



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY 21, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 9:30 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

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

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk  
Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

#### VARY THE AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to deal with Item 5 after Item 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillors Ball, Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

*Note: For clarity, these minutes are recorded in chronological order.*

**1. 2015 Assessment Roll**

Paul Borgo, Acting Area Assessor, and Dharmesh Sisodraker, Deputy Assessor, BC Assessment, Vancouver Sea to Sky Region, presented the 2015 Assessment Roll and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Carr  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the 2015 Assessment Roll be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**2. 2015 Advance Grant Installments to Cultural Operating Organizations  
December 11, 2014**

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

MOVED by Councillor Ball  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve advance grant installments to 85 cultural operating organizations in the amount of \$1,140,000 in advance of their 2015 annual operating review as listed in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated December 11, 2014, entitled "2015 Advance Grant Installments to Cultural Operating Organizations".
- B. THAT Council approve the first quarter grant installments in the amount of \$988,600 to the five major exhibiting institutions beginning January 2015, in advance of their 2015 annual operating review, as listed in Table 1 of the Administrative Report dated December 11, 2014, entitled "2015 Advance Grant Installments to Cultural Operating Organizations".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

**5. Vancouver Bird Strategy Initiatives and Design Guidelines  
January 7, 2015**

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from five speakers in support of the recommendations, some of whom offered additional comments and suggestions.

The Deputy City Manager along with Parks and Recreation staff responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council adopt the Vancouver Bird Strategy (Attachment A of the Administrative Report dated January 7, 2015, entitled "Vancouver Bird Strategy Initiatives and Design Guidelines").
- B. THAT the draft Bird Friendly Design Guidelines (Appendix B of Attachment A, and Attachment B of the Administrative Report dated January 7, 2015, entitled "Vancouver Bird Strategy Initiatives and Design Guidelines"), be applied on a voluntary basis to encourage bird friendly design of buildings and landscapes in Vancouver.
- C. THAT the Bird Friendly Landscape Operational Guidelines (Attachment C of the Administrative Report dated January 7, 2015, entitled "Vancouver Bird Strategy Initiatives and Design Guidelines"), be used to ensure bird friendly management practices in parks and other public open spaces.
- D. THAT staff review the effectiveness of the Vancouver Bird Strategy guidelines and report back to Council within two years with any revisions that may be required to better achieve the goals of the Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Heritage Revitalization Agreement Amendment, Property Tax Exemption Incentive and Conversion Permit for the Boulder Hotel at 9 West Cordova Street December 12, 2014**

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

Housing Policy staff responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize the City to enter into an agreement to amend an existing Heritage Revitalization Agreement (the "HRA") currently registered on title to property having a civic address of 9 West Cordova Street (PID: 009-354-492; Lot B Block 2 Old Granville Townsite Plan 10753) (the "Property") and an adjacent parcel, to reflect the new development proposal for the Property set out in Development Permit Application No. DE417522 (the "New DP Application").
- B. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve the issuance of a conversion permit (the "Permit") pursuant to the *Single Room Accommodation By-law* No. 8733 (the "SRA By-law") for the Property, to remove 22 designated rooms from the SRA By-law and convert them to eight self-contained secured residential market rental dwelling units, on the condition that prior to the issuance of the Permit, the owner of the Property:

- (a) enters into an agreement with the City to amend the existing HRA for the rehabilitation of the building known as the Boulder Hotel located on the Property (the "Building") as proposed in the New DP Application;
  - (b) pays \$105,000 to be deposited into the City's reserve fund for the creation of replacement housing; and
  - (c) enters into and registers a housing covenant on title to the Property pursuant to section 219 of the *Land Title Act*, to the satisfaction of Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Managing Director of Social Development, requiring all eight units to be legally and beneficially owned by a single legal entity at all times and used only to provide rental housing for 60 years or the life of the Building, whichever is greater.
- C. THAT, subject to approval of A and B above, Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to prepare and bring forward for enactment under section 592(4) of the *Vancouver Charter* a by-law authorizing the City to enter into the agreement to amend the HRA.
- D. THAT, subject to approval of A, B and C above, Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to prepare a heritage property taxation exemption by-law for 9 West Cordova Street exempting the Property from real property taxation to a maximum amount of \$358,680 or for a period of (10) years, whichever first occurs;
- FURTHER THAT, subject to the assent of the electors to the real property tax exemption by-law or to their deemed approval, generally on the terms set out in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated December 12, 2014, entitled "Heritage Revitalization Agreement Amendment, Property Tax Exemption Incentive and Conversion Permit for the Boulder Hotel at 9 West Cordova Street", and in accordance with the requirements of Section 396A of the *Vancouver Charter*, the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the by-law for enactment.
- E. THAT the agreements and related by-laws shall be prepared, completed, registered and given priority on the title of the Property to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Planning and the Managing Director of Social Development, provided that no legal rights or obligations are created and none shall arise until such by-laws have been enacted and agreements have been entered into.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillor Reimer and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

\* \* \* \* \*

*At 12:00 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Meggs*

*THAT the meeting be extended to complete all items on the agenda.*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**4. 2013 Annual Report on Community Amenity Contributions and Density Bonusing  
October 16, 2014**

The Committee heard from one speaker in support and two in opposition to the recommendations.

The City Manager, along with the Chief Housing Officer and Planning and Development Services staff, responded to questions.

The Administrative Report dated October 16, 2014, entitled "2013 Annual Report on Community Amenity Contributions and Density Bonusing", was received for information.

**6. Urgent Action on Campaign Finance Reform**

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, to hear from a speaker.

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

MOVED by Councillor Reimer  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. In 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013 via a motion endorsed near unanimously by the UBCM, and in 2014, the City of Vancouver has brought forward formal requests to the Province requesting changes to the Vancouver Charter to allow Vancouver to create appropriate rules for municipal election campaign finance;
2. The funds used to campaign for elected office in Vancouver have grown 175% in the ten years Vancouver has waited for Provincial action on this issue, with the unprecedented case in the 2011 Vancouver municipal election of \$960,000 donated to one electoral organization from a single corporation and more than \$5.2 million spent by all parties;

3. All indications are that the 2014 election exceeded these markers, and the attempt at voluntary "rules" failed utterly with two major parties admitting to inaccurate pre-election day disclosures;
4. City Council has previously unanimously agreed (on March 25, 2010, and again on January 31, 2012), to a set of minimum rules for campaign finance in Vancouver elections. These rules are attached as Appendix A to this motion (set out below) and include limits on campaign spending and contributions, bans on donations from corporations and unions, and provide for greater disclosure;
5. The Provincial Government established a special committee in October 2014 to look at the issue of campaign finance reform but, despite submissions from Vancouver residents and organizations calling for greater reforms and efforts by some MLAs, the terms of reference do not allow the committee to consider limits to contributions or bans on donations from corporations and unions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver urgently request that the Provincial Government expand the terms of reference for the Special Committee on Local Elections Expense Limits, to allow for consideration of changes to the *Vancouver Charter* as outlined in Appendix A to this motion (set out below), and which allow for limits on campaign spending and contributions, bans on donations from corporations and unions, and provide for greater disclosure:

APPENDIX A (from the minutes of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment Committee meeting on March 25, 2010 - <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100325/documents/penv20100325min.pdf>)

1. Set limits on the annual amount of contributions that can be given by an individual to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office.
2. Ban union and corporate donations.
3. Limit the amount of money that may be spent annually by an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office during a general local election campaign.
4. These limits on contributions and expenditures would be based upon a per-electoral/capita, per-candidate formula (with individual candidate resources allowed to be pooled for use by elector organizations) and would be no higher than provincial and federal spending limits.
5. Disallow contributions to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, from sources outside of Canada.
6. Require that all donations and expenses for candidates, elected officials and elector organizations be disclosed on a continuous basis at six month intervals.
8. Change the definition of "candidate" to include anyone seeking nomination within an elector organization for candidacy to a local government office.

9. Appoint the Provincial Chief Election Officer to oversee municipal elections in BC, and establish penalties and mechanisms for enforcement of offences under the amended local government elections legislation.
12. Provide local governments with the authority to use any method of elections they wish to use, and repeal the requirement for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval to adopt such a change.
13. Amend the definition of election offenses and related penalties to include individuals acting as an intermediary in third-party campaign contribution schemes.

NOTE: Items 7, 10 and 11 were removed as they do not directly relate to increasing municipal authority for campaign or electoral reform and were specific to questions posed by the Local Government Elections Task Force. They are provided below for reference.

7. Implement a system of tax credits for municipal donations, similar to those for provincial and federal elections.
10. Extend municipal terms of office to four years.
11. Oppose allowing corporations the right to vote in local elections.

carried

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Affleck

THAT the motion entitled "Urgent Action on Campaign Finance Reform", be referred back to staff.

LOST

(Councillors Carr, Deal, Jang, Meggs, Reimer and Stevenson opposed)  
(Councillor Louie and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

The referral motion having lost, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Councillor Louie and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote.

## 7. Review of the 2014 City of Vancouver Civic Election

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, to hear from speakers.

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

The Chief Election Officer responded to questions.

The following motion contains amendments to the original motion, which were accepted by the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Affleck  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Voter turnout increased by 8.8 points in the 2014 Vancouver election;
2. This is the first time that the City of Vancouver has allowed voters to vote at any polling station in the city;
3. There were several media reports of confusion and irregularities at polling stations, including but not limited to insufficient ballots, inconsistent identification checking and other technical issues;
4. There were media reports of eligible voters, including seniors and persons with disabilities, being discouraged by long waits;
5. There were reports of inconsistent information on the role of Elections BC in the civic election process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) THAT staff report back to Council to present any official list of public complaints submitted to the City of Vancouver regarding the 2014 civic election.
- (b) THAT staff report back to Council to provide information to the public on the processes and procedures during the 2014 City of Vancouver Civic Election, and the statutory role of Elections BC in municipal elections processes and procedures.

amended

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*The Committee recessed at 1:44 pm and reconvened at 2:23 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Reimer

THAT the following be referred to the Regular Council on February 3, 2015, as Unfinished Business:

THAT staff report back to Council to provide analysis on what factors were considered most significant to the 26% increase in voter turnout between the 2011 and 2014 municipal elections.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors Louie and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)



REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Reimer

THAT the following be referred to Regular Council on February 3, 2015, as Unfinished Business:

THAT staff report back to Council to provide recommendations for the membership and terms of reference for an independent committee with a broad mandate to:

- (i) survey candidates and parties as to their experience in the election;
- (ii) review whether the allocation of resources from Council is sufficient to meet expectations in an election; and
- (iii) (create a plan for advancing previous Council directives to staff regarding electoral procedures including:
  - Request to Province for ability to implement campaign finance reforms including limits to contributions and a ban on corporate and union donations;
  - Request to Province for ability to use proportional voting systems;
  - Request to Province to make anonymous balloting data available in open data format after an election;
  - Request to Province to conduct an online voting pilot;
  - Recommendations 14-18 from the Engaged City Task Force, and recommendation 07.2 from the Healthy City Strategy.

CARRIED

(Councillors Affleck, Ball and De Genova opposed)  
(Councillors Louie and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added at the end of the motion:

- (c) THAT staff report back to Council to provide the Chief Elections Officer's review of the 2014 civic election, including her recommendations to improve processes and procedures, for the next election.

CARRIED

(Councillor De Genova opposed)  
(Councillors Louie and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillor Louie and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS

1. Voter turnout increased by 8.8 points in the 2014 Vancouver election;
2. This is the first time that the City of Vancouver has allowed voters to vote at any polling station in the city;
3. There were several media reports of confusion and irregularities at polling stations, including but not limited to insufficient ballots, inconsistent identification checking and other technical issues;
4. There were media reports of eligible voters, including seniors and persons with disabilities, being discouraged by long waits;
5. There were reports of inconsistent information on the role of Elections BC in the civic election process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) THAT staff report back to Council to present any official list of public complaints submitted to the City of Vancouver regarding the 2014 civic election.
- (b) THAT staff report back to Council to provide information to the public on the processes and procedures during the 2014 City of Vancouver Civic Election, and the statutory role of Elections BC in municipal elections processes and procedures.
- (c) THAT staff report back to Council to provide the Chief Elections Officer's review of the 2014 civic election, including her recommendations to improve processes and procedures, for the next election.

The Committee adjourned at 3:03 pm.

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

JANUARY 21, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 3:04 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:** Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer  
Councillor George Affleck  
Councillor Elizabeth Ball  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Melissa De Genova  
Councillor Heather Deal  
Councillor Kerry Jang  
Councillor Geoff Meggs  
Councillor Tim Stevenson

**ABSENT:** Mayor Gregor Robertson  
Councillor Raymond Louie

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk  
Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment  
January 21, 2015

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. 2015 Assessment Roll
2. 2015 Advance Grant Installments to Cultural Operating Organizations
3. Heritage Revitalization Agreement Amendment, Property Tax Exemption Incentive and Conversion Permit for the Boulder Hotel at 9 West Cordova Street
4. 2013 Annual Report on Community Amenity Contributions and Density Bonusing
5. Vancouver Bird Strategy Initiatives and Design Guidelines
6. Urgent Action on Campaign Finance Reform
7. Review of the 2014 City of Vancouver Civic Election

Items 1 to 7

MOVED by Councillor Jang  
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment at its meeting of January 21, 2015, as contained in items 1 to 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
ITEM 2 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal  
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 3:05 pm.

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