

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015, 1:00 P.M.**

**1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:00 P.M.**

**Committee Members Present:** Mayor Helps in the Chair; Councillors Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff and Young.

**Absent for a Portion of the Meeting:** Councillor Thornton-Joe

**Absent:** Councillor Alto

**Staff Present:** J. Johnson – City Manager; K. Hamilton – Director of Civic Engagement & Strategic Planning; J. Jenkyns – General Manager of the Victoria Conference Centre; D. Kalynchuk – Director of Engineering & Public Works; J. MacDougall – Acting Director of Parks & Recreation; S. Thompson – Director of Finance; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; T. Zworski – City Solicitor; A. Meyer – Assistant Director of Development Services; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Community Development; K. Oberg – Manager of Arts, Culture & Special Events; G. Smith – Manager of Parks Operations; J. Brehaut – Community Recreation Coordinator; C. Mycroft – Executive Assistant to the City Manager; C. Havelka – Recording Secretary;

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Madoff, and seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Agenda of the February 19, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC135

Mayor Helps made two announcements regarding a Public Advisory Committee for West Side Sewage Treatment that is looking for members and regarding a book related to budget planning.

### 3. FINANCIAL PLAN PRESENTATIONS

#### 3.1 Parks, Recreation and Culture

Mayor Helps continued the discussion from the February 17, 2015 budget meeting with Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Committee discussed:

- Information regarding the materials park benches are constructed from and bench relocation.
- Including the lighting upgrades in Beacon Hill Park with the review of City street light replacement.
- Including a Cultural Master Plan as an element in the Strategic Plan.
- The timeline and scope of the Parks Master Plan.
- Partnering with First Nations for the management of natural areas.
- Next steps in terms of implementing the Beacon Hill Park Management Plan.
- Concerns that revenue from the parking lot adjacent to Royal Athletic Park is not allocated to the Parking Services Budget.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to reassign the revenue from the parking lot at Caledonia Avenue and Vancouver Street to the Parking Services budget beginning in 2016.

Committee discussed the allocation of this parking revenue as well as the Victoria Conference Centre parking revenue and how that revenue is associated with the facility.

*Councillor Thornton-Joe joined the meeting at 1:31 p.m.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC136

Committee discussed:

- Food and Beverage revenue sharing at Royal Athletic Park.
- Community use and revenue increases regarding Save on Foods Memorial Centre.
- Daylighting sections of Bowker Creek.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report on the feasibility of daylighting Bowker Creek parallel to the Doncaster pathway.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee amend the motion as follows:

That Council direct staff to report on the feasibility of daylighting Bowker Creek parallel to the Doncaster pathway and the Fernwood Neighbourhood.

Committee discussed the specificity of the amendment.

On the amendment:  
DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC137

On the main motion:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC138

Committee discussed:

- A new greenway opportunity through Government House to Ross Bay Cemetery.
- Royal Athletic Park and capital improvements related to VIP seating.
- The Royal Athletic Park concession and the suggestion services be contracted out.
- Expanding the L.I.F.E. recreation program.
- Reporting back on tree statistics as part of the Urban Forest Report.
- Assessing the economic impact of cultural events.
- Enhancing and coordinating the role of Council and staff liaisons in neighbourhoods, specifically related to the parks and recreation component.
- Graffiti removal costs and options for how that impacts the Vic West skate park.
- The status of park acquisition in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood, as well as how to respond to community inquiries regarding land for park acquisition.
- Information regarding contracted services for Arts and Culture.

*Councillors Coleman and Young withdrew from the meeting at 2:24 p.m.*

### **3.2 Legislative and Regulatory Services**

The Director of Legislative and Regulatory Services provided Committee with a PowerPoint Presentation that summarized the service areas and budgets for this department.

*Councillor Coleman returned to the meeting at 2:25 p.m.*

*Mayor Helps withdrew from the meeting at 2:26 p.m. Councillor Coleman assumed the Chair.*

*Councillor Young returned to the meeting at 2:26 p.m.*

*Mayor Helps returned to the meeting at 2:28 p.m. and assumed the Chair.*

The Director of Legislative and Regulatory Services provided Committee with details regarding an inquiry arising from the February 17, 2015 meeting with respect to the expenditure of \$1.94 Million for capital remediation to City properties, specifically:

- Northern Junk Property: This is for surplus city right-of-way plus two adjacent lots. No significant work planned but \$20,000 generally for consulting fees and monitoring of environmental conditions.
- 1012 Yates Street: \$1.24 Million is the total contingent liability with an approved expenditure of \$300,000 – \$400,000 subject to project approval by the Ministry of Environment.

- 950 & 1000 Wharf Street: \$10,000 for the upland area for additional tests and monitoring that may be required related to the environmental conditions on that site.
- 203 Harbour Road: \$538,000 for the Harbour Road retaining wall and \$134,000 for the removal of the contaminated blocks.

Committee discussed the following:

- Expenditures related to vessels on the Selkirk waterway; the licence of occupation has not yet been granted by the Provincial Government.
- The volume and topics of Freedom of Information requests.
- The public's interest in digitizing City's archives.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to provide an update on digitization of archival records.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC139

Committee discussed:

- An update on when to expect a report on the 2014 election.
- Services provided by Bylaw Officers and information on how their shifts are scheduled; a possible increase in Bylaw Officers to respond to calls for service.

*Councillor Loveday withdrew from the meeting at 2:48 p.m. and returned at 2:50 p.m.*

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Mayor Helps, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back on what can be accomplished with current service levels provided by Bylaw Officers and what is required for additional service levels.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC140

Committee discussed the following:

- The miscellaneous costs for properties leased for City uses.
- Information regarding deliverables and Council's direction to review property management and city facilities.
- Following up on property tax exemptions granted to the Provincial Government.
- Information regarding contracted services for animal control and providing Council with periodic reports.

*Councillor Isitt withdrew from the meeting at 2:54 p.m. and returned at 2:58 p.m.*

- The revenue from the sale of dog licences and information on expenses allocated to pound and other services.

### **3.3 Sustainable Planning and Community Development**

The Assistant Director of Community Planning provided Committee with a PowerPoint Presentation that summarized service areas and the budget for the department.

Committee discussed:

- The status of the process to consult with citizens regarding urban villages and transportation corridors planning.
- The Bonus Density program currently in the planning stage for outside of the Downtown Core and concerns that the absence of local area plans will impact this program; using previous research to provide a predictable formula.
- An explanation of reporting protocols for planning staff.
- The timeline for the Housing Action Plan; noting that it was proposed for the strategic plan.
- Relaxing parking requirements for developments to support housing affordability.
- Information on what is required to increase the turn-around time for development applications.

**Action:** It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back on what resources are required to shorten the two proposed timelines for application turn-around timelines as outlined on page 619 on the 2015 Financial Plan “Deliverables/Metrics”.

Committee discussed the motion and clarified that the intent is to review the possibility of shortening the development application process after the CALUC process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC141

*Councillor Loveday withdrew from the meeting at 3:38 p.m. and returned at 3:41 p.m.*

Committee discussed the following:

- The \$600,000 supplementary request to review the Zoning Regulation Bylaw and other issues that require attention, such as Local Area Planning and turn-around times.
- The process and rationale for collecting the Bonus Density at the beginning of the development process.
- Information and rationale behind the City providing electrical inspections, which can be done by the province.

Committee discussed the budget meeting schedule for February 23, 2015 and the issue of two Councillors who are unable to attend. The topic of health and dental benefits was raised for discussion.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that Committee recommends that Council approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Victoria consult the public on whether coverage of health and dental benefits for Council members is a reasonable expenditure to include in the Financial Plan Bylaw.

Committee discussed the pros and cons of the motion and noted that this is an opportunity for the public to provide input on this topic.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC142

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of February 19, 2015, be adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC143

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Mayor Helps, Chair