

June 18/20 CAO Remarks

Good Morning Mayor and Council.

Emergency Operations Centre

We are still at a Level 1 EOC and are continuing with weekly calls.

Recreation Restart Program

We are now one week in on the Recreation restart program – as you may have noticed residents are out and enjoying the tennis courts, basketball courts and playgrounds

Participatory Budgeting

On Tuesday we launched this year's Participatory Budgeting initiative. The focus for this year is newcomers, with \$50,000 in funding available for a project or activity that will enhance or enrich the lives of new immigrants or refugees to Canada who have settled in Victoria.

Engagement has been working closely with the Steering Committee, which includes 20 passionate volunteers from all walks of life and is being hosted this year by the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria. Since February, the committee has been meeting bi-weekly (virtually since March) to plan this year's initiative.

Next Steps

- **Call for Proposals (June 16 – July 31)**

- o Community members and organizations will be invited to submit proposals for projects or activities in the City of that will benefit newcomers.
- o This year there are two budget streams: \$10,000 for projects with a budget of \$2,000 or less, and an open call for projects up to \$40,000.
- o A media release, social media, community posters (in a variety of languages including English, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Tagalog, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Spanish – thanks to the ICA!)
- o Steering Committee members will be reaching out in the community to promote the call for proposals.

- **Virtual Learning Events: July 7 and July 11**

To help applicants generate and hone their project ideas, the Steering Committee and the City are co-hosting two virtual learning events, which will be attended by staff from a variety of departments to help answer questions from applicants and ensure projects meet all City criteria.

- **Review of Projects: August**

The Steering Committee and City staff will review proposals against the criteria in the PB Rulebook and to ensure viability.

- **Community Voting: September**

Residents will be invited to vote for their favourite projects in September. We will be focusing on online voting this year but will be closely monitoring guidelines by the Provincial Health

Officer and will offer in-person voting opportunities, if possible. Winning projects will be announced in October. Projects will need to be completed by Dec. 31, 2021.

The PB Steering Committee is excited to get this next phase of the participatory budgeting underway and looks forward to reaching out in the community to encourage many great proposals.

People can learn more and apply online at engage.victoria.ca/participatory-budgeting. The Call for Proposals closed on July 31.

Build Back Victoria

Council saw a need, staff came up with the tools and businesses are using them”

We are now ten days into the Build Back Victoria program and we have received 40 applications to date.

As of yesterday, we had received a total of 40 applications and granted 12 permits.

13 requests on Government street - 5 permits have been issued.

23 requests in the rest of the city – 7 permits have been issued

Good momentum on Govt Street and nice that the new flex zones and patios are also being picked up across the City which is important to emphasise. Everyone is benefitting – big and small.

Sheltering Update

Staff continue to meet with the Province and BC Housing to find housing for those sheltering in Beacon Hill park and other locations in the City.

Currently there are approximately 100 individuals sheltering in BHP of which 1/3 have applied for social housing. The goal is to get all of them registered as soon as possible to identify possible housing options for them.

We are also working with BC Housing to get real time updates of spaces which are coming available due to movement within the housing continuum so that more individuals can be accommodated.