



Legislative Services
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

July 31, 2021

RE: Rezoning Application No. 00785 for Gorge Waterway Park

Dear Mayor and Council,

VI Paddling is a non-profit society and paddling club based in Victoria. Since 2011, we have specialized in developing high performance dragon boat paddlers and programs that have successfully represented Victoria at multiple club crew world championships.

The Gorge Waterway is a critical training area for the hundreds of local athletes we represent, and over the past decade our organization has rented dock storage space for our dragon boats and outrigger canoes immediately next to the proposed rezoning area (at 502 Selkirk Avenue). In addition, we frequently use the public dock at Gorge Waterway Park to load and unload our 20-paddler dragon boats.

We write to you today in support of rezoning application no. 00785, and the improved access to the waterway that this would provide for a wide variety of recreational uses and users. The Gorge Waterway has seen an explosion of new users during the global pandemic, and larger docks that support swimmers, rowers, and paddlers would be a tremendous benefit to the community.

We would, however, like to express two caveats to our support that we hope the City of Victoria will address in any future developments.

1. While there is considerable on-water cooperation between established user groups on this section of the Gorge Waterway (the various swim, rowing, and paddling clubs, in addition to local fishing boats and harbour ferries), the area is unpatrolled by the Victoria Harbour Authority, and there is no clear chain of accountability when problems arise (with derelict boats, speeding motorboats, or intoxicated boaters, paddlers, and swimmers). Communicating established traffic flow patterns and creating a system of patrol and/or incident reporting will be necessary as traffic continues to build on this small section of water.
2. Similarly, in recent months, our members have witnessed several novice swimmers who have taken to the Gorge unaware that it is a tidal waterway,

struggling to return from the main navigation channel to the public dock. Improved dock signage for swimmers would, we hope, reduce the chances of unfortunate accidents. Additionally, the City may want to consider a demarcated swim area for novice swimmers that includes a large section of the park-side bay, beach and swim island. While regular swimmers in the Gorge often use high visibility swim floats, many of the most novice swimmers are very difficult to see, and there is a growing risk of collision for such swimmers venturing into the navigation channel.

In addition, to further enhance access to the waterway, the City may wish to consider adding a public toilet in the park near the dock area. The Victoria West Community Centre is only open when specifically booked for rentals, and there is no other readily accessible toilet for waterway users in this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this public process. Should you wish any further information from our organization, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Arnold', is written over a light blue circular background.

Tom Arnold
President

[REDACTED]

From: Avery Stetski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 4:43 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment No. 21-072

Mayor and Council:

Re: GWP Zone, Gorge Waterway Park District Amendment Bylaw No. 21-072

I fully support the rezoning of the Gorge Waterway Park to allow for the addition to, expansion, and improvement of the existing swim dock.

This expansion will encourage more citizens to use the Gorge Waterway and will provide additional features that will enhance the accessibility to the Gorge waters.

Regards,
Avery Stetski

[REDACTED]

From: Jerry Prussin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Amendment Bylaw No.1258-No. 21-072

To Whom it Concerns,
We own 502 Craigflower Rd..We agree more wharves should be built, Regards, Jerry Prussin Norah Johnson

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: sean trace [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 3:27 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1258) - No. 21-072:

This change should be rubber stamped. You only have to visit any day, any time to see it is a no brainer.

I would suggest a second location for the wharf just to the south, close to the underwater cable signage. As the parking at the YMCA is just up the hill, keeping the neighbourhood parking for the residents.

A bathroom, even temporary / seasonal would be a good idea. There are no washroom facilities in Bamfield park.

One area of concern is boating safety. The lack of signage of the 5kt speed limit, and no wake while in this heavily used swimming area – including Curtis pt. in Saanich. I believe most users are aware, with the exception of the Tillicum Narrows Rowers, formally SMUS. The rowers going backwards at well above the 5kt speed limit, as well as their coaching escort boats keeping up with the rowers. Possibly restricting them from the above area in the interest of swimmer safety. As they are in the 10–12kts range going into the narrows heading north, Esquimalt/Saanich. There is just as much rowing room restricting them to the South side of the Goose bridge into the upper harbour as the above mentioned waters.

The rowers as a whole, constant use “megaphones” in residential areas despite noise bylaws part 3 – 12 (1) (a) is an example of their compliance to the bylaws.

There is a lack of understanding on who to report speeding boats to and enforcement with three municipalities and a harbour authority all sharing the waterway.

[REDACTED]

From: Thomas Rodger [REDACTED]
Sent: August 5, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1258) - No. 21-072

I am a resident of the Burnside-Gorge neighbourhood. I am in favour of this proposal.

Additionally, Council should direct staff to investigate the viability of public docks on the Burnside-Gorge side of the Gorge Waterway Park. There is currently no public dock access on the Burnside bank, and only one small point of access to the water adjacent to Selkirk Green.

These considerations would be consistent with the Burnside-Gorge Neighbourhood Plan.

Many thanks - Tom Rodger

[REDACTED]

From: Jenny Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Changes to Gorge Waterway Park

I live at 1239 Styles St so this has direct affect on my property. I am not opposed to the new docks but there needs to be some sort of parking put in the park to accommodate all the extra cars. Currently we have residential parking on the street and people are parking there and not obeying signs. If you are going to add public docks, etc. to allow more people to come you need to put in some sort of parking to accommodate them. There is a constant stream of vehicles going down our road to the beach from early in the morning to late at night.

We currently have the canoers coming daily, the children's day programs with canoes, the beach people the workers from the Styles where there is no parking there except on the street. There is currently only 12 residential parking spots on Styles St for 8 homes and The Styles. There are up to a maximum of 7 parking spots at the bottom of the street and about 8 to 10 at the top of the street for people coming to the park. Some days there are fifty to 100 people in the park. Please consider the people who reside here and put in some parking for visitors. It's very frustrating.

Thank you
Jenny Hall
1239 Styles St.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

[REDACTED]

From: rick.danyluck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Changes to Gorge Waterway Park

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I live at 1231 Styles St so this has direct affect on my property. I am not opposed to the new docks but there needs to be some sort of parking put in the park to accommodate all the extra cars. Currently we have residential parking on the street and people are parking there and not obeying signs. If you are going to add public docks, etc. to allow more people to come you need to put in some sort of parking to accommodate them. There is a constant stream of vehicles going down our road to the beach from early in the morning to late at night. We currently have the canoers coming daily, the children's day programs with canoes, the beach people the workers from the Styles where there is no parking there except on the street. There is still issues with the derelict boats in the bay also and them parking on the street too. There is currently only 12 residential parking spots on Styles St for 8 homes and The Styles. There are up to a maximum of 7 parking spots at the bottom of the street and about 8 to 10 at the top of the street for people coming to the park. Some days there are fifty to 100 people in the park. Please consider the people who reside here and put in some parking for visitors..

Thank you
Rick Danyluck
1231 Styles St.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

[REDACTED]

From: Thomas Rodger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1258) - No. 21-072

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