



Council Report

For the Meeting of July 8, 2021

To: Council **Date:** June 30, 2021

From: Karen Hoes, Director, Sustainable Planning and Community Development

Subject: **UPDATE: Pre-Application Community Consultation During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Rescind third reading of the Land Use Procedures Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No.13) 21-055 (the "**Bylaw**");
2. Amend section 2(c) of the Bylaw by inserting the following words as indicated with underlining for illustrative purposes only:
 - (a) If a state of local or provincial emergency has been declared or public health order or guidance issued in the City and in-person participation in a Community Meeting is inconsistent with the declaration, order, guidance, or is impractical,
3. Give third reading to Land Use Procedures Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No.13) No. 21-055, as amended.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 29, 2021, the Province of British Columbia indicated that the provincial state of emergency would be lifted end of day on June 30, 2021, coinciding with the end of Step 2 of the provincial Restart Plan. Step 3, which began on July 1, 2021, still limits indoor organized gatherings to a maximum of 50 people or 50% of venue capacity, whichever is greater. Therefore, at this time, it is still not possible to hold in-person Community Meetings associated with the pre-COVID Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) processes, in a manner that adheres to public health orders as the pre-COVID processes did not limit or monitor the number of attendees. As a result, staff are recommending amendments to the bylaw to ensure that the alternate approach to pre-application consultation, including posting plans on the development tracker, inviting submission of on-line comment forms and use of virtual meetings, remain in place for the interim.

There may be opportunities to further adapt the processes in response to the recent Provincial changes; however, that will take some time and dedicated staff resources. The province has stated that the earliest start date for Step 4, when large, organized gatherings will have increased capacity, would be September 7, 2021, which may further impact processes. Another report

seeking Council's direction regarding options for maintaining aspects of the virtual processes post COVID, is currently under preparation and will be presented to Committee of the Whole in July.

In response to this, staff are recommending that Council rescind the third reading of Land Use Procedures Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 13). No. 21-055, that received first readings by Council on June 24, 2021, and give third reading to the attached amendment which has been revised to add public health orders to section 8A(a). This would result in the alternate approach to the pre-application community consultation during the pandemic remaining in place at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Bateman
Senior Process Planner
Development Services Division

Karen Hoese, Director
Sustainable Planning and Community
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Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.