



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 25, 2021, 9:00 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

**The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People
Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, public access to City Hall is not permitted.**

**This meeting may be viewed on the City's webcast at www.victoria.ca
Meeting will recess for a lunch break between 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Helps in the Chair, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts (joined at 9:02 a.m.)

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Director of Finance, C. Coates - City Clerk, P. Bruce - Fire Chief, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, J. Jensen - Head of Human Resources, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, A. Hudson - Assistant Director of Community Planning, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, K. Moore - Head of Business and Community Relations, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, L. Taylor - Senior Planner, R. Batallas - Senior Planner, AK Ferguson - Committee Secretary, G. Pemberton - Neighbourhood liaison

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the agenda be approved.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Consent Agenda:

- C.1 - Minutes from the Meeting held January 21, 2021
- H.2 - Council Member Motion - AVICC Climate Leadership Motion
- H.3 - Council Member Motion - UBCM Resolution - Paid Sick Leave for Workers

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Andrew

That the following items be approved without further debate:

C.1 Minutes from the meeting held January 21, 2021

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Andrew

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 21, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H.2 Council Member Motion: AVICC Climate Leadership Motion

Committee received a report dated February 20, 2021 from Mayor Helps regarding the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Plan (VICC-CLP) for consideration at AVICC 2022.

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Andrew

1. That Council adopt the following motion and forward it to AVICC.
2. That this matter be forwarded to the daytime Council meeting of Thursday, February 25th.

WHEREAS coming out of a workshop at AVICC in 2019, the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Plan (VICC-CLP) steering committee was formed with representatives nominated from each Regional District in the AVICC region to develop a 2030 Climate Action Plan for the AVICC Region;

AND WHEREAS on November 6th 2020, the VICC-CLP steering committee along with faculty and students from the University of Victoria with whom VICC-CLP has been working held a day-long workshop for elected officials and staff in the AVICC region to develop preliminary 2030 Climate Action Goals;

AND WHEREAS in March 2021 the VICC-CLP steering committee will hold two further workshops, one with youth and one with First Nations to ensure that the 2030 Climate Action plan is also grounded in youth experience and Indigenous cultural knowledge;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AVICC membership endorses in principle the directions laid out in the "Vancouver Island and Coastal

Communities Climate Action Goals Working Draft” (attached) and requests that the VICC-CLP also grounds the plan in the cultural and land-based knowledge of Indigenous peoples and the experiences of youth;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AVICC membership requests that the VICC-CLP steering committee present a final plan for the membership’s consideration at AVICC 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H.3 Council Member Motion: UBCM Resolution - Paid Sick Leave for Workers

Committee received a report dated February 20, 2021 from Councillors Loveday and Isitt regarding a AVICC and UBCM Resolution regarding Paid Sick Leave for Workers.

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Andrew

That Council endorse and submit the following resolution to AVICC and UBCM for consideration:

WHEREAS one year into a global pandemic that has killed thousands of British Columbians and millions of people worldwide, there is no legislation ensuring adequate, employer-paid sick days with the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit being temporary, sometimes inaccessible, and not of use for the crucial first few days of an illness;

AND WHEREAS if paid sick day legislation had been in place before the global pandemic, lives would have been saved because infection rates would have been reduced. The lack of legislated paid sick days has especially hurt Black, Indigenous, workers of colour and women workers who are over-represented in frontline jobs, with low pay, few benefits, and without the ability to work from home;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia legislate a minimum of ten (10) accessible, universal, and permanent, paid sick days for all workers and additional days during public health outbreaks.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D.1 Neighbourhood Boundaries

Committee received a report dated February 17, 2021 from the Head of Business and Community Relations providing additional clarity regarding proposed adjustments to the neighbourhood boundaries in anticipation of broad engagement to be undertaken by staff.

Committee discussed:

- *Ensuring that residents’ perception of where they live is considered.*
- *Taking into account historical reasons for the neighborhood boundaries.*

Committee recessed at 9:58 a.m. and returned at 10:02 a.m.

Moved By Councillor Potts

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council direct staff to engage with the North Park Neighbourhood, 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Young

That Council direct the report back on these motions by the end of September at the latest.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D.2 Interim Design Options for Parking and Pedestrian Space in Clover Point Park

Committee received a report dated February 18, 2021 from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities with proposed interim designs for Clover Point Park. Staff have prepared two interim design options for vehicle parking and the expansion of pedestrian space at Clover Point Park.

Committee discussed:

- *Ensuring that the option is a good compromise*
- *Ensuring that the public know it is temporary*
- *Whether the CRD will absorb some of the costs*
- *What the cost saving would be if the paintings were not to be completed*

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

1. Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Young

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

FOR (5): Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (4): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, and Councillor Loveday

CARRIED (5 to 4)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Young

Seconded By Councillor Potts

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That the split rail fence be removed.

Amendment to amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

that staff review the installation of split rail fence and proceed with a view toward cost effectiveness

The Mayor ruled this motion out of order.

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That the split rail fence be removed if staff weigh safety for all users and deem that it is unnecessary.

FOR (6): Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (3): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, and Councillor Andrew

CARRIED (6 to 3)

On the amendment:

FOR (3): Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (6): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, and Councillor Loveday

DEFEATED (3 to 6)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Councillor Young

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That a location be found downtown for the “follow the pod” public art feature.

FOR (6): Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (3): Mayor Helps, Councillor Isitt, and Councillor Loveday

CARRIED (6 to 3)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council direct staff for opportunities to extend the vehicle parking to include some west side vantage points.

The Mayor ruled the amendment out of order as its does not relate to the main motion.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Dubow

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That a location be found downtown for the “follow the pod” public art feature.

That staff be in consultation with Immigrants and Immigrant Associations, ethno-cultural groups, Seniors' Advisory Committee, Youth Council and City of Victoria Youth Council and that their views be considered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Young

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That a location be found downtown for the "follow the pod" public art feature.

That staff be in consultation with Immigrants and Immigrant Associations, ethno-cultural groups, Seniors' Advisory Committee, Youth Council and City of Victoria Youth Council and that their views be considered.

That staff review the proposed amenities and infrastructure for the interim design with a view towards cost effectiveness and animation of the site and proceed accordingly.

FOR (4): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Loveday

DEFEATED (4 to 5)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That a location be found downtown for the "follow the pod" public art feature.

That staff be in consultation with Immigrants and Immigrant Associations, ethno-cultural groups, Seniors' Advisory Committee, Youth Council and City of Victoria Youth Council and that their views be considered.

That Council direct staff to shift the vehicle turn around slightly to the south to provide additional west views.

FOR (1): Councillor Thornton-Joe

OPPOSED (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Young

DEFEATED (1 to 8)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Councillor Young

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of **up to** \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That a location be found downtown for the “follow the pod” public art feature.

That staff be in consultation with Immigrants and Immigrant Associations, ethno-cultural groups, Seniors’ Advisory Committee, Youth Council and City of Victoria Youth Council and that their views be considered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council direct staff to proceed with option 2 for Clover Point Park:

Complete modifications to increase the pedestrian priority space in Clover Point Park, as illustrated in Attachment B, with an allocation of up to \$275,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve.

That the paint budget be restricted to delineating pedestrian trails and bike trails, versus passive spaces.

That a location be found downtown for the “follow the pod” public art feature.

That staff be in consultation with Immigrants and Immigrant Associations, ethno-cultural groups, Seniors’ Advisory Committee, Youth Council and City of Victoria Youth Council and that their views be considered.

FOR (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Thornton-Joe

CARRIED (8 to 1)

E. LAND USE MATTERS

E.1 330-336 Michigan Street: Revised Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Grant Application (James Bay)

Councillor Potts recused herself at 12:22 p.m. due to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest as she lives close to the application.

Councillor Isitt recused himself at 12:22 p.m. due to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest as his father lives close to the application.

Committee received a report dated February 4, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding updated recommendations related to a previously approved Victoria Housing Reserve Fund grant application for a below-market housing project at 330-336 Michigan Street, proposed by the Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC).

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council:

1. Revise the Victoria Housing Reserve Fund (VHRF) grant approved April 2, 2020 to the Capital Region Housing Corporation for the Michigan Square project located at 330-336 Michigan Street from \$1,020,000 to \$620,000 to reflect the applicant's request to no longer seek funding for moderate income units and the total number of one bedroom very low income units being increased from 12 to 16 units;
2. Authorize \$310,000 to be payable to the applicant upon execution of the Housing Fund Grant Agreement and legal agreements securing the (VHRF-funded) affordable units and bedroom unit sizes in a form to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor, with the remaining balance of \$310,000 to be payable to the applicant once the City has issued all required occupancy permits for the project; and
3. That the passage of this resolution creates no legal rights for the applicant or any other person, or obligation on the part of the City, until and unless all agreements are fully executed by the City.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee recessed at 12:23 p.m. and returned at 1:15 p.m.

Councillor Potts returned to the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Councillor Isitt returned to the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Councillor Andrew was not present when the meeting reconvened

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 Support Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Report

Committee received a report dated February 1, 2021 from the Head of Business and Community Relations reporting back on the January 21, 2021 Council

motion which was brought to Council in response to the recent surge of vandalism to businesses at a time when many business owners have already been impacted by the pandemic.

Committee discussed:

- *The rationale for the cost of the "block watch program"*
- *The purpose of the "block watch program" and how it differs from the program run by Victoria Police.*

Councillor Andrew returned to the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council:

1. Approve \$100,000 from the 2021 Financial Plan contingency budget to be allocated toward a Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative to be administered by the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) as outlined in this report.
2. Authorize a partnership agreement, on the terms satisfactory to the Head of Business and Community Relations and in the form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, with the DVBA to provide services on behalf of the City for the Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative.
3. That the above motions be forwarded to the daytime meeting of February 25, 2021 for ratification.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council:

1. Approve \$100,000 from the 2021 Financial Plan contingency budget to be allocated toward a Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative to be administered by the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) as outlined in this report.
2. Authorize a partnership agreement, on the terms satisfactory to the Head of Business and Community Relations and in the form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, with the DVBA to provide services on behalf of the City for the Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative.
3. That the above motions be forwarded to the daytime meeting of February 25, 2021 for ratification.
4. **That staff report to Council with an update on the block watch and downtown ambassador component of this expenditure which the information is available.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council:

1. Approve \$100,000 from the 2021 Financial Plan contingency budget to be allocated toward a Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative to be

administered by the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) as outlined in this report.

2. Authorize a partnership agreement, on the terms satisfactory to the Head of Business and Community Relations and in the form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, with the DVBA to provide services on behalf of the City for the Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative.
3. That the above motions be forwarded to the daytime meeting of February 25, 2021 for ratification.
4. That staff report to Council with an update on the block watch and downtown ambassador component of this expenditure which the information is available.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.2 Neighbourhood Association Coordinator Funding

Committee received a report dated February 17, 2021 from the Head of Business and Community Relations regarding a report back on the coordinator positions for Neighbourhood Associations.

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Alto

1. Approve the criteria as outlined in this report, to be incorporated into a policy, for the neighbourhood coordinator pilot project in the identified neighbourhoods.
2. That prior to awarding of the grant, each neighbourhood submit a basic strategy for the use of the funds that is subject to staff review and approved by the City Manager.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Isitt withdrew from the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Andrew

Seconded By Councillor Young

1. Approve the criteria as outlined in this report, to be incorporated into a policy, for the neighbourhood coordinator pilot project in the identified neighbourhoods.
2. That prior to awarding of the grant, each neighbourhood submit a basic strategy for the use of the funds that is subject to staff review and approved by the City Manager.
3. **To extend the pilot program to all the neighbourhood associations for those who do not have community centres and current funding.**

FOR (3): Councillor Andrew, Councillor Loveday, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Thornton-Joe

DEFEATED (3 to 5)

On the main motion

1. Approve the criteria as outlined in this report, to be incorporated into a policy, for the neighbourhood coordinator pilot project in the identified neighbourhoods.
2. That prior to awarding of the grant, each neighbourhood submit a basic strategy for the use of the funds that is subject to staff review and approved by the City Manager.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Council Member Motion: Council Endorsement of Help Cities Lead Campaign

Council Dubow recused due to a non-pecuniary conflict at 1:49 p.m. and he is on the Climate Caucus.

Committee received a Council Member Motion from Mayor Helps and Councillor Loveday regarding the Help Cities Lead campaign to support climate action advocacy, the goal of the Climate Leadership Plan and climate emergency response.

Councillor Isitt rejoined the meeting at 1:54 pm.

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council formally endorse the Help Cities Lead campaign and consider the following actions:

- a. Write a letter to the following provincial ministers to voice Council's support for the five policies detailed in this report:
 - o Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
 - o Minister of Municipal Affairs, MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca
 - o Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low-Carbon Innovation, EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
 - o Minister of Finance, FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca
 - o Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
- b. Write a letter to the Capital Regional District requesting regional endorsement of the campaign.
- c. Write a letter to all BC local governments asking to endorse the campaign.

FOR (6): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Thornton-Joe

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Andrew, and Councillor Young

CARRIED (6 to 2)

Councillor Dubow returned to the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

H.4 Council Member Motion: AVICC and UBCM Resolution: Acquisition of Apartment Buildings for Affordable Housing

Committee received a report dated February 23, 2021 from Councillor Isitt regarding the acquisition of apartment buildings for affordable housing.

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council adopts the following resolution and directs staff to forward electronic copies to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), and AVICC member local governments, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

Resolution: Acquisition of Apartment Buildings for Affordable Housing

WHEREAS communities face acute challenges around housing affordability and housing availability, undermining the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities;

AND WHEREAS purpose-built rental apartment buildings from previous decades are an essential component of the current rental housing supply, meaning that future renewal of these properties poses substantial opportunities and risks or current occupants as well as local communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia work with local communities, the not-for-profit sector and other partners on a program of land banking purpose-built rental apartment buildings, to preserve and renew this essential component of the affordable rental housing supply.

FOR (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Thornton-Joe

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (8 to 1)

I. **ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Moved By Councillor Andrew

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR