

MOTION ON NOTICE

9. Appointment of Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons

MOVER: Councillor Reimer

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. Council established the Engaged City Task Force, a committee of 22 residents, in 2012 to provide recommendations on how to improve engagement;
2. One of the most persistent barriers raised by residents trying to engage with City Hall is not knowing which Councillor to contact;
3. The Engaged City Task Force recommended establishing Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons, based on the 22 planning areas in Vancouver, and Council supported this recommendation when it accepted the task force's interim report in June 2013;
4. Staff have requested direction from Council on the structure of appointment of Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons in order that they can implement this outstanding recommendation;
5. School and Park Board have had a system of elected liaisons to schools and community centres respectively in place for many years to ensure residents with concerns have an initial point of contact, while still being able to contact all elected members;
6. The School and Park Board system of appointment consists of elected members providing their preferences to the Chair of the respective boards and the Chair makes a recommendation to the full board for approval;
7. This practice is consistent with the approach currently used by Council to appoint Councillors to internal and external positions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council adopt the Neighbourhood Councillor Liaison appointment process as outlined in Appendix A.
- B. THAT staff be directed to conduct a review of the Neighbourhood Councillor Liaison function no later than the end of 2018, to assess if the function is meeting the expectations generally set out by the Engaged City Task Force and as outlined in Appendix B.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILLOR LIAISON APPOINTMENT PROCESS

1. The appointment of the Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons is to be initiated by the Mayor, or their designate.
2. Formal notice of a request for desired neighbourhoods will be issued by the Mayor, or their designate.
3. Upon receipt of this request, Councillors will have a minimum of two weeks to a maximum stipulated in the notice, to provide their request for desired neighbourhoods.
4. Submission of this request must be in written form and provide a ranked list of neighbourhoods with a minimum of ten ranked choices.
5. It is not mandatory but suggested that Councillors provide additional information that helps the Mayor, or their designate, assess the best fit for each neighbourhood. It may make sense for more than one Councillor to be recommended as a liaison to a neighbourhood.
6. The Mayor will make a recommendation to Council for appointment of the Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons at a subsequent Council meeting

VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS

For the purposes of community planning, Vancouver has 22 defined "Areas of the City".

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EXPECTATIONS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILLOR LIAISONS

- a. Expectations of Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons – excerpt from Engaged City Task Force Interim Report:

The city-wide election process prevents residents from formally having an identified go-to councillor for issues in their neighbourhood. The City should reinvigorate the Council liaison positions by requiring each councillor to represent specific neighbourhoods in Vancouver, and working with local organizations to hold one public event in their designated neighbourhoods per year, with a focus on enhancing knowledge of city services and processes, and connecting people to City Hall. There may be an opportunity for these liaisons to work through the rotating mini-City Halls to create regular engagement with a particular neighbourhood.

- b. Other Considerations

In addition to the direction provided by the Engaged City Task Force, and in anticipation of questions from Councillors and residents, the following points are intended to provide some broad guidance on the role of Neighbourhood Councillor Liaisons based on successful practices from many years of the the School and Park Board liaison roles.

- The main goal of the Neighbourhood Councillor Liaison program is to improve access and service to residents, organizations and businesses;
- The role of the Councillor Liaison is more akin to that of a concierge: intended to be a welcoming first point of contact for someone to the City with the intention of linking that individual into the appropriate staff, department, service or Councillor in an issue related context (ie. a Heritage related policy inquiry may be directed to the Council liaisons to Heritage Action Plan);
- While Councillor Liaisons are listed as a contact for a neighbourhood, residents remain free to contact any member of Councillor;
- The Councillor Liaison is NOT intended to be the conduit for information to or from the City. It is expected that organizations at the neighbourhood level such as BIAs or residents organizations continue to connect directly with relevant staff in planning, economic development or other relevant departments.

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