

VanRIMS No.: 8-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk

FROM: Vancouver City Planning Commission

SUBJECT: 2018 Report of Activities

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Vancouver City Planning Commission for 2018.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (the Commission) was established by Council under [By-Law No. 5064](#) to assist Council in an advisory capacity by considering and submitting reports to City Council on matters relating to the planning and development of the City, including:

- (a) representing ideas and opinions about the future of the city, as citizens of the City of Vancouver, and
- (b) considering and reporting to Council on any proposal likely to have a significant effect on the future of the City.

SUMMARY

During 2018, the Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) carried out its work plan comprising dialogues and public events on themes relevant to the future of the city, and engaged on selected current planning topics and initiatives.

Under part A of our mandate, the VCPC hosted (or co-hosted) public events on milestones in Vancouver's planning and development (Chronology Project) and a series of events culminating in a full day Summit on a "City for All" exploring how we can better plan for a more resilient city and more sustainable communities based on reconciliation, meaningful

inclusiveness and equity. The VCPC also hosted a roundtable with other advisory bodies on parking issues.

Under part B of our mandate, the VCPC provided input to Council on current planning initiatives, with particular attention focused on the VanPlay planning process, the future of Langara Golf Course, the Heather Street lands development, and the Regulation Redesign process.

EVENTS, DIALOGUES AND PROJECTS

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) worked with a number of community partners on several events and projects designed to foster informed dialogue on themes important to the future of the city.

A. Chronology of Vancouver Planning and Development Milestones

- B. The VCPC convened [Milestones 2017](#), our third annual ‘year-in-review’ forum on February 5, 2018 at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, hosted in partnership with SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement. Panel members were Paul Kershaw, UBC professor and founder of Generation Squeeze; Melody Ma, Chinatown organizer and activist; Gordon Price, former city councillor and director of the SFU City Program; and Ouri Scott, award-winning Tlicho Dene architect specializing in indigenous design and sustainable infrastructure. Sandra Singh, then the Chief Librarian of the Vancouver Public Library, moderated the discussion. The list of potential 2017 milestones was previously reviewed at a workshop on November 16, 2017 attended by leading architects, urban planners, developers, city historians, journalists and academics.

Following the panel, the Chronology Committee identified a list of fourteen emerging milestones of 2017 based on the perspectives shared in a public survey, the workshop and during the panel. The public profile of the online chronology continues to increase. The [2017 emerging milestones](#) have been reposted on blog posts and sparked a number of tweets and Facebook posts.

C. A City for All Summit

On December 4, 2018, Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC), hosted its second day-long summit on the theme of “A City for All” exploring how we can better plan for a more resilient city and more sustainable communities based on reconciliation, meaningful inclusiveness and equity. The summit aimed to encourage dialogue among thought leaders, experts and influencers from the public, private, non-profit, community, and academic sectors. It was financially sponsored by the Vancouver Foundation, the City of Vancouver, MODUS Planning Design & Engagement, WSP, Real Estate Foundation of BC, and Jordan Cook Associates.

The Summit agenda and participation list had been designed with the involvement of many of the City’s Advisory Committees under the leadership of a steering committee, of which half of the members were from the community and half from VCPC. The Summit was oversubscribed and successfully engaged participants who identified as indigenous, black, people of colour, or LGBTQ+2, as well as women, seniors and youth. A report/workbook on the proceedings will be circulated in the spring of 2019.

CURRENT INITIATIVES AND TOPICS

In addition to considering items on Council's agenda and current planning initiatives, Commissioners also participated actively in discussion of urban issues relevant to the future of the city.

A. Research and Comment

i. VanPlay Deep Dive

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to Mayor and Council and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation on the outcomes of a [VanPlay Deep Dive](#) conducted for Commissioners. With the importance of changing demographics on the future planning of the city, Planning Commissioners focused on the subject area 'Programs and services for changing demographics'. The three values that were agreed upon as guiding planning and needs for parks and facilities are: equity and inclusion; accessibility; and empowerment. Each of these was outlined in the memo.

ii. Future of Langara Golf Course

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to Mayor and Council and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation on the [Future of Langara Golf Course](#). Commissioners believe that Langara Golf Course plays an important civic and community role as a centrally located green space in the City of Vancouver. As such, Planning Commissioners feel that the future of the golf course will have a significant impact on the future of Vancouver more generally, particularly with regard to planning for parks and other public green and open spaces. The memo requested that the VPCC be kept informed through regular updates at Commission meetings by our Council and Park Board liaison.

iii. Heather Streets Land Development

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to Mayor and Council regarding the [Heather Streets Land Development](#). The memo notes our desire to be part of the deliberations as the City moves into the next stage in its unprecedented approach to planning for a parcel of land in Vancouver with citywide significance. Three aspects of the Heather Lands Policy Statement are of particular interest to VCPC: (i) integration of Indigenous reconciliation into the City's planning process; (ii) the development of a City policy on privately-owned publicly accessible space; and, (iii) integrating a new community within an established neighborhood, specifically construction of a sizeable development with a variety of building forms ranging from townhouses to towers and a new commercial district in the midst of a long-established single-family neighborhood.

iv. Regulation Redesign Input and Feedback

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to the General Manager, Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability and Mayor and Council on the [Regulation Redesign Review](#) process. The memo outlines Planning Commissioner's support of key objectives, highlights key principles to uphold, and outlines future considerations. The VCPC looks forward to further opportunities to provide input as this initiative proceeds, specifically on the role and position of VCPC within the context of the review.

B. Engagement in City Processes

i. Other Advisory Bodies

VCPC representatives participated in the following on-going processes: the Urban Design Panel, and the Transportation 2040 Stakeholders Advisory Group. The perspective of the VCPC were communicated by the Commissioners and relevant new concerns and issues brought back from the advisory committees.

ii. Staff Consultations

The VCPC received presentations and provided feedback to staff on the following current planning initiatives as part of staff's consultations with the public, stakeholders and advisory groups:

- Cambie Corridor Plan
- Millennium Line Broadway Extension Principles and Strategies
- Northeast False Creek Park Planning
- Roles of Land Use Advisory Committee (Regulation Review)

iii. Other Organizations

The VCPC received presentations and provided feedback to other organizations as part of their community outreach. The perspective of the VCPC was communicated by the Commissioners and relevant issues were considered.

- Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods

iv. Engagement Topics

The VCPC also considered other issues with long-term implications for the City's future in discussion with Liaison Commissioners from Council, Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Park Board, including:

- BC Hydro potential substations on VSB properties
- Britannia Community Centre Renewal Project*
- Broadway Planning Program
- Cambie Corridor Phase 3*
- CityStudio project development
- Employment Lands Study
- False Creek South
- Langara Golf Course
- Making Room (Housing)
- Northeast False Creek
- Oakridge
- Regulation Review
- Seismic upgrades for schools
- Temporary Modular Housing
- UNESCO planning for Chinatown
- VCPC Chronology Program*
- VSB Capital Planning
- VSB Naming and Renaming Report

* Presentations received from speakers.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Planning Commissioners attended numerous external conferences, panel discussions and other events on planning and development issues relevant to the City's future. Sharing knowledge and experience from these events formed a part of the VCPC's meeting agendas. In 2018, these events included:

- The 9th UN Habitat World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on the theme of “Cities 2030: Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda” (February 7 to 13, 2018)
- 10th annual UBC SCARP Symposium – Encompass (March 16, 2018)
- The Missing Middle Competition Exhibition Opening (March 21, 2018)
- YIMBYISM: A Solution to Vancouver's Affordable Housing Crisis (October 9, 2018)
- A tour and discussion of the future of the Punjabi Market organized by the Cultural Communities Advisory Committee (October 2018)

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER CIVIC BODIES

The VCPC has appointments on the following City of Vancouver civic bodies:

A. Urban Design Panel

A Commissioner served on the Urban Design Panel, as prescribed by Council By-law No. 4722. Leslie Shieh continued to act in this role until December 2018.

B. Transportation 2040 Stakeholder Advisory Group

Commissioners participated as a member of the City of Vancouver's Transportation 2040 Advisory Group in 2018. The VCPC appointed Anthony Perl to this role.

COMMISSIONERS DURING 2018

This report covers the work carried out during the year by the following Commissioners:

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| • Nola-Kate Seymoar [Chair] | • Alyssa Koehn |
| • Jennifer Marshall [Vice Chair] | • Karenn Krangle |
| • Veronika Bylicki [on leave July – December] | • Robert Matas |
| • David Crossley [Secretary/Treasurer] | • Anthony Perl [VCPC appointee] |
| • Omar Dominguez | • Leslie Shieh |
| • Daniella Fergusson [VCPC appointee; resigned April] | • Jacint Simon |
| • Mike Fujii | • Marnie Tamaki [VCPC appointee; appointed July] |

The following Liaison Commissioners served as non-voting members, providing liaison with their elected bodies, until the election on October 21, 2018:

- Councillors Adriane Carr and Andrea Reimer, Vancouver City Council
- Commissioner Catherine Evans, Vancouver Park Board
- Trustee Janet Fraser, Vancouver School Board

After the election the following Liaison Commissioners were appointed as non-voting members, providing liaison with their elected bodies:

- Councillor Pete Fry, Vancouver City Council
- Commissioner John Irwin, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
- Trustee Janet Fraser, Vancouver School Board

The following Liaison Commissioners served as non-voting staff members, providing liaison with their department:

- Chris Robertson, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability