



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

APRIL 16, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 9:37 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

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

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager
Mukhtar Latif, Chief Housing Officer

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT items 2 and 3 be adopted on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

1. **Digital Strategy Update: Leveraging Social Media for Better Citizen Engagement**

The Chief Digital Officer presented an update on the City's Digital Strategy, specifically regarding leveraging social media for better citizen engagement, and responded to questions.

**2. Single Room Accommodation Permit for Universal Rooms
(39, 41 and 49 East Hastings Street)
April 4, 2014**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve a Single Room Accommodation Permit for the Universal Rooms, located at 39, 41 and 49 East Hastings [Lots 25, 26 and 27, Block 8, District Lot 196, Plan 184; PIDs: 015-691-284, 015-691-292 and 015-691-314 respectively] for the demolition of 37 SRA-designated units to be replaced with at least 102 units of self-contained social and supportive housing with the balance being secured market rental. Of the 102 new units, 52 units will be supportive housing with 24/7 staffing supports and 50 units will be below market social housing.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**3. 2014 Property Taxation - Distribution of Property Tax Levy
April 14, 2014**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council instruct the Director of Finance to calculate the 2014 general purpose tax rates for all property classes to achieve a tax distribution of approximately 54.1 percent residential and 45.9 percent non-residential.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4. Changes in Social and Supportive Housing: Impact on Homelessness

The City Manager provided a presentation regarding the changes in social and supportive housing and impacts on homelessness, and along with the General Manager, Community Services and Housing Policy staff, responded to questions.

**5. Urban Forest Strategy Action Item 1 - Repeal of Section 4.5 of the Protection of Trees By-law
March 31, 2014**

The General Manager, Parks and Recreation, along with the General Manager, Planning and Development Services, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from three speakers. Two in support of the recommendations and one opposed.

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At 11:59 am, it was

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the meeting be extended to complete item 5 and then recess and reconvene at 2 pm to complete the business on the agenda today.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Meggs absent for the vote)

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The Committee recessed at 12:33 pm and reconvened at 2:04 pm.

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MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council repeal Section 4.5 (issuance of one additional tree permit) of the Protection of Trees By-law No. 9958 to remove the provision allowing for the removal of one tree per year, and make housekeeping amendments to clarify the responsibility of owners and other persons, to comply with the By-law, in order to better protect trees on private property and the urban tree canopy;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be directed to bring forward the By-Law generally as set out in Appendix A of the Policy Report dated March 31, 2014, entitled "Urban Forest Strategy Action Item 1 - Repeal of Section 4.5 of the Protection of Trees By-law".
- B. THAT Staff report back to Council on:
 - a. A mechanism for providing compassionate relief for those financially unable to undertake the arborist assessment of an unhealthy, or dangerous, tree;
 - b. An expedited and low cost alternative to an arborist report for assessing trees that are clearly dead or pose an immediate danger to property;
 - c. An additional provision in the By-law to allow for removal in cases where the retention of an otherwise healthy tree would cause undue hardship;
 - d. Waiving the application fee for a tree permit to remove a tree as described in a, b and c above.
- C. THAT staff monitor the new program and provide a report back to Council no later than June 2016 on the impact of the new By-law including the number of permits issued and denied, the number and nature of applications, and a financial analysis of the reduced revenue from permits.

- D. THAT Vancouver City Council approve in principle the Urban Forest Strategy and that the City Manager, along with the Corporate Management Team and in consultation with residents and stakeholders, report back to Council with recommendations and estimated financial implications for implementation of priority actions identified in the Urban Forest Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. The Pollinator Project

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, to hear from speakers.

Parks and Recreation staff responded to questions.

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

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Bumble bees, honey bees, butterflies, and other pollinators provide essential ecosystem services by pollinating crops, backyard gardens, fruit trees, and native plants;
2. Honeybee health is declining across North America and many of our native pollinators are susceptible to the same adverse effects of industrial agriculture, urbanization, disease, and pesticide use;
3. Many public green spaces in Vancouver are inhospitable to pollinators because of predominance of frequently maintained turf areas, lack of native plants, and loss of overwintering habitats;
4. Vancouver's Food Strategy includes actions supporting pollinators and community gardens that provide important pollinator habitat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT staff be directed to develop strategies for supporting pollinators as part of the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Action Plan.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver support the Vancouver Park Board in their efforts to:

- a. Raise public awareness about the value of pollinators, facilitate habitat enhancement projects, and assess and monitor pollinator populations.
 - b. Develop a brand for promoting pollinators across the city in spring 2014.
 - c. Test methods in 2014 for enhancing pollinators such as creating unmowed meadows, planting flowering trees and shrubs, using more native plants in park planting, and restoring overwintering habitats.
- C. THAT staff be directed to work with other City departments to enhance pollinator habitat on City-owned lands and development sites.
- D. THAT staff be directed to provide an update to Council no later than spring 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Stevenson absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 2:53 pm.

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**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES**

APRIL 16, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 2:54 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services 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 Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tony Tang

ABSENT: Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
April 16, 2014

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

1. Digital Strategy Update: Leveraging Social Media for Better Citizen Engagement
2. Single Room Accommodation Permit for Universal Rooms (39, 41 and 49 East Hastings Street)
3. 2014 Property Taxation - Distribution of Property Tax Levy
4. Changes in Social and Supportive Housing: Impact on Homelessness
5. Urban Forest Strategy Action Item 1 - Repeal of Section 4.5 of the Protection of Trees By-law
6. The Pollinator Project

Items 1 to 6

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Tang

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of April 16, 2014, as contained in items 1 to 6, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

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 amend Protection of Trees By-law No. 9958 regarding miscellaneous text amendments (By-law No. 10916)**

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 2:55 pm.

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