notify property owners and tenants within the area (outlined in Appendix A1 of the Administrative Report dated November 9, 2012, entitled "Approval of Council Initiatives - BIA Renewals") of the proposed BIA renewal and levy.
- A4. THAT Council approve a 5-year (2013-2018) funding-ceiling of \$950,000 for the Dunbar Village BIA, subject to Council approval of the renewal at the Court of Revision.

Robson Street BIA Renewal:

- B1. THAT Council re-confirm the Robson Street Business Association as sponsor for the Robson Street BIA.
- B2. THAT Council approve the commencement of a Council Initiative to re-establish (renew) the Robson Street BIA, for a further term (5 years) commencing April 1, 2013;

FURTHER THAT Council forward the application of the Robson Street Business Association to a hearing of the Court of Revision.

- B3. THAT the City notify property owners and tenants within the area (outlined in Appendix B1 of the Administrative Report dated November 9, 2012, entitled "Approval of Council Initiatives - BIA Renewals") of the proposed BIA renewal and levy.

- B4. THAT Council approve a 5-year (2013-2018) funding-ceiling of \$2,995,944 for the Robson Street BIA, subject to Council approval of the renewal at the Court of Revision.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

* * * * *

The Committee recessed at 5:00 pm and reconvened at 5:18 pm, with the same members present, except for Councillors Jang and Stevenson and Mayor Robertson who were not in the Chamber.

* * * * *

**6. 800 Robson Street: Strategy for Moving Towards a Public Plaza
November 20, 2012**

Jenniffer Sheel, Engineering Services, presented the report.

Council heard from two speakers in support of the recommendations and three speakers who addressed other issues related to the report.

Following the hearing of speakers Jerry Dobrovolny, Director of Transportation, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council direct staff to re-open the 800-block of Robson Street on December 1, 2012 to vehicle traffic, and prepare for a summer seasonal closure aligned with TransLink's regular schedule changes.
- B. THAT staff continue to work on addressing the issues raised by the public and report back to Council no later than July 2013 on impacts, challenges and opportunities for potentially creating a permanent public square on the 800-block of Robson Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Jang and Meggs absent for the vote)

7. Support the Taxi Industry

At its meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, in order to hear from speakers.

The following motion contains amendments to the original motion.

WHEREAS

1. The Passenger Transportation Board has recently allowed non-Vancouver taxi companies certain rights to pick up passengers in Vancouver;
2. Vancouver City Council has not supported such applications in the past and may wish to re-examine these applications now;
3. The Round Table of industry representatives and the city has devoted considerable time to issues relating to taxi service in Vancouver; and
4. Evidence suggests a high rate of non-compliance by out-of-town taxis in Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff are requested to report back to Council following consultation with the Taxi Industry Roundtable:

1. A discussion of service gaps, if any, in Vancouver and possible strategies to address such gaps;
2. The impact of recent rulings of the Passenger Transportation Board relating to licenses in Vancouver and the impact on companies and service in Vancouver;
3. Recommendations as to additional enforcement measures which may be undertaken in Vancouver.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to write to the Passenger Transportation Board (the "Board"), on behalf of Council and before November 30 2012, in support of the Vancouver Taxi Association's application regarding the Board's amendments to the boundaries for the Downtown Vancouver Entertainment district, and to clarify the Granville Entertainment District boundaries.

carried

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

Penny Ballem, City Manager, and Tom Hammel, Deputy Chief Licence Inspector, responded to questions.

Following the hearing of speakers, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Councillors Jang and Meggs absent for the vote.

8. Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia

At its meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, in order to hear from speakers.

WHEREAS

1. On June 22, 2010 Vancouver City Council passed a motion endorsing the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition's Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan;
2. The poverty rate for people of all ages in B.C. fell slightly to 11.5 percent in 2010 from 12 percent in 2009 but the province has had the worst poverty rate in Canada for 12 consecutive years and the worst child poverty rate in Canada for the past eight years;
3. BC is one of only three Canadian provinces that does not have a Poverty Reduction Plan;
4. A Fall 2011 study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives estimates that poverty costs British Columbia \$8.1 billion to \$9.2 billion every year;
5. The percentage of people living in poverty in Vancouver, as defined by an income below the Low Income Cut Off line, is the highest of any city in Canada at 17.8 %;
6. 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council reaffirms its endorsement of the Coalition's Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan.

carried

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion.

Following the hearing of the speaker, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Councillors Jang and Meggs absent for the vote.

The Committee adjourned at 7:19 pm

* * * * *



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

NOVEMBER 28, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at 7:19 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Tony Tang

ABSENT: Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Geoff Meggs

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Tang
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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, Transportation and Environment
November 28, 2012

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

1. Report Back on Methadone Maintenance Therapy Working Group
2. Long Term Security for Community Gardens
3. Hasting Park/PNE Master Plan Implementation: Empire Fields, Plateau Park and Greenways - Adoption of Concept Plan
4. Proposed New Maximum Fines in City By-Laws
5. Approval of Council Initiatives - BIA Renewals
6. 800 Robson Street: Strategy for Moving Towards a Public Plaza
7. Support the Taxi Industry
8. Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia

Items 1 to 8

MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment at its meeting of Wednesday, November 28, 2012, as contained in items 1 to 8, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Affleck

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Tang
SECONDED by Councillor Reimer

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 7:20 pm

* * * * *