

VanRIMS No.: 8-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

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

FROM: Vancouver City Planning Commission

SUBJECT: 2019 Report of Activities

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Vancouver City Planning Commission for 2019.

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 2019, 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 public events on milestones in Vancouver's planning and development (Chronology Project); a follow-up event (including workbook release) for our 2018 'A City for All' Summit; and, a co-design workshop for our planned 2020 *'The Vancouver We Want, The City We Need'* Summit that will focus broadly on Places, Spaces and Connections and help inform the Vancouver Plan.

Under part B of our mandate, the VCPC provided input to Council on current initiatives, including [regulation redesign](#) and [changes to Procedure Bylaw 9756](#).

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

The VCPC convened [TransFORMation 2018](#), our 4th annual year-in-review dialogue held on February 4, 2019 at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, hosted in partnership with SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement. Panelists for the evening were former Vancouver City Council and Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, Libby Davies; former City of Vancouver Indigenous relations manager Ginger Gosnell-Myers; Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) CEO Charles Gauthier; and Kira Gerwing, Manager, Community Investment at Vancity Credit Union and a former urban planner with the City of Vancouver. The discussion was moderated by Am Johal, SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement Director of Community Engagement.

The list of potential 2018 milestones was previously reviewed at a workshop on November 19, 2018 attended by leading architects, urban planners, developers, city historians, journalists, academics, and students. Following the panel, the Chronology Committee identified a list of fourteen emerging milestones of 2018 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 [2018 emerging milestones](#) have been shared on blog posts and sparked a number of tweets and Facebook posts.

B. A City for All Follow-Up and Workbook Release

As promised at our December 4, 2018 Summit, VCPC compiled a [Summit Workbook](#) containing the reports from each of the tables. Each table summary has a summary of the discussion, the key findings and the recommendations from the Roundtable, as well as a list of initiatives related to the topic and links to relevant websites from participants. Each group report was vetted by participants in that group.

On June 11, 2019, VCPC hosted an event to release the workbook, and follow up on the ideas generated at the Summit. Approximately 40 people participated in the session. On our part, VCPC was interested in discussing whether and how the focus on A City for All can be integrated into the City Wide Planning process (know the Vancouver Plan).

Under our mandate as a citizen's advisory commission to Mayor and Council, VCPC [reported on the event](#) and has requested to present it to Mayor and Council. Our recommendations are included as Part 1 of the Workbook.

C. Decolonizing the City: The Future of Indigenous Planning

On September 26, 2019, the VCPC partnered with SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement and the PIBC South Coast Chapter to host a panel that explores the work of

Indigenous planners in Vancouver. The panel looked behind the scenes on what it takes to strengthen relations and create new practices and policies with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and with urban Indigenous communities, from a City of Vancouver context. Panelists reflected on what reconciliation means for city planning, how Indigenous Planning in Vancouver has changed over time, and what Indigenous rights means for urban planning today.

More information' including a video of the event, can be found on the [SFU Woodward's website](#).

D. The Vancouver We Want, The City We Need - Co-Design Workshop

On November 12, 2019, the VCPC hosted a co-design workshop for our May 2020 Summit 'The Vancouver We Want, The City We Need.' The workshop brought together urban planning and community leaders to generate key themes for our May 2020 Summit. These themes will be explored further in upcoming VCPC events. As the focus of the May 2020 Summit is on the Vancouver Plan, the workshop heard from City of Vancouver staff on completed and planned work on the Vancouver Plan. Immediate reflections from this workshop have been [compiled in a report](#) and shared with participants, Mayor and Council, and key City staff.

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. Regulation Redesign Input and Feedback

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to the General Manager of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability, and Mayor and Council regarding the ongoing '[Regulation Redesign Review](#)' process – which includes examining the role of planning and development related advisory bodies. The memo outlines Planning Commissioner's support of key objectives, highlights key principles to uphold, and outlines future considerations. It also included three core principles that Commissioners feel are important for the VCPC to uphold within the context of this review and going forward. These were: autonomy within the City, a broad and flexible mandate, and citizen-led structure and engaged processes.

ii. Procedures Bylaw 9756

The VCPC provided input and comment regarding the changes to [Procedures Bylaw 9756](#). While we were pleased that Council is seeking to adjust its practices and procedures to improve the public's engagement with, and respect for, local government, the memorandum identified five concerns about the proposed changes.

These include the proposed reduction in speaking time, the proposed reduction in time for introducing agenda items, the practice of City staff make undisclosed written responses to Council communication by advisory bodies; the flagging of Council

agenda items that are under the purview of specific advisory bodies(s); and requesting that the departmental staff liaisons for each advisory body monitor Council agendas and alerting advisory body members when Council receives an agenda item within their purview.

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 (and related) initiatives as part of staff's consultations with the public, stakeholders and advisory groups:

- Broadway Plan
- City-wide (Vancouver) Plan
- City-wide (Vancouver) Plan Engagement
- Employment Lands and Economy Review (and update)
- Heritage Action Plan and Heritage Incentive Program
- Regional Population Projections
- Women Deliver 2019 conference

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.

- Social Purpose Real Estate Collaborative

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:

- Broadway Planning Program *
- City-wide (Vancouver) Plan *
- Climate Crisis Response
- Employment Lands Study *
- False Creek Flats Arterial Study
- Heritage Action Plan *
- Heritage Incentive Program*
- Northeast False Creek
- Oakridge
- Procedures Bylaw 9756
- Regional Population Projections
- Regulation Redesign Review
- Rental Incentives Review
- St. Paul's Hospital Relocation
- VCPC A City of All Summit Report
- VCPC Co-Design Workshop Report

- VCPC Chronology Program*
- Women Deliver 2019*
- Women's Equity and Trans, Gender Variant and Two-Spirit Inclusion

* 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 2019, these events included:

- 11th annual UBC SCARP Symposium – [Re]present, March 1, 2019
- Alpha-metro Vancouver? Rethinking the Region 2019, April 2, 2019
- CityStudio Project Development 2019, April 10, 2019
- Future Cities Canada - West Coast Dialogue, May 16, 2019
- Feminist Deliver, June, 2019
- DVBIA State of Downtown, June 18, 2019
- Resilient Vancouver Celebration & Launch, June 20, 2019
- Women Deliver Satellite events, June 2019
- Rail-volution Regional Forum, September 11, 2019
- 2019 CUTA Vancouver Transit Policy Forum, September 12, 2019
- On the Table, September/October, 2019
- From NYC to YVR: New York's Waterfront as a model for Vancouver, October 28, 2019
- Planning for Accessibility: From Research to Practice, November 1, 2019
- Housing Central, November 2019
- DVBIA Then and Now: An Analysis of Downtown Retail Presentation and Panel, November 21, 2019
- Workshop: Indigenous and Urban Indigenous Peoples – Impacts of Residential Schools and Colonization, November 26, 2019
- Mobility Equity Workshop: Granville Bridge Connector, November 26, 2019
- Workshop: City-wide Plan and the Broadway Plan, November 28, 2019
- CityStudio HUBBUB 13, December 6, 2019

PLANNING COMMISSION INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES

i. Meetings and Committees

In addition to its 12 regular meetings, the VCPC continued to hold monthly Standing Committee working sessions with all voting Commissioners. Additionally, the Commission had several smaller committees that conducted work on its behalf in 2019. These included:

- Executive
- Chronology
- Summit Planning
- Nominations and Recruitment

ii. Work Planning Session

On April 24, 2019, VCPC worked with Vantage Point to conduct a work planning session. The overall theme that emerged was the 'Design of Places and Spaces.' The VCPC's aim is

to strengthen the development of complete, sustainable communities and neighbourhoods, and improve our understanding of neighbourhoods and their evolution in light of mobility corridors and affordability. Balancing the development of “place” and “passage” when done well, can support a vibrant civic community.

To this end, Commissioners agreed to achieve their mandate and plan through focusing on:

- Being an integral part of the City-wide (Vancouver) Plan
- Advise Mayor and Council on larger planning initiatives on an ongoing basis and early on in the process.
- Participate in cultural competency training to enhance Commissioner learning on reconciliation and inclusion.

iii. KAIROS Blanket Exercise

As part of the VCPC’s priority to enhance Commissioner learning on reconciliation, the Commission hosted a KAIROS Blanket Exercise on November 20, 2019. The exercise is a unique, participatory history lesson – developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators – that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER CIVIC BODIES

The VCPC had 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. Jennifer Marshall and Karenn Krangle each served part of the year in this role.

B. Transportation 2040 Stakeholder Advisory Group

Commissioners participated as a member of the City of Vancouver’s Transportation 2040 Advisory Group in 2019. Anthony Perl continued to serve in this role until the group was restructured.

COMMISSIONERS DURING 2019

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

- Nola-Kate Seymoar (Chair)
- Jennifer Marshall
- Robyn Chan (appointed June)
- Veronika Bylicki
- Omar Dominguez
- Mike Fujii (Resigned June)
- Albert Huang
- Alyssa Koehn
- Alix Krahn
- Karenn Krangle
- Robert Matas
- Anthony Perl (VCPC appointee)
- Dylan Rose (appointed September)
- Jacint Simon (Resigned May)
- Marnie Tamaki (VCPC appointee)

The following Liaison Commissioners served as non-voting members, providing liaison with their elected bodies in 2019:

- 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

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