

Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of February 25, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 17, 2021

From: Kerri Moore, Head of Business & Community Relations

Subject: Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide clarification and additional information regarding the neighbourhood boundaries workshop.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to staff questions arising from a Council workshop on February 11, 2021 regarding neighbourhood boundary adjustments, Council directed staff to report back to request additional information.

Staff have determined these five items will need further clarification: the intent behind the proposed adjustments, how to proceed regarding formal recognition of the Gonzales neighbourhood, the status of the Jubilee neighbourhood, resource implications based on the timing of the implementation of these adjustments and incorporating these changes into the engagement for the local area planning process.

Staff also have identified challenges with meeting the overall time frame for performing the scope of this engagement and reporting back to Council by April 9, 2021.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request that Council provide additional clarity regarding the proposed adjustments to the neighbourhood boundaries in anticipation of broad engagement to be undertaken by staff. In its referral to staff, Council expressed interest in requesting comment from a number of Neighbourhood Associations. To help inform this engagement, it would be helpful for staff to be able to offer specific rationale regarding the intent behind each proposed adjustment pertaining to the potential benefits and/or drawbacks of redrawing the boundaries.

BACKGROUND

On February 11, 2021 Victoria City Council held a workshop regarding proposed changes to neighbourhood boundaries. The discussion resulted in the following motion:

1. That Council direct staff to engage the North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association and the Oaklands Community Association regarding the potential recognition of the 2700- block to

- 3000-block of the east side of Shelbourne Street as part of the Oaklands neighbourhood, requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.
- That Council direct staff to engage the Fernwood Community Association and the Oaklands Community Association regarding the potential recognition of the 2500- blocks between Cook Street and Shelbourne Street, and Bay Street and Haultain Street, as part of the Oaklands neighbourhood, requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.
- 3. That Council direct staff to engage the Fairfield-Gonzales Community Association, the Downtown Residents Association, and the Downtown Victoria Business Association regarding the potential recognition of the 800-blocks between Fort Street and Academy Close, and Blanshard Street and Quadra Street, as part of the Downtown neighbourhood, requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.
- 4. That Council direct staff to engage the Burnside-Gorge Community Association, the Downtown Residents Association, and the Downtown Victoria Business Association regarding the potential adjustment of the boundary between Burnside-Gorge and Downtown from Chatham/Discovery/Caledonia to Bay Street, so that Bay Street would become the northern boundary of Downtown and the southern boundary of Burnside-Gorge, requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.
- 5. That Council direct staff to engage the South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association and the North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association regarding the potential recognition of a unified Jubilee neighbourhood and their thoughts on how one CALUC could potentially be formed to service the one new unified neighbourhood, requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.
- 6. That Council direct staff to engage the Downtown Residents Association and the Downtown Victoria Business Association regarding the potential recognition of Downtown and Harris Green as a unified Downtown neighbourhood, requesting comment from that association by April 30, 2021.
- 7. That Council direct staff to engage the Victoria Community Association Network regarding these proposed adjustments to neighbourhood boundaries, requesting comment from VCAN and any neighbourhood association that wishes to provide comment by April 30, 2021.
- 8. That Council direct staff to engage with North Park Neighbourhood Association and the Fernwood Community Association regarding the potential adjustment that would make Chambers Street the eastern boundary of North Park and the western boundary of Fernwood between Bay and Pandora.
- 9. That proposed neighbourhood boundary changes, that coincide with current local area planning (i.e. Village and Corridor Planning: Fernwood, North Park, Hillside- Quadra), be included in the local area planning engagement, taking into consideration the end date of engagement as suggested in the neighbourhood boundaries report.

That Council direct staff to engage the Fairfield-Gonzales Community Association, the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and the Rockland Neighbourhood Association on options for CALUC representation in the Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland neighbourhoods, including the possibility of:

- 1. recognition of the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association as the CALUC for the Gonzales neighbourhood; or
- 2. recognition of a unified Gonzales-Rockland Neighbourhood Association as the CALUC for a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood; or
- 3. the status quo.

requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.

That Council direct staff to engage with the Fernwood Community Association, the Downtown Residents Association, and the Downtown Victoria Business Association regarding the potential of

the east side of Cook Street from Fort Street to Pandora Avenue as part of the downtown neighbourhood requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.

And that Council request staff to work with neighbourhood associations and report back on options for supporting them in outreaching and serving parts of their neighbourhood that are currently under-represented by their current function and services.

That Council direct staff to send the proposed adjustments to Destination Victoria for any comments with respect to downtown boundaries.

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

In order to determine how best to move forward with engaging neighbourhood associations on the topic of potential neighbourhood boundaries adjustments, staff will need clarity on the items that were referenced in the workshop discussion. Staff will then be better prepared to enter into broad engagement regarding the potential benefits that these adjustments will offer. Staff are requesting clarity and additional information regarding the following:

- 1. To better guide the conversations with the various neighbourhoods, what is the intent behind the proposed adjustments to the neighbourhood boundaries?
- 2. The Gonzales Neighbourhood Association has not been recognized by Council as a formal neighbourhood association. A group of residents expressed their interest in having the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association recognized, but to date there hasn't been a process established to do so.
- 3. Council has included "engage SJNA and NJNA regarding the potential recognition of a unified Jubilee neighbourhood". Jubilee is already a unified neighbourhood with two neighbourhood associations. There is one Local Area Plan for Jubilee. The Fort Street "border" on the maps simply helps staff with the division of the base grant and separate CALUC requests. Please clarify if this motion needs to remain.
- 4. The motion included incorporating boundary changes into current local area planning around Villages & Corridors. Pending Council's review and decisions, the new boundary changes could be incorporated into the next phase of engagement, anticipated in early summer, but cannot be delivered by the end of April, as requested. On this basis, does Council wish to continue with this approach or follow a similar process as with the other proposed boundary changes?
- 5. Pending the outcomes of the boundary adjustments, amendments to the affected neighbourhood plans, the OCP, and the Land Use Procedures Bylaw will be required. As this will have resource implications, what is Council's expectation regarding the timing of implementing these boundary changes?
- 6. Part of the motion is to "Determine how to work with neighbourhood associations and report back on options for supporting them in outreaching and serving parts of their neighbourhood that are currently under-represented by their current function and services." This appears to be unrelated to the question of boundaries but rather a significant work program item. Additional clarification would be helpful.

Staff have concerns regarding Council's request to report back by April 30. In order to meet the timeline as outlined by Legislative Services, the report would be due by April 9th for submission.

CONCLUSION

In order to better frame public discourse on the topic of neighbourhood boundary adjustments, staff will need more detailed information on the rationale for certain topics of discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Moore Karen Hoese Head of Business & Community Relations Director of Planning

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager