



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of September 23, 2021**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** September 23, 2021
From: Kerri Moore, Head of Business & Community Relations
Subject: Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report as information pertaining to the results of the proposed neighbourhood boundaries Have Your Say engagement survey and correspondence from residents and neighbourhood associations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, Council introduced an action to 'resolve anomalies in neighbourhood boundaries' in the Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods section of the City's Strategic Plan. On February 11, 2021 Council held a workshop regarding the current neighbourhood boundaries and made several observations that supported the proposed changes including:

- Reconciling geographic anomalies that may fit better in adjacent neighbourhood
- There may be opportunities to better match boundaries with the neighbourhoods in which residents perceive themselves to be living (sense of place)
- Neighbourhood populations vary substantially and may present challenges for neighbourhood associations, e.g. too big for effective representation or too small to recruit volunteer support
- Some village centres are divided between neighbourhoods

With the above considerations, boundaries in Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown and Burnside Gorge were discussed as possible areas for change. Residents were also asked to provide feedback on other proposed changes such as neighbourhood land use review committee structures for Rockland, Fairfield and Gonzales, neighbourhood merging for Downtown and Harris Green, and merging of the North and South Jubilee neighbourhood associations.

Opportunities for public participation via individual correspondence and the Have Your Say engagement survey were directly promoted through the City's engagement platform, flyer mailout (to specific areas that would be directly impacted by the proposed changes), the City's website and e-News edition, emails to all the neighbourhood associations which included survey information, and updates to process and timing, monthly neighbourhood updates, neighbourhood association meetings and social media posts including a media release.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to deliver the results of the *Have Your Say* online survey that took place from May 10 to August 3, 2021. This offered residents the opportunity to participate in seven neighbourhood proposed boundary change surveys, one survey regarding a land-use decision and one survey regarding a neighbourhood association merger. The survey results coupled with additional correspondence submitted by the Neighbourhood Associations and individual residents in the attached appendices will help inform Council to make their decisions regarding each proposed neighbourhood boundary adjustment.

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.*
2. *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.*
10. *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:*
 - A. *recognition of the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association as the CALUC for the Gonzales neighbourhood; or*
 - B. *recognition of a unified Gonzales-Rockland Neighbourhood Association as the CALUC for a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood; or*
 - C. *the status quo, requesting comment from those associations by April 30, 2021.*
11. *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*
12. *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. (Note: due to the differing subject matter in this directive, it is being pursued with neighbourhoods independently)*
13. *That Council direct staff to send the proposed adjustments to Destination Victoria for any comments with respect to downtown boundaries.*

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

Please refer to Appendix A – Neighbourhood Boundaries Engagement Report for the complete details of results, tables and comments.

A total of 1,053 people responded to the survey. Respondents could answer as many of the questions as they wished.

All neighbourhoods that would be affected by the referral questions provided submissions with the exception of the Jubilee neighbourhood associations. Questions did not relate to Vic West, James Bay and Hillside Quadra and no submissions were received from them.

The Victoria Community Association Network's (VCAN) submission (June 26) questioned the rationale for the proposed changes and believed there was insufficient data provided for appropriate consideration of the questions. They proposed postponement of the referral pending greater collaboration with neighbourhood associations in designing a consultation process.

What We Asked / Overall Results

1. Should Bay Street be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands?

- A total of 475 people participated in the survey
- 43% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 15% of survey respondents live in Oaklands (282 people).

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 158 (55%) people who said they agree that Bay Street should be the border between Fernwood and Oaklands.
- We heard from 41 (14%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Fernwood/Oaklands boundary change.
- We heard from 85 (30%) people who said they do not want Bay Street to be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands.

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- Residents feeling like they belong more to the Oaklands neighbourhood.
- Residents wanting to remain in Fernwood because they feel a sense of pride and strong connection as a member of the community.

From the neighbourhood associations:

- Fernwood Community Association (FCA) consulted with Oaklands and held public meetings. The FCA expressed an opinion that more time be dedicated to consideration of this boundary change
- The Oaklands Community Association OCA is generally supportive of the changes and has no opposition to the proposal as the changes are only beneficial to our neighbourhood

2. Should 2700 block to 3000 block of the east side of Shelbourne Street (currently in Jubilee) be joined to Oaklands?

- A total of 301 people participated in this survey.
- 19% of survey respondents live in Jubilee. 17% of survey respondents live in Oaklands (108 people)

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 70 (65%) people who said they agree that a portion of Jubilee should be joined to Oaklands.
- We heard from 20 (19%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Oaklands/Jubilee boundary change.
- We heard from 17 (16%) people who said they do not want a portion of Jubilee to be joined to Oaklands.

From the Neighbourhood Associations:

- The Oaklands Community Association OCA is generally supportive of the changes and has no opposition to the proposal as the changes are only beneficial to our neighbourhood

Support for the proposed boundary change included Oaklands and Jubilee having similar interest in land use and traffic matters.

Specific concerns were noted, such as increased densification in the border area and the border change would decrease the size of North Jubilee, and ultimately reduce community participation and members.

3. Should Bay Street to Chambers Street to Pandora Avenue (currently in Fernwood) be joined to North Park?

- A total of 450 people participated in this survey.

- 46% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 14% of survey respondents live in North Park (265 people).

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 170 (64%) people who said they do not want a portion of Fernwood to join North Park.
- We heard from 23 (9%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed North Park/Fernwood boundary change.
- We heard from 71 (27%) people who said they agree that a portion of Fernwood should be joined to North Park.

There was strong disagreement with this proposed boundary change. The following concerns were noted:

- The boundary change would create tension between the two neighbourhoods.
- Residents wanting their home to remain in Fernwood to maintain its property value.
- Residents wanting to remain in Fernwood because they feel a sense of pride and a strong connection as a member of the community.
- The boundary change would eradicate the history and reputation that Fernwood has built throughout time.
- Many believe the change is unnecessary e.g., “waste of money” and “makes no sense”.

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- It would settle issues regarding the North Park/Fernwood boundary of the North Park Village.

From the neighbourhood associations:

- Fernwood Community Association considered there to be strong opposition to the proposed change and recommended it be rejected
- North Park Neighbourhood Association noted strong opposition to the change from affected residents and did not support a change in the face of such opposition. They expressed an interest in working collaboratively with Fernwood with regards to future development of both sides of the village centre on Cook Street.

4. Should the portion of Fernwood from Pandora Avenue, Johnson Street, Yates Street, View Street to Fort Street be joined with the Downtown-Harris Green (proposed) neighbourhood?

- A total of 357 people participated in this survey.
- 40% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 7.4% of survey respondents live in Harris Green. 7% of survey respondents live in Downtown (188 people).

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 109 (58%) people who said they do not want a portion of Fernwood to join the proposed Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood.
- We heard from 17 (9%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green boundary change.
- We heard from 62 (33%) people who said they agree that a portion of Fernwood should join the proposed Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood.

From the neighbourhood associations:

- Fernwood Community Association commented that this would create an anomaly and recommended against this change
- Downtown Residents Association did not see any merit in the proposed change and did not support it

Note: the proposed change would align the boundary with that of the Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP)

5. Should the 800 block between Fort Street and Academy Close, and Blanshard Street and Quadra Street (currently part of Fairfield) be joined to Downtown?

- A total of 409 people participated in this survey.
- 38% of survey respondents live in Fairfield. 6% of survey respondents live in Downtown (176 people)

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 91 (52%) people who said they agree that a portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown.
- We heard from 18 (10%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Fairfield/Downtown boundary change.
- We heard from 67 (38%) people who said they do not want a portion of Fairfield to join Downtown.

A specific concern was noted, such as the increased densification in Fairfield.

From the neighbourhood associations:

- Fairfield Gonzales Community Association commented that this would create an anomaly and recommended against this change
- Downtown Residents Association believe that the proposed boundary change would be beneficial if it were adjusted slightly to align with the Downtown Core Area Plan boundary

6. Should Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown?

- A total of 304 people participated in this survey.
- 26% of survey respondents live in Burnside Gorge. 10% of survey respondents live in Downtown (108 people).

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 55 (51%) people who said they agree that Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown.
- We heard from 5 (7%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Downtown/Burnside Gorge boundary change.
- We heard from 48 (44%) people who said they do not want Bay Street to be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown.

While the survey indicated more residents agreed with the proposed change, a common concern was noted that there would be an increase of supportive housing in the Burnside Gorge neighborhood.

From the neighbourhood associations:

- Burnside Gorge Community Association opposed the proposed change citing the interests of a developing business improvement association in the neighbourhood and a general lack of understanding of a rationale for the change.
- Downtown Residents Association supported the proposed change as consistent with the Downtown Core Area Plan boundaries and the types of development that will occur in the affected area

7. Regarding land use decisions in Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland, should Council a) recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales Neighbourhood, b) have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association or c) remain as is, and have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land issues?

- A total of 348 people participated in this survey, 225 were from Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 107 (48%) people who said Council should recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales neighbourhood.
- We heard from 35 (16%) people who said Council should have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales Rockland Neighbourhood Association
- We heard from 80 (36%) people who said Council should have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land use issues (status quo).

From the neighbourhood associations:

- Fairfield Gonzales Community Association supported Option C as serving the best interests of residents
- Gonzales Neighbourhood Association expressed support for Option A as the best option for residents within its area
- Rockland Neighbourhood Association did not feel it could provide an opinion in support of Option B, but indicated support for the independence of the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association

8. Should Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood?

- A total of 244 people participated in this survey.
- 10% of survey respondents live in Harris Green. 5% of survey respondents live in Downtown (47 people).

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 34 (72%) people who said they agree that Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood.
- We heard from 1 (2%) person who said they are neutral to the proposed Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhood merge.
- We heard from 12 (25%) people who said they do not want Downtown and Harris Green to be recognized as one neighbourhood.

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- The need to increase the size of Downtown, to accommodate higher density.
- Harris Green is already viewed as being “Downtown.”

Specific concerns were noted, such as:

- Harris Green being primarily designated for core residential, according to the city’s Official Community Plan.
- Most of the visions and strategic directions for the Downtown in the Official Community Plan do not apply to Harris Green.

From the neighbourhood association:

- Downtown Residents Association supported the change, but believed that Harris Green should retain its identity as a locale within the Downtown neighbourhood, like Old Town and Chinatown.

9. Should the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merge to form one association?

- A total of 220 people participated in this survey
- 24% of survey respondents live in Jubilee (51 people)

From the residents in the impacted neighbourhoods:

- We heard from 31 (61%) people who said they agree that the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations should merge to form one association.
- We heard from 6 (12%) people who said they are neutral to the North and South Jubilee Association merge.
- We heard from 14 (27%) people who said they do not want the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merging to form one association.

While the survey indicated more residents agreed with the proposed changes, specific concerns were noted, such as:

- North and South Jubilee are different communities with different interests.
- Merging both North and South Jubilee associations would make the neighbourhood too big.
- Merging associations would not address the concerns that each neighbourhood has.

Summary of Survey Comments

Many of the survey comments wanted more clarity on the proposed boundary changes. Overall common survey feedback sentiments included:

- Not understanding how the changes would impact them (whether beneficial or not)
- Not understanding the purpose of these proposed boundary changes
- Not understanding what “help reconcile anomalies and improve residents’ sense of place” means

Overall common beliefs included:

- There is a hidden agenda/ulterior motive to these proposed boundary changes
- There are other issues in the city that are more important than boundary changes
- These proposed changes are a waste of time, money and resources
- Residents did not indicate that current neighbourhood boundaries are an issue
- Residents are happy with where they live, and do not want to change their neighbourhood

CONCLUSION

The feedback received provided essential insight into the opinions of neighbourhood associations and residents. All feedback received was considered by the project team and helped create the staff report to help inform Council on the proposed neighbourhood boundary adjustments.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Moore	Gary Pemberton
Head of Business & Community Relations	Neighbourhood Liaison

Kimberley Stratford	Michael Hill
Neighbourhood Liaison	Community Development Coordinator

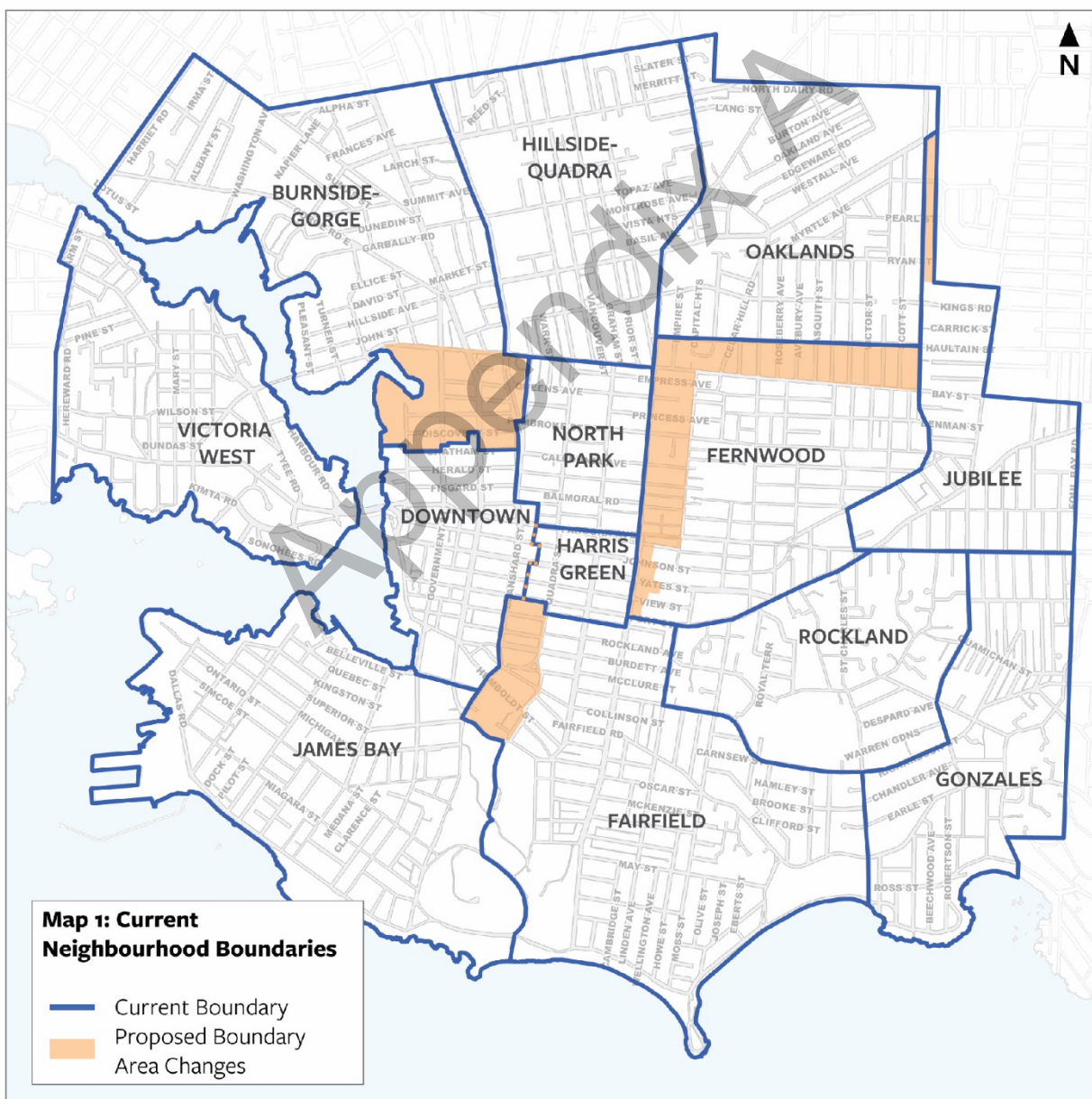
Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

Appendix A – Neighbourhood Boundaries Engagement Report
 Appendix B – letter from Burnside Gorge Community Association
 Appendix C – letters from Fairfield Gonzales Community Association
 Appendix D – letter from Fernwood Neighbourhood Association
 Appendix E – letters from Gonzales Neighbourhood Association
 Appendix F – letter from North Park Neighbourhood Association
 Appendix G – email from Oaklands Community Association
 Appendix H – letter from Rockland Neighbourhood Association
 Appendix I – letters from Victoria Community Centre Network
 Appendix J – letter from Downtown Residents Association
 Appendix K – letter from resident 1
 Appendix L – letter from resident 2
 Appendix M – redacted survey comments and emails

Neighbourhood Boundaries

Engagement Summary



Contents

About the Project

Have Your Say (Survey Results)

Overview of Emails

Overview of Association Letters

Promotional Material

Appendix (comments, emails, letters)

Appendix A

About the Project

Executive Summary

Council directed staff to engage residents through their neighbourhood associations about the proposed neighbourhood boundary changes. Staff attended monthly neighbourhood association meetings and were able to:

- advise residents on the proposed changes,
- inform residents the opportunities to provide feedback,
- and responded to questions.

From May 10 to June 18, 2021, residents had the opportunity to participate in seven neighbourhood proposed boundary change surveys, one survey regarding land-use decision and one survey regarding a neighbourhood association merge. Residents from the following areas provided their feedback:

Burnside Gorge	North & South Jubilee
Downtown	North Park
Fairfield	Oaklands
Fernwood	Rockland
Gonzales	Victoria West
Harris Green	Hillside-Quadra
James Bay	People living outside of Victoria

A total of 1053 people responded to the survey.

The survey results indicate that most of the survey questions received support. On a scale of strongly agree to strongly disagree, the following surveys had a stronger agree response:

- Fernwood/Oaklands Boundary
- Oaklands/Jubilee Boundary
- Fairfield/Downtown Boundary
- Downtown/Burnside Gorge Boundary
- Downtown/Harris Green Merge
- Jubilee Association Merge

On a scale of strongly agree to strongly disagree, the following surveys had a stronger disagree response:

- North Park/Fernwood Boundary
- Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green Boundary

For the Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland land-use decision survey, most respondents said council should recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales neighbourhood.

Common feedback themes from survey comments, emails and letters indicate that residents do not understand the rationale for these changes. Majority of the written feedback came from those who opposed to the changes. Many feel the changes are unwarranted, a waste of time and a waste of resources. Many who are directly impacted (especially residents in Fernwood) expressed how disappointed and upset they would be if their neighbourhood changed because of how strongly connected they feel to it.

The feedback received provided essential insight into the opinions of residents. All feedback received was considered by the project team and helped create the staff report to Council for September 2021.

Project Overview

In 2019, Council introduced an action to 'resolved anomalies in neighbourhood boundaries' in the Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods section of the City's Strategic Plan.

On February 4, 2021 Council held a decision about current neighbourhood boundaries. Council made several observations including that:

- Reconciling geographic anomalies that may fit better in adjacent neighbourhood.
- There may be opportunities to better match boundaries with the neighbourhoods in which residents perceive themselves to be living (sense of place).
- Neighbourhood populations vary substantially and may present challenges for neighbourhood associations, e.g. too big for effective representation or too small to recruit volunteer support.
- Some village centres are divided between neighbourhoods.

With the above considerations, boundaries in Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown and Burnside Gorge were discussed as possible areas for change (see maps in What We Asked section). Residents were also asked to provide feedback on other proposed changes such as neighbourhood land use review committee structures for Rockland, Fairfield and Gonzales, neighbourhood merging for Downtown and Harris Green, and merging the north and south Jubilee neighbourhood associations.

Promoting the Opportunity to Participate

Opportunities for public participation were directly promoted through:

- The City's engagement platform (engage.victoria.ca)
- Flyer mailout (to specific areas that would be directly impacted by the proposed changes)
- City of Victoria website (latest news and victoria.ca/neighbourhoods)
- City e-News (June 2021 edition)

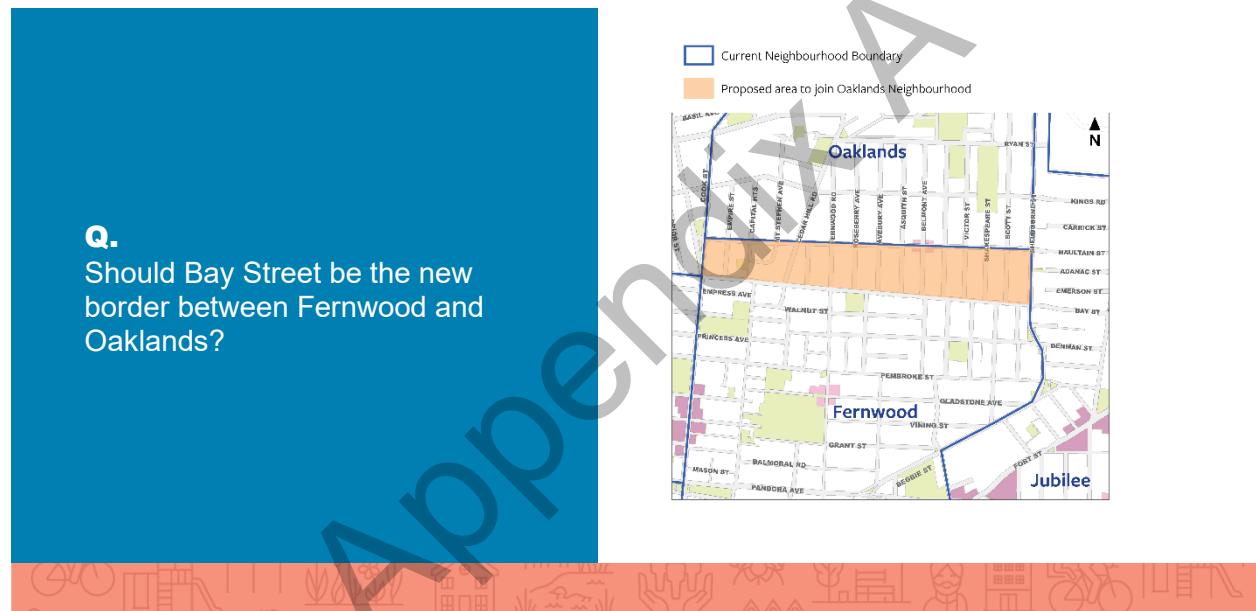
- Emails to all the neighbourhood associations which included survey information, and updates to process and timing.
- Neighbourhood Hotsheets
- Neighbourhood Association meetings
- Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Media release, media coverage and interviews promoting the opportunity for public input.

Examples of promotional and advertising materials are included later in the report.

What We Asked

Fernwood/Oaklands Boundary

2500 – blocks between Cook Street and Shelbourne Street, and Bay Street and Haultain Street.





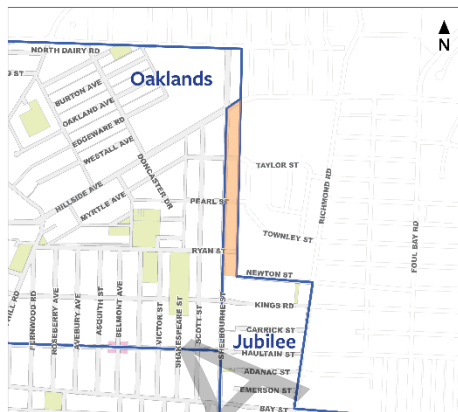
Oaklands/Jubilee Boundary

2700 – block to 3000 – block of the east side of Shelbourne Street

Q.

Should this portion of Jubilee be joined to Oaklands?

 Current Neighbourhood Boundary
 Proposed area to join Oaklands Neighbourhood





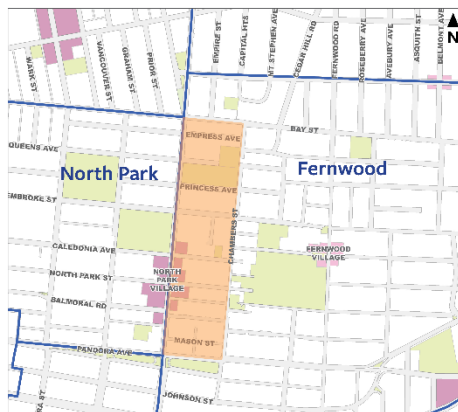
North Park/Fernwood Boundary

Changes would be between North Park and Fernwood, From Bay Street to Chamber Street to Pandora Avenue.

Q.

Should this portion of Fernwood be joined to North Park?

 Current Neighbourhood Boundary
 Proposed area to join North Park Neighbourhood





Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green Boundary

Changes would be between Fernwood and the Downtown/Harris Green (proposed) neighbourhood, from Pandora Avenue, Johnson Street, Yates Street, View Street to Fort Street.

Q.

Should this portion of Fernwood be joined to Downtown/Harris Green (proposed) neighbourhood?

 Current Neighbourhood Boundary
 Proposed area to join Downtown/Harris Green (proposed) Neighbourhood





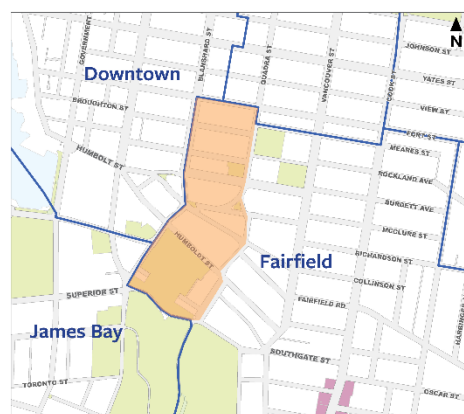
Fairfield/Downtown Boundary

800-block between Fort Street and Academy Close, and Blanshard Street and Quadra Street.

Q.

Should this portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown?

 Current Neighbourhood Boundary
 Proposed area to join Downtown Neighbourhood



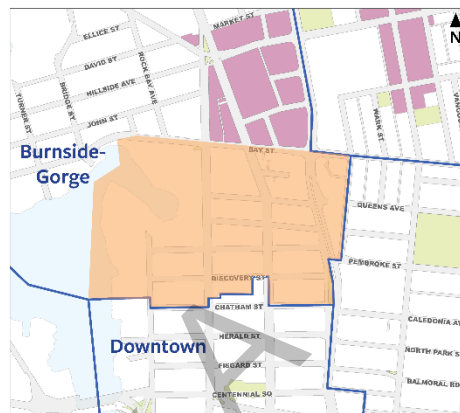
Downtown/Burnside Gorge Boundary

Changes would be between Burnside-Gorge and Downtown, from Chatham, Discover, Caledonia to Bay Street.

Q.

Should Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown?

Current Neighbourhood Boundary
Proposed area to join Downtown Neighbourhood

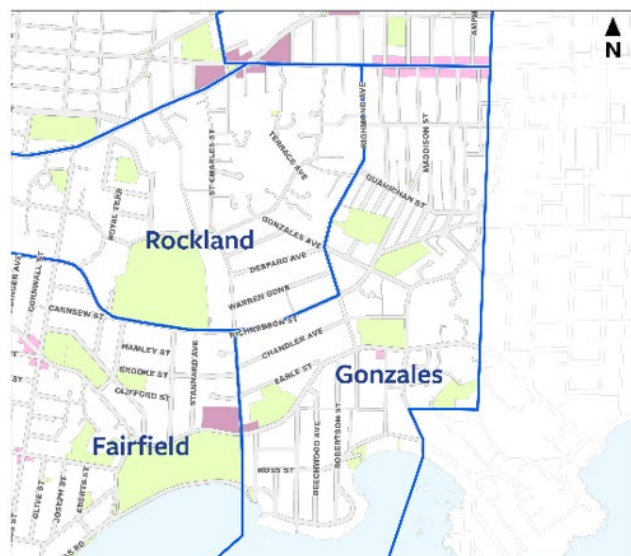


Fairfield, Gonzales & Rockland Land Use Decision

Q. Should Council

- Recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales Neighbourhood?
- Have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association
- Remain as is, and have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land issues

Current Neighbourhood Boundary



Downtown & Harris Green Neighbourhood Merge

Changes would remove the current Downtown and Harris Green border, between Blanshard Street and Quadra Street.

Q.

Should Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood?

Current Neighbourhood Boundary

Proposed Boundary Deletion



Jubilee Association Merge

Q.

Should the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merge to form one association?

Have Your Say (Survey Results)



Have Your Say Statistics

May 10 – June 19, 2021

1,053 survey respondents

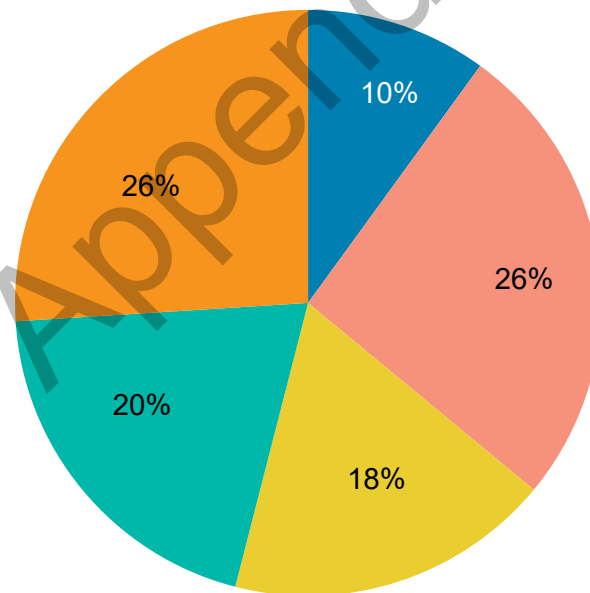
111 comments

2,840 aware

1,733 informed

Demographics of Survey Participant

Age of Survey Respondents



■ 18-31 ■ 32-42 ■ 43-53 ■ 54-64 ■ 65+

Survey Insights

What We Heard – Key Findings

Many of the survey comments came from respondents who disagreed, and who wanted more clarity on the proposed boundary changes. Overall common survey feedback sentiments included:

- Not understanding how the changes would impact them (whether beneficial or not).
- Not understanding the purpose of these proposed boundary changes.
- Not understanding what “help reconcile anomalies and improve residents’ sense of place” means.

Overall common beliefs included:

- There is a hidden agenda/ulterior motive to these proposed boundary changes.
- There are other issues in the city that are more important than boundary changes.
- These proposed changes are a waste of time, money and resources.
- Residents did not indicate that current neighbourhood boundaries are an issue.
- Residents are happy with where they live, and do not want to change their neighbourhood.

Analysis of the data for each question is divided into two sections: Overall results and results from residents from impacted neighbourhoods.

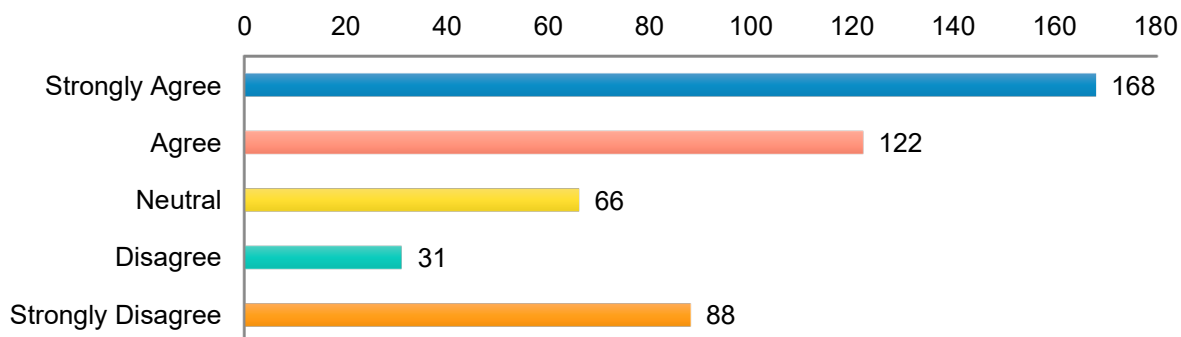
Spotlight

Fernwood/Oaklands Boundary

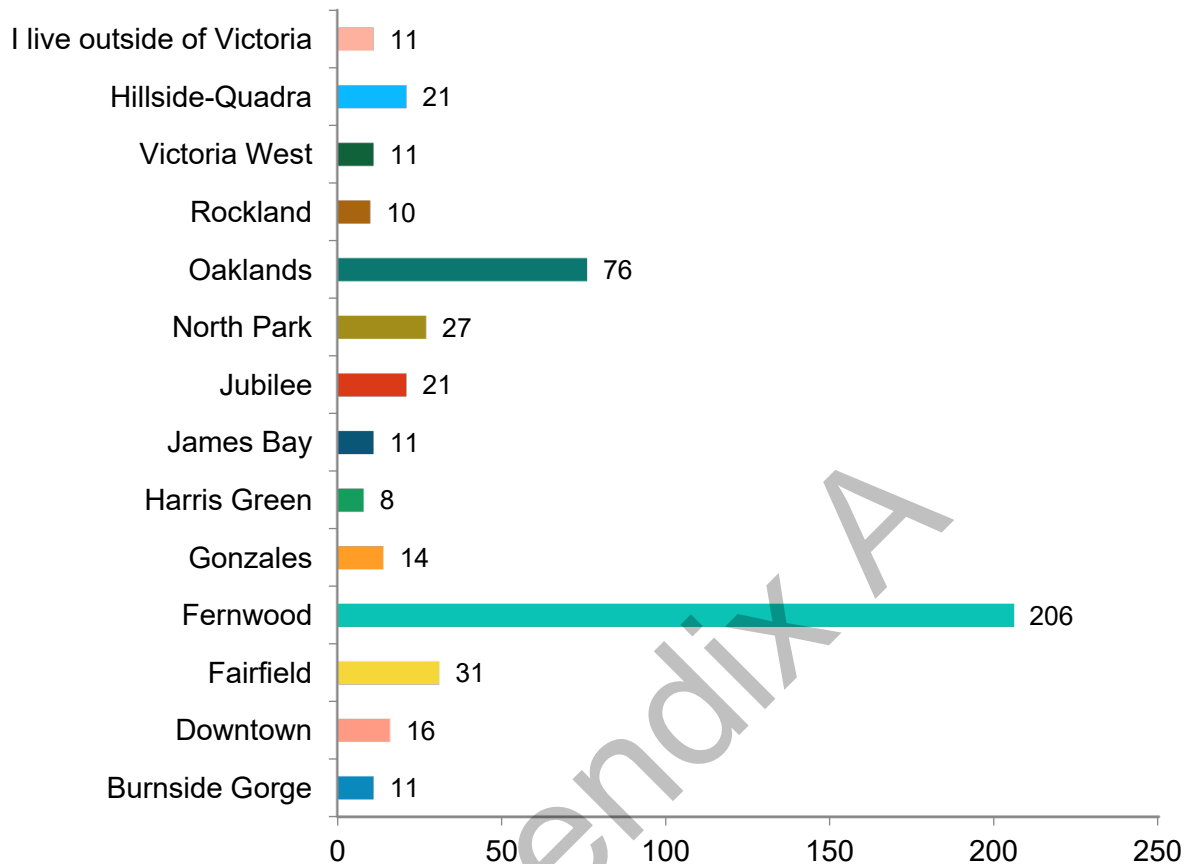


OVERALL RESULTS

Should Bay Street be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands?



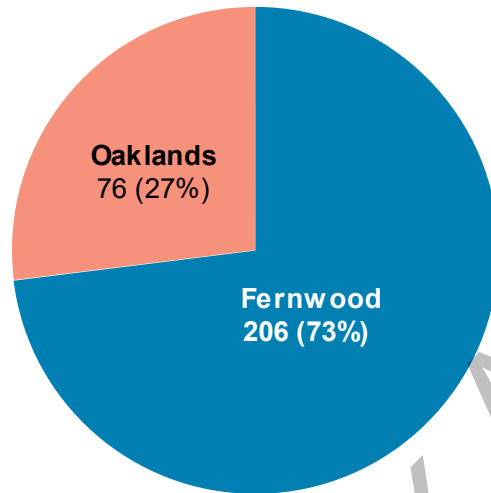
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



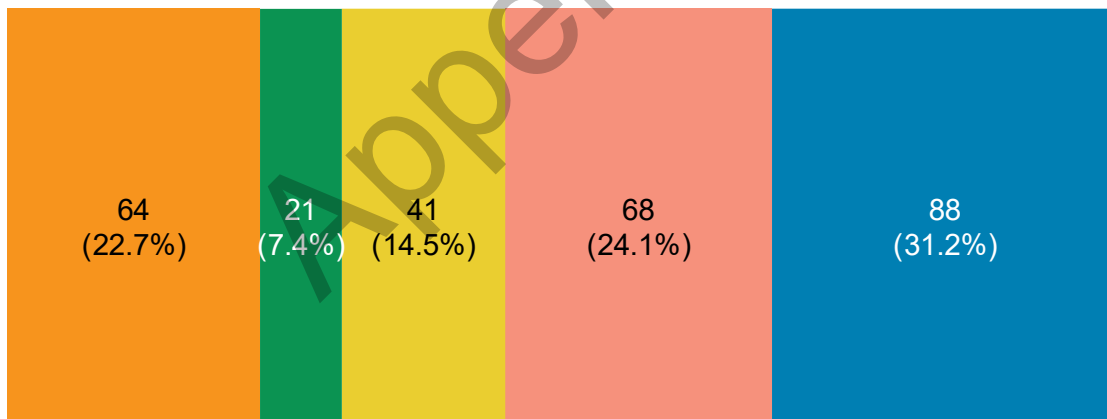
- A total of 475 people participated in the survey
- We heard from 290 (61%) people who said they **agree** that Bay Street should be the border between Fernwood and Oaklands.
- We heard from 66 (14%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Fernwood/Oakland boundary change.
- We heard from 119 (25%) people who said they **do not** want Bay Street to be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands.
- 43% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 15% of survey respondents live in Oaklands.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM FERNWOOD AND OAKLAND RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should Bay Street be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree ● Disagree ● Neutral ● Agree ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 282 people from Fernwood and Oaklands participated in this survey.
- We heard from 158 (55%) people who said they agree that Bay Street should be the border between Fernwood and Oaklands.
- We heard from 41 (14%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Fernwood/Oaklands boundary change.
- We heard from 85 (30%) people who said they do not want Bay Street to be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands.

KEY THEMES

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- Residents feeling like they belong more to the Oaklands neighbourhood.
- Residents wanting to remain in Fernwood because they feel a sense of pride and strong connection as a member of the community.

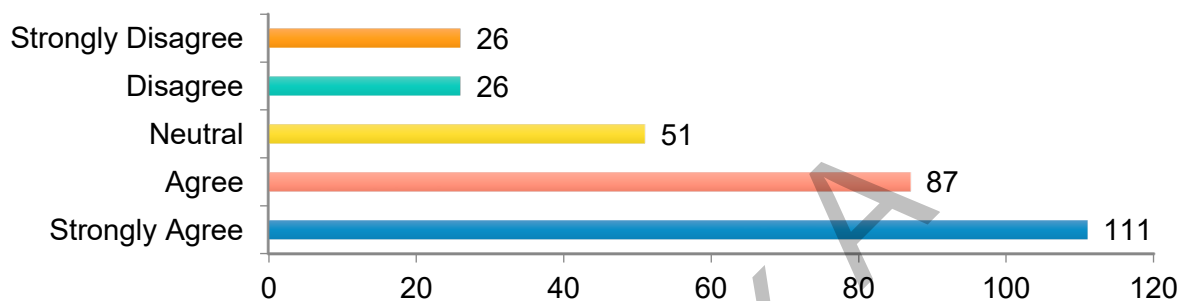
Spotlight:

Oaklands/Jubilee Boundary

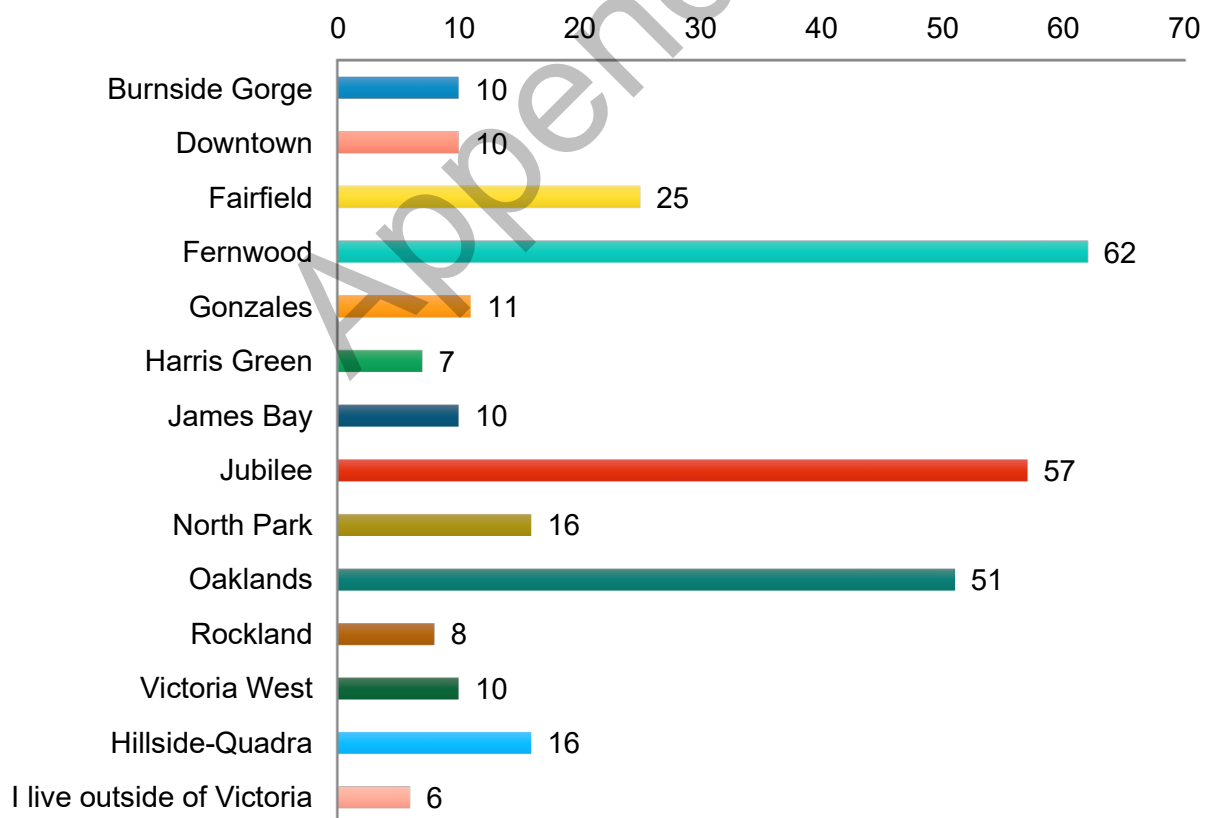


OVERALL RESULTS

Should a portion of Jubilee be joined to Oaklands?



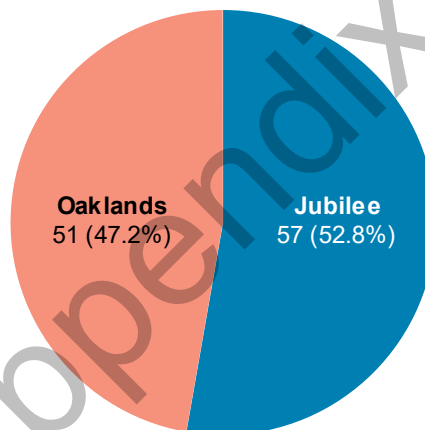
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



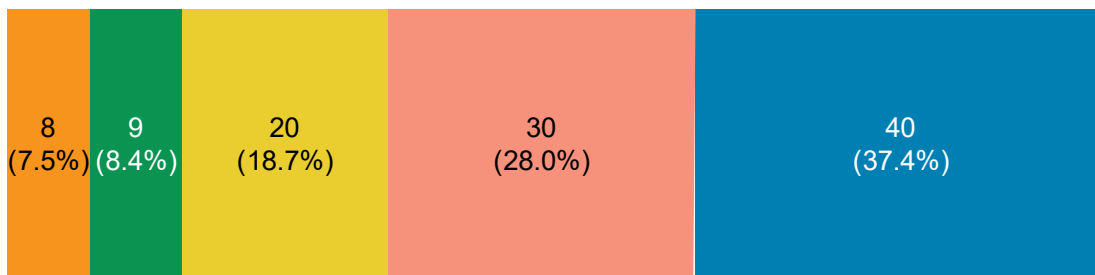
- A total of 301 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 198 (66%) people who said they agree that a portion of Jubilee should be joined to Oaklands.
- We heard from 51 (16.94%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Oaklands/Jubilee boundary change.
- We heard from 52 (17%) people who said they do not want a portion of Jubilee to be joined to Oaklands.
- 19% of survey respondents live in Jubilee. 17% of survey respondents live in Oaklands

SURVEY RESULTS FROM OAKLANDS AND JUBILEE RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should a portion of Jubilee be joined to Oaklands?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 108 **people from Oaklands and Jubilee** participated in this survey.
- We heard from 70 (65%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Jubilee should be joined to Oaklands.

We heard from 20 (19%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Oaklands/Jubilee boundary change.

- We heard from 17 (16%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Jubilee to be joined to Oaklands.

KEY THEMES

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- Oaklands and Jubilee having similar interest in land use and traffic matters.

Specific concerns were noted, such as:

- Increased densification in the border area.
- Border change would decrease the size of North Jubilee, and ultimately reduce community participation and members.

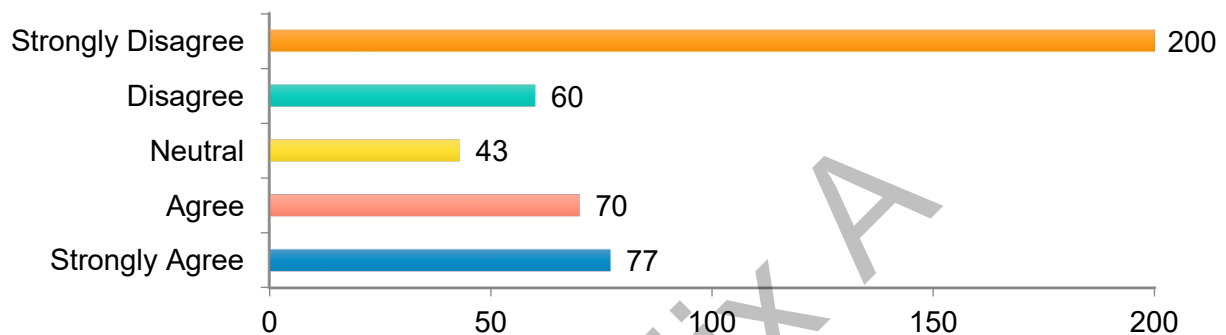
Spotlight:

North Park/Fernwood Boundary

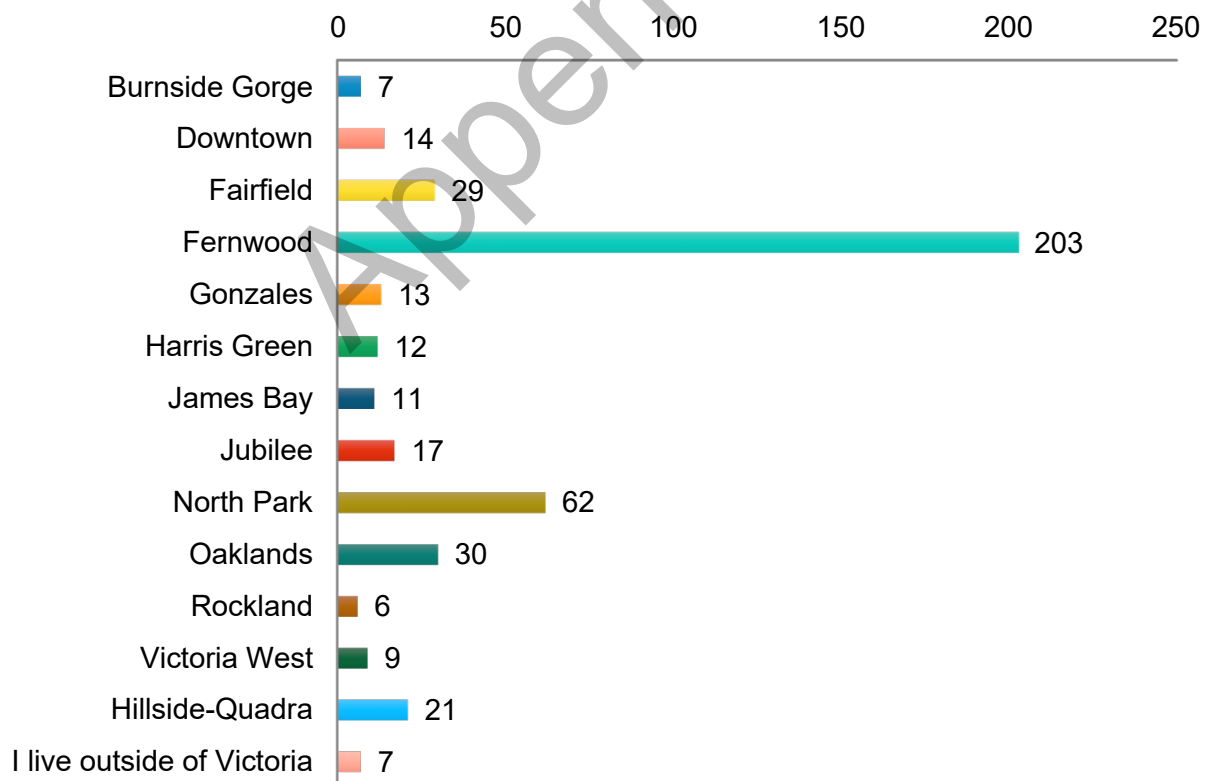


OVERALL RESULTS

Should a portion of Fernwood be joined to North Park?



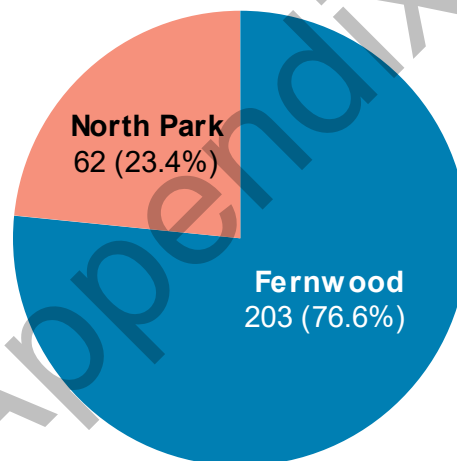
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



- A total of 450 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 260 (58%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Fernwood to join North Park.
- We heard from 43 (9%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed North Park/Fernwood boundary change.
- We heard from 147 (33%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Fernwood should be joined to North Park.
- 46% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 14% of survey respondents live in North Park.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM NORTH PARK AND FERNWOOD RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should a portion of Fernwood be joined to North Park?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 265 **people from North Park and Fernwood** participated in this survey.
- We heard from 170 (64%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Fernwood to join North Park.
- We heard from 23 (9%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed North Park/Fernwood boundary change.
- We heard from 71 (27%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Fernwood should be joined to North Park.

KEY THEMES

There was strong disagreement with this proposed boundary change. The following concerns were noted:

- The boundary change would create tension between the two neighbourhoods.
- Residents wanting their home to remain in Fernwood to maintain its property value.
- Residents wanting to remain in Fernwood because they feel a sense of pride and strong connection as a member of the community.
- The boundary change would eradicate the history and reputation that Fernwood has built throughout time.
- Many believe the change is unnecessary, a waste of money and makes no sense.

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- It would settle issues regarding the North Park/Fernwood boundary of the North Park Village.

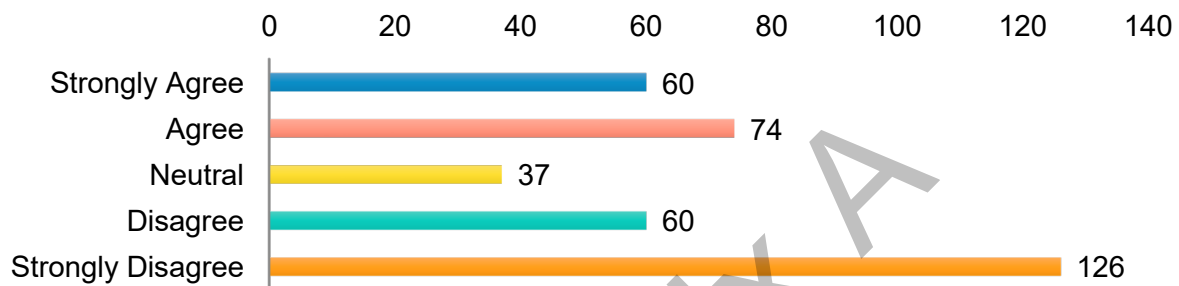
Spotlight:

Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green Boundary

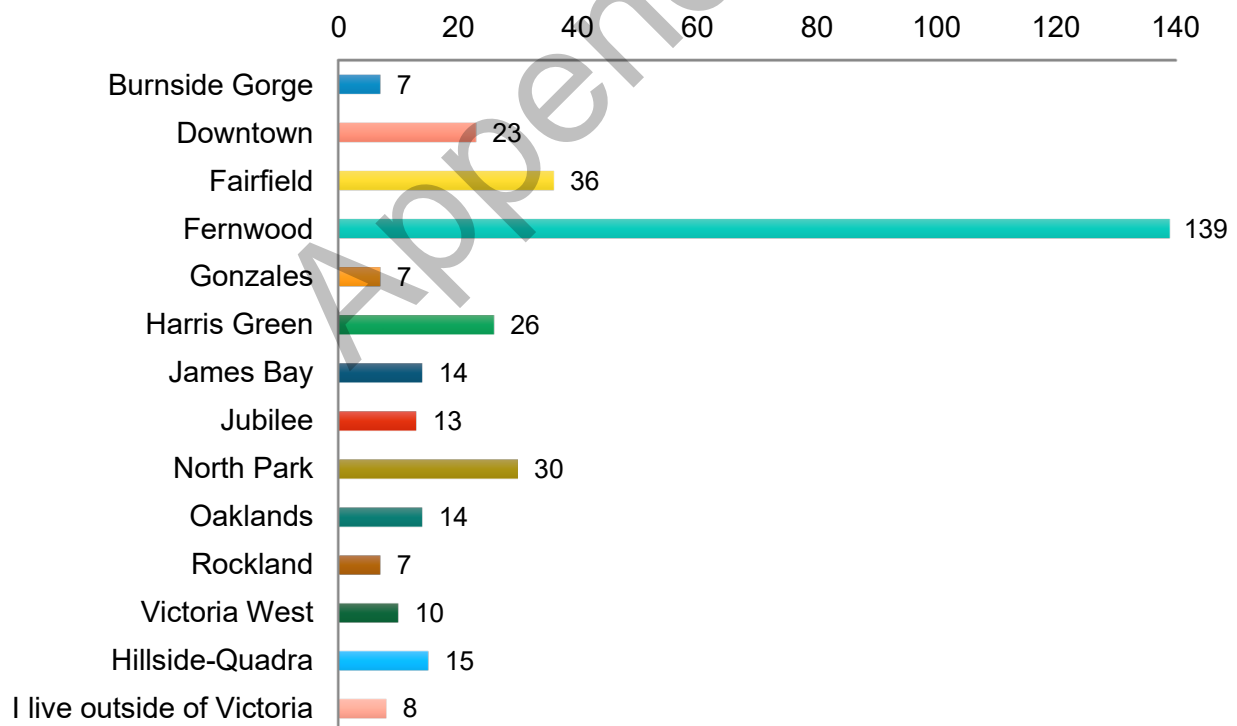


OVERALL RESULTS

Should a portion of Fernwood be joined to the Downtown/Harris Green (proposed) neighbourhood?



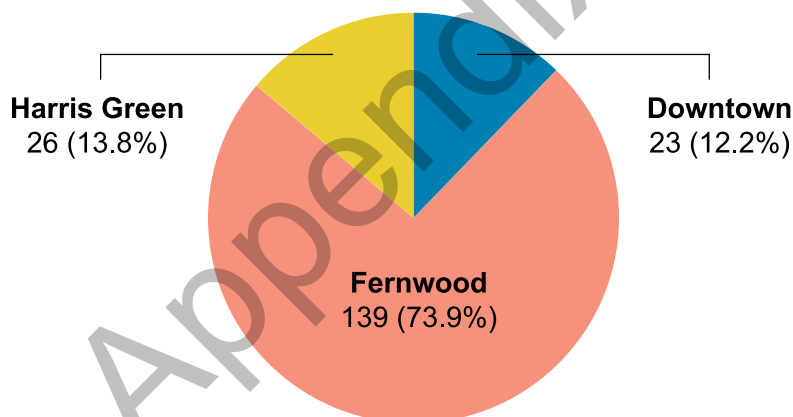
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



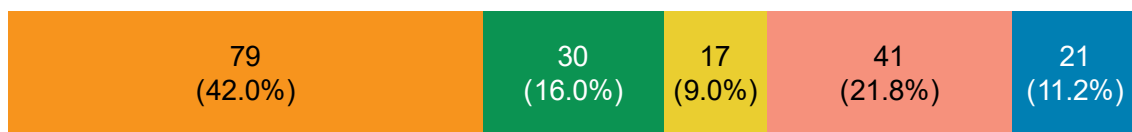
- A total of 357 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 180 (50%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Fernwood to join the proposed Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood.
- We heard from 37 (10%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green boundary change.
- We heard from 134 (38%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Fernwood should join the proposed Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood.
- 40% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 7.4% of survey respondents live in Harris Green. 7% of survey respondents live in Downtown.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM FERNWOOD, DOWNTOWN AND HARRIS GREEN PARK RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should a portion of Fernwood be joined to Downtown/Harris Green (proposed)
neighbourhood?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 188 **people from Fernwood, Downtown and Harris Green** participated in this survey.
- We heard from 109 (58%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Fernwood to join the proposed Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood.
- We heard from 17 (9%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green boundary change.
- We heard from 62 (33%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Fernwood should join the proposed Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood.

KEY THEMES

A specific concern was noted, such as the increased densification in Fernwood.

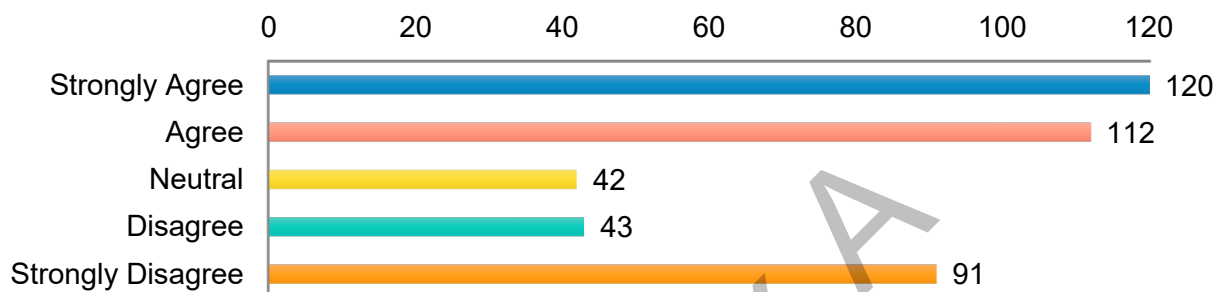
Spotlight:

Fairfield/Downtown Boundary

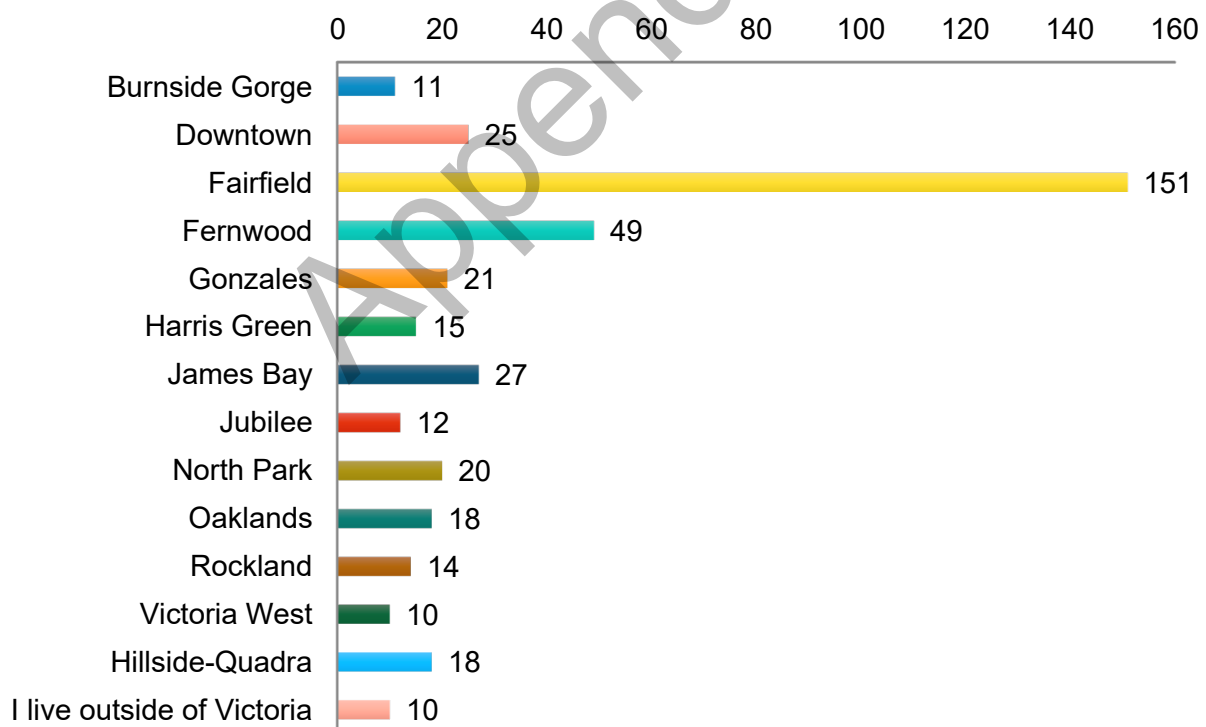


OVERALL RESULTS

Should a portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown?



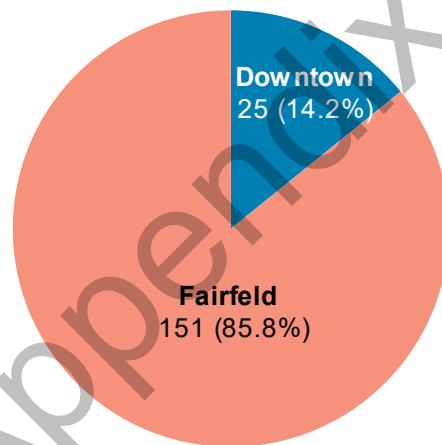
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



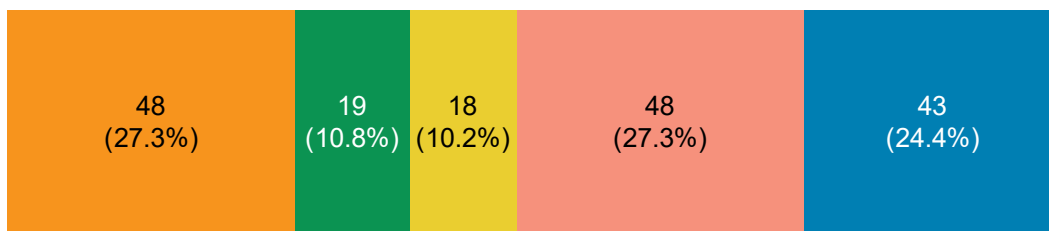
- A total of 409 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 232 (57%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown.
- We heard from 42 (10%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Fairfield/Downtown boundary change.
- We heard from 134 (33%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Fairfield to join Downtown.
- 38% of survey respondents live in Fairfield. 6% of survey respondents live in Downtown.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM FAIRFIELD AND DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should a portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 176 **people from Fairfield and Downtown** participated in this survey.
- We heard from 91 (52%) people who said they **agree** that a portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown.
- We heard from 18 (10%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Fairfield/Downtown boundary change.
- We heard from 67 (38%) people who said they **do not** want a portion of Fairfield to join Downtown.
- 38% of survey respondents live in Fairfield. 6% of survey respondents live in Downtown.

KEY THEMES

A specific concern was noted, such as the increased densification in Fairfield.

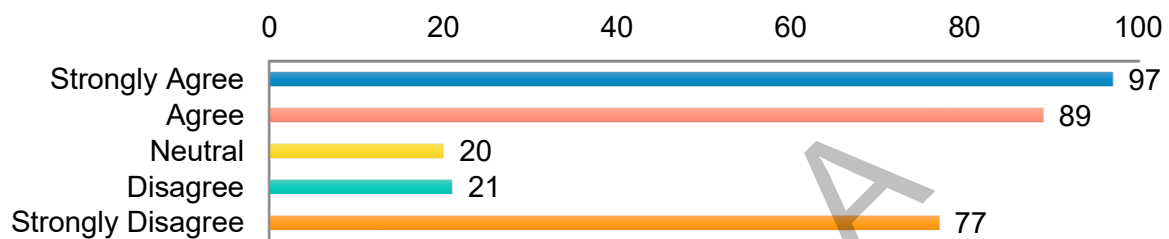
Spotlight:

Downtown/Burnside Gorge Boundary

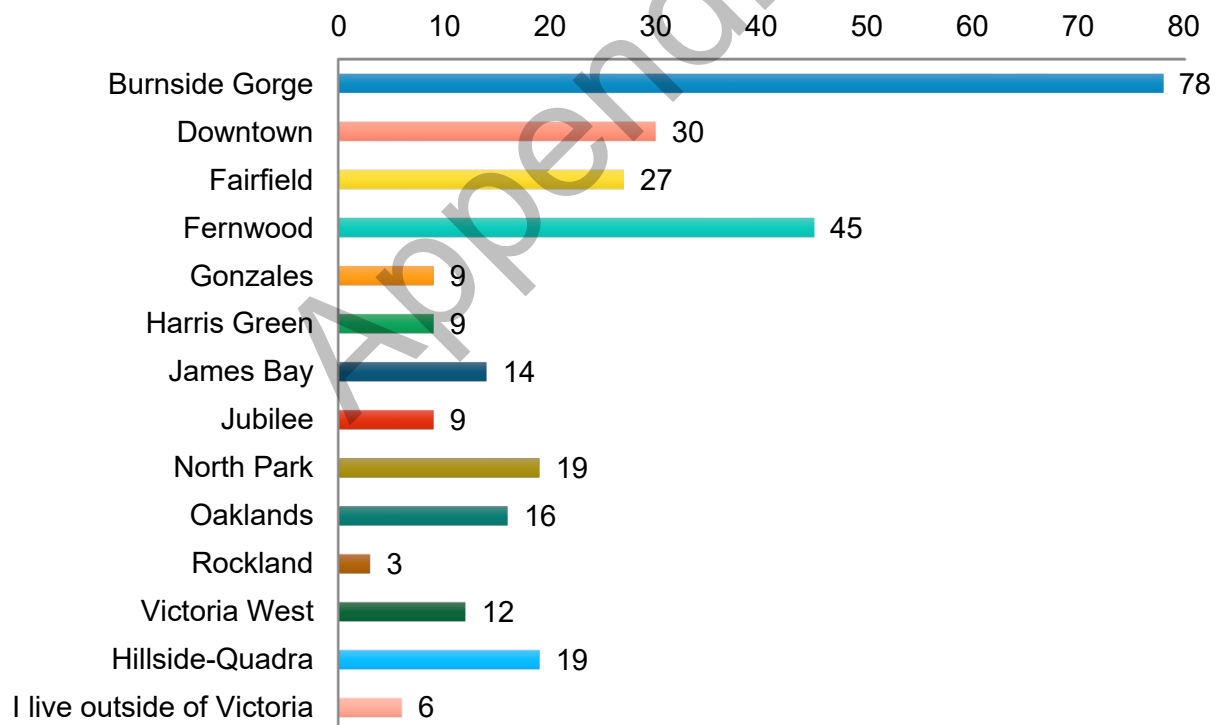


OVERALL RESULTS

Should Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown?



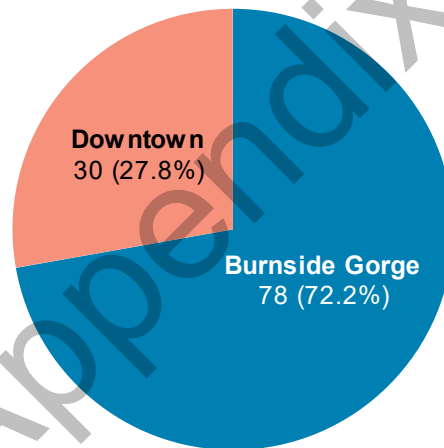
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



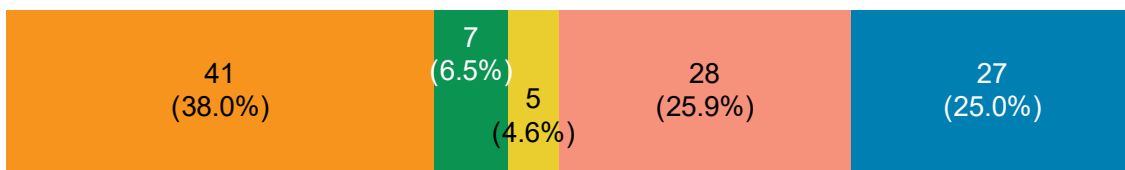
- A total of 304 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 186 (61%) people who said they **agree** that Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown.
- We heard from 20 (7%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Downtown/Burnside Gorge boundary change.
- We heard from 98 (32%) people who said they **do not** want Bay Street to be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown.
- 26% of survey respondents live in Burnside Gorge. 10% of survey respondents live in Downtown.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM DOWNTOWN AND BURNSIDE GORGE RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 108 people from Downtown and Burnside Gorge participated in this survey.
- We heard from 55 (51%) people who said they **agree** that Bay Street be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown.
- We heard from 5 (7%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Downtown/Burnside Gorge boundary change.
- We heard from 48 (44%) people who said they **do not** want Bay Street to be the new border between Burnside Gorge and Downtown.

KEY THEMES

While the survey indicated more residents agreed with the proposed change, a common concern was noted that there would be an increase of supportive housing in the Burnside Gorge neighborhood.

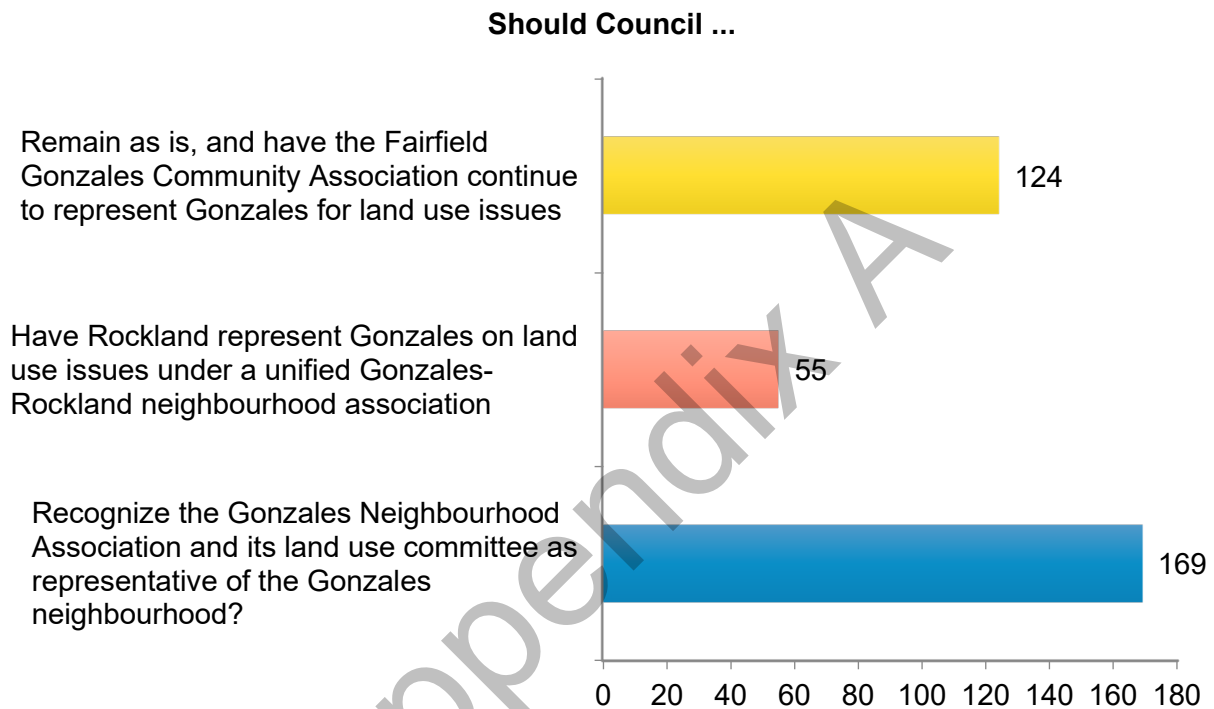
Appendix A

Spotlight:

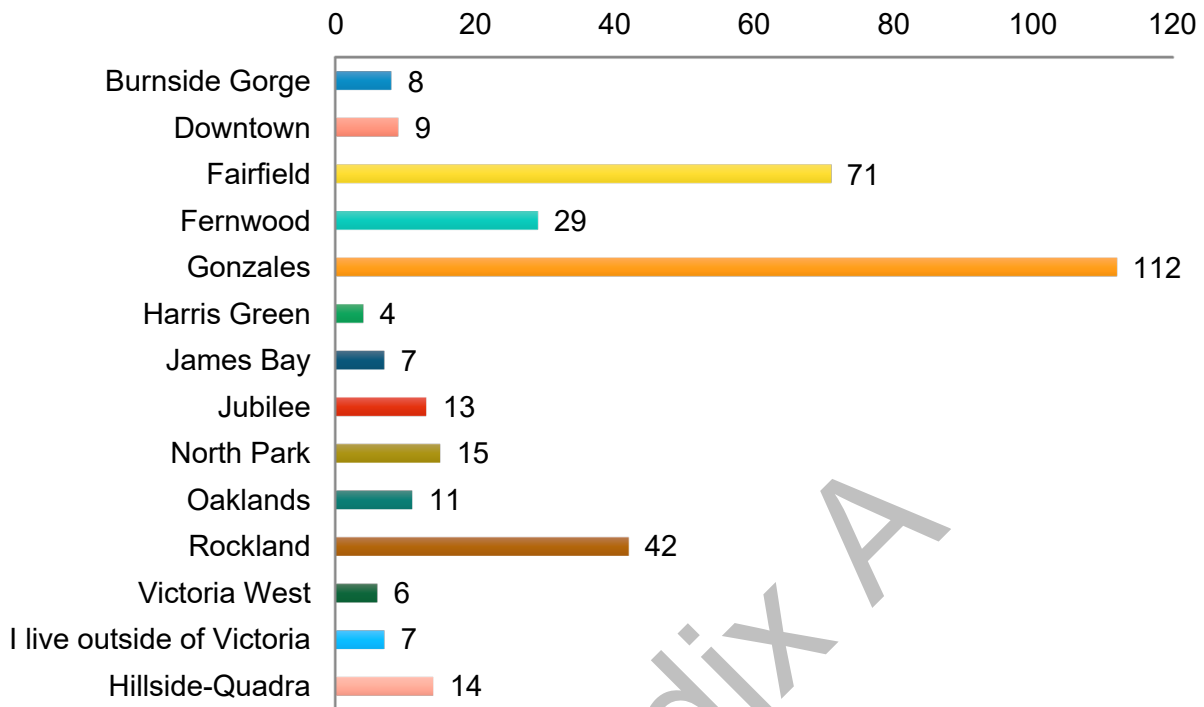
Fairfield, Gonzales & Rockland Land Use Decision



OVERALL RESULTS



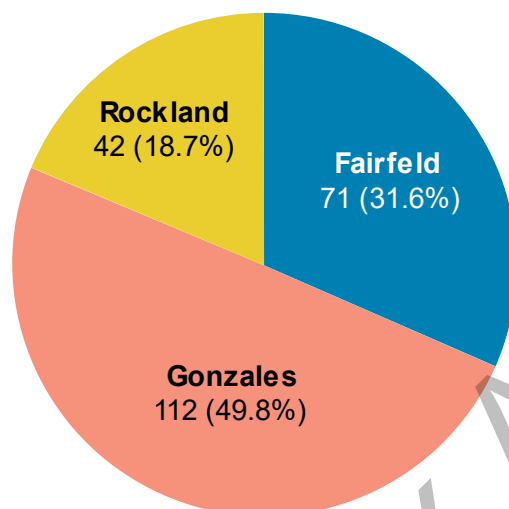
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



- A total of 348 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 169 (48%) people who said council **should recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales neighbourhood.**
- We heard from 55 (16%) people who said council **should have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association.**
- We heard from 124 (36%) people who said council **should have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land use issues (status quo).**
- 32% of survey respondents live in Gonzales. 20% of survey respondents live in Fairfield. 12% of survey respondents live in Rockland.

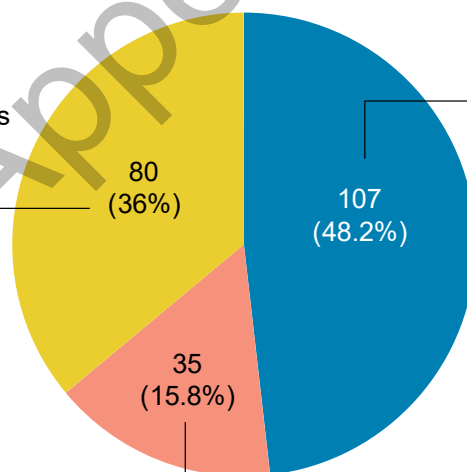
SURVEY RESULTS FROM FAIRFIELD, GONZALES AND ROCKLAND RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should Council...

Remain as is, and have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land use issues?



Recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales neighbourhood?

Have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association?

- A total of 225 people from Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland participated in this survey.
- We heard from 107 (48%) people who said council **should recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales neighbourhood.**
- We heard from 35 (16%) people who said council **should have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association.**
- We heard from 80 (36%) people who said council **should have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land use issues (status quo).**

KEY THEMES

Some key themes that were noted include:

- Keep the status quo because the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association is professional credible and does a good job already.
- Have a unified Gonzales-Rockland association because the neighbourhood values align.
- Some residents have complaints regarding the Gonzales Neighborhood Association.

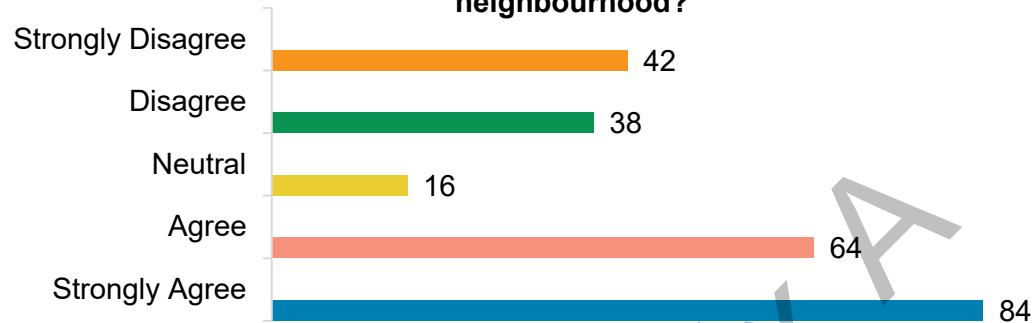
Spotlight:

Downtown & Harris Green Neighbourhood Merge

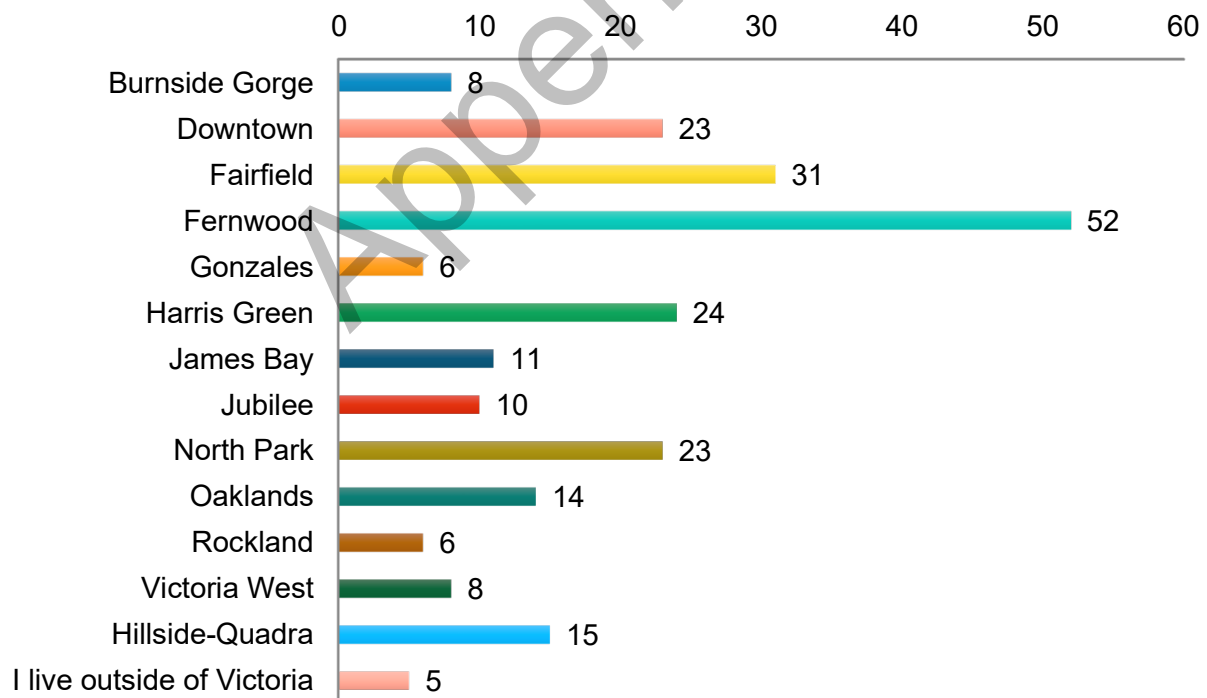


OVERALL RESULTS

Should Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood?



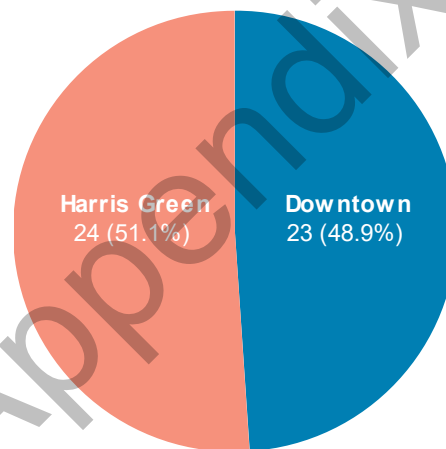
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



- A total of 244 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 148 (61%) people who said they agree that Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood.
- We heard from 16 (7%) people who said they are neutral to the proposed Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhood merger.
- We heard from 80 (33%) people who said they do not want Downtown and Harris Green to be recognized as one neighbourhood.
- 10% of survey respondents live in Harris Green. 5% of survey respondents live in Downtown.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM DOWNTOWN AND HARRIS GREEN RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 47 people from Downtown and Harris Green participated in this survey.
- We heard from 34 (72%) people who said they **agree** that Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood.
- We heard from 1 (2%) people who said they are **neutral** to the proposed Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhood merger.
- We heard from 12 (25%) people who said they **do not** want Downtown and Harris Green to be recognized as one neighbourhood.

KEY THEMES

Support for the proposed boundary change included:

- The need to increase the size of Downtown, to accommodate higher density.
- Harris Green is already viewed as being, “Downtown.”

Specific concerns were noted, such as:

- Harris Green being primarily designated for core residential, according to the city’s Official Community Plan.
- Most of the visions and strategic directions for the Downtown in the Official Community Plan, do not apply to Harris Green.

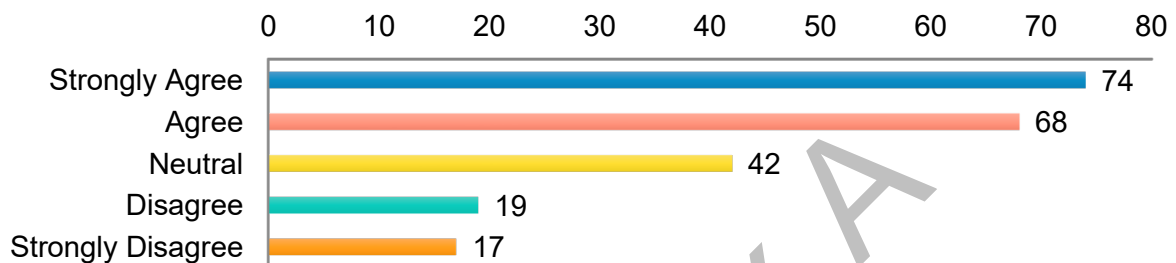
Spotlight:

Jubilee Association Merge

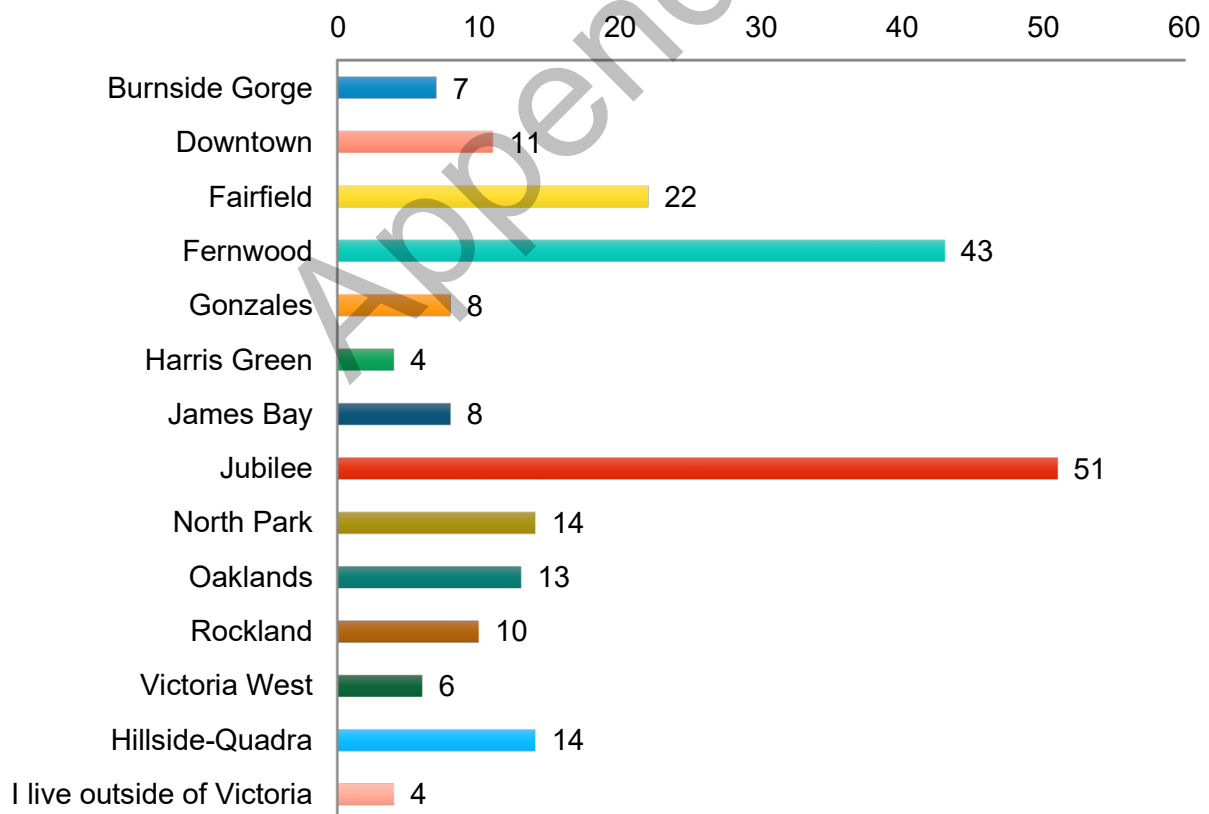


OVERALL RESULTS

Should the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merge to form one association?



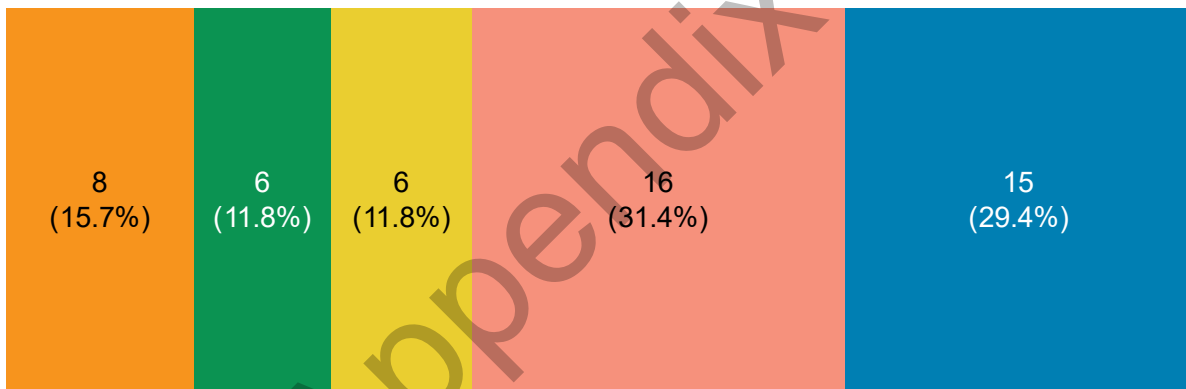
Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in.



- A total of 220 people participated in this survey.
- We heard from 142 (65%) people who said they **agree** that the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations should merge to form one association?
- We heard from 42 (19%) people who said they are **neutral** to the North and South Jubilee Association merge.
- We heard from 36 (16%) people who said they **do not** want the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merging to form one association.
- 24% of survey respondents live in Jubilee.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM JUBILEE RESIDENTS

Should the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merge to form one association?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

- A total of 51 people from North and South Jubilee participated in this survey.
- We heard from 31 (61%) people who said they **agree** that the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations should merge to form one association.
- We heard from 6 (12%) people who said they are **neutral** to the North and South Jubilee Association merge.
- We heard from 14 (27%) people who said they **do not** want the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merging to form one association.

KEY THEMES

While the survey indicated more residents agreed with the proposed changes, specific concerns were noted, such as:

- North Jubilee and South Jubilee are different communities with different interests.
- Merging both North and South would make the neighbourhood too big.
- Merging neighbourhoods would not address the concerns that each neighbourhood has.

Appendix A

Overview of Emails

Majority of emails that were sent to engage@victoria.ca were from residents who opposed the boundary changes.

Some common sentiments regarding the proposed changes to the Fernwood/Oaklands boundary, included:

- I choose to live where I do because it's in Fernwood.
- I feel proud to call Fernwood home.
- I am more connected to Fernwood than Oaklands.

Some common sentiments regarding the proposed changes to the North Park/Fernwood boundary, included:

- There are many Fernwood Proud signs on homes because we do not want our boundary changed.
- I feel connected to Fernwood.
- This will create divisiveness.
- This is unnecessary.
- This is a waste of money.

Some general remarks of the overall proposals, included:

- Why is this important?
- This is unnecessary and a waste of time.
- There is a lack of information.

Overview of Association Letters

We received letters from the following associations:

Burnside Gorge Community Association	North Park Neighbourhood Association
Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Victoria Community Association Network
Fernwood Community Association	Victoria Downtown Residents' Association
Gonzales Neighbourhood Association	Rockland Neighbourhood Association

Similar comments that oppose the proposed changes, include:

- “Many residents expressed they do not understand the rationale for these changes.”
- “The proposal to amend the neighbourhood boundaries has created widespread confusion and frustration.”
- “No evidence has been provided to us or the neighbourhood about the rationale for this change.”
- “Why Council is contemplating this now?”
- “There is clear opposition to this change. Our recommendation is that this proposal be rejected.”
- “The current plan to amend the neighbourhood boundaries has created widespread confusion and frustration across Victoria’s 12 neighbourhoods.”
- “We request this process be put on hold until such time that communities understand the rationale for the changes and have the information required to make informed decisions.”

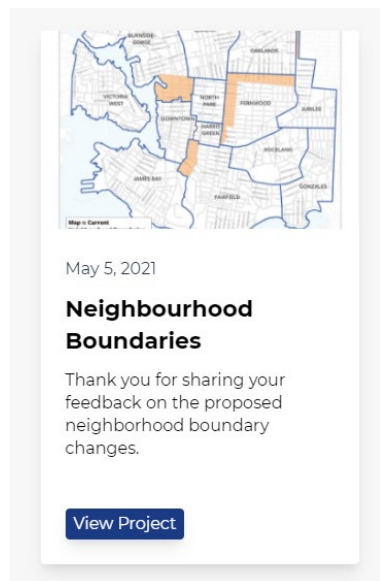
Comments that neither oppose nor support the proposed changes, include:

- “While we agree a review of the boundaries is necessary from time to time, there is consensus that the process is happening before fulsome consultation with neighbourhood associations and engagement with residents and other stakeholders.”
- “The NPNA does not wish to pursue a boundary change if it is opposed by our closest neighbours in Fernwood. However, we would like to take this opportunity to emphasize our desire to be involved and consulted in developments and planning activities that impact North Park Village, regardless of which side of Cook St it occurs on.”

Promotional Material

City's engagement platform
(engage.victoria.ca)

City of Victoria website



Neighbourhoods



Welcome to our Neighbourhoods!

Find your neighbourhood below. Explore some of the resources in your community and learn about programs and grants you can access to make your neighbourhood even better!

My Great Neighbourhood Community Virtuals

To help connect residents during these challenging times the Neighbourhood Team hosted a series of *Community Virtuals* Lunch and Learns, from Fall 2020 through Spring 2021.

From the first session about how to get more trees growing in YYJ, to a documentary about loneliness and the value of neighbourhoods, to community art and how to engage your neighbours on new projects, the series has been designed to connect and inspire residents. [Learn more.](#)

We will resume our monthly Lunch & Learns in Fall 2021. Stay tuned for our 2021/22 schedule and topics to be posted later in the summer.

Neighbourhood Boundaries

Victoria City Council is seeking resident feedback on proposed changes to boundaries in the following neighbourhoods: Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown, Harris Green and Burnside Gorge. To see maps of the proposed boundary adjustments, and to have your say, visit: engage.victoria.ca. The survey closes on June 18.


City e-news (June 2021 edition)



Neighbourhood Boundary Survey

Proposed neighbourhood boundary changes may help align neighbourhood boundaries with sense of place. Take the survey and have your say on the proposed adjustments.

Flyer Mailout



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundary Adjustments

Dear Resident,
Victoria City Council proposed changes to the current neighbourhood boundaries in the following neighbourhoods:

- Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown, Burnside Gorge.

Your feedback is needed to help inform the staff report to Council.

The survey closes June 18th.

Have Your Say

Neighbourhood Boundaries
— Current Boundary
— Proposed Boundary Area Changes

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are these proposed changes being suggested?
City Council believes that these changes would help reconcile some geographic anomalies, and improve residents' sense of place.

How will these proposed changes affect me?
If you reside within the boundaries of these proposed changes, your City neighbourhood and corresponding neighbourhood association would change, should the boundary be relocated.

How do we know the implications associated with a possible boundary change?
Council identified potential benefits for relocating each of the proposed boundaries. Residents are being asked whether they support the change on this basis and to provide feedback on positive and negative impacts they perceive. Staff do not believe there are significant implications for the City other than the affected areas would fall under a different neighbourhood association.

Why is Council suggesting these changes now?
There has been ongoing informal discussion surrounding suggested boundary adjustments for several years. Council included this topic in the City's Strategic Plan and committed to holding a workshop to formally address the discussion in February. In addition, they have asked City staff to consult with residents.

What is the timeline for these changes to be made if approved?
The survey will close on June 18th. Staff will engage residents throughout May to June and report back to Council in September 2021. If approved, the changes would be formally adopted and the Official Community Plan and Local Area and Neighbourhood Plans would be amended in 2022.

For additional FAQs, visit the Neighbourhood Boundaries page at engage.victoria.ca.

Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



cityofvictoria

cityofvictoria Have your say on neighbourhood boundaries in Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown, Burnside Gorge.

- Take the online survey
- View maps of the proposed changes
- Provide your feedback

For more information, visit engage.victoria.ca - or click the link in bio and visit the Have Your Say platform by June 7.

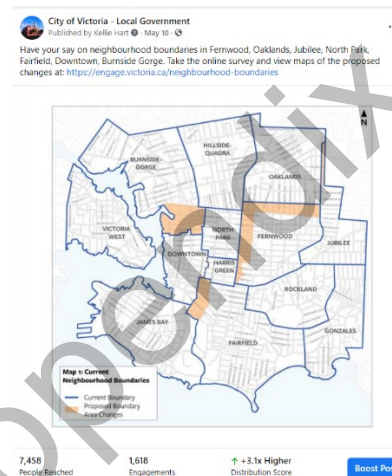
#yyj #victoriabc #fernwood #oaklands #jubilee #northpark #fairfield #downtownyyj #burnsidegorge

Liked by courtstuling and 209 others

MAY 10

Add a comment...

Post



City of Victoria
@CityOfVictoria

These proposed neighbourhood boundary changes may help align neighbourhood boundaries with sense of place. Take the survey and have your say on the proposed adjustments:
engage.victoria.ca/neighbourhood-boundaries... #yyj



Neighbourhood Boundaries
Have Your Say

Map 1: Current Neighbourhood Boundaries
— Current Boundary
— Proposed Boundary Area Changes

engage.victoria.ca

3:32 PM · May 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Media Release

Media Release



Monday, May 10, 2021 | For Immediate Release

Have Your Say: Neighbourhood Boundaries

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council is seeking resident feedback on proposed changes to boundaries in the following neighbourhoods: Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown, Harris Green and Burnside Gorge.

"The intent is to understand where people see themselves living in the city and to align neighbourhood boundaries with that sense of place. For example, there are parts of Fairfield that feel more like Downtown so we want to make sure those feelings are reflected in the neighbourhood map of the city," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Ultimately, the residents of Victoria decide, which is why we're going to go out and ask if our proposed neighbourhood boundaries are right."

Residents are also asked to provide feedback on other proposed changes such as neighbourhood land use review committee structures for Rockland, Fairfield and Gonzales, neighbourhood merging for Downtown and Harris Green, and merging the north and south Jubilee neighbourhood associations.

In 2019, Council introduced an action to "resolve anomalies in neighbourhood boundaries" in the Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods section of the City's Strategic Plan. In February of this year, Council held a workshop and made several observations including:

- possible reconciliation of geographic anomalies that may fit better in an adjacent neighbourhood
- opportunities to better match boundaries with where residents perceive themselves to belong
- some village centres are divided between neighbourhoods

The City would like to hear from all residents regarding these proposed adjustments. Engagement is open from May 10 to June 7.

Results pertaining to specific neighbourhoods will be provided to the neighbourhood associations to inform their submission to the City on boundary changes. Full survey results will be included in the staff report to Council in September 2021 and will be made available to the public at that time.

If approved, the changes would be formally adopted and the Official Community Plan and Local Area and Neighbourhood Plans would be amended in 2022.

To see maps of the proposed boundary adjustments, and to have your say, visit: engage.victoria.ca.

—30—

For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement, City of Victoria
250.858.1061 | beisenhauer@victoria.ca

[www.victoria.ca/assets/City~Hall/Media~Releases/2021/2021.05.10_MR_Have%20Your%20Say%20-%20Neighbourhood%20Boundaries.pdf#search="neighbourhood%20boundaries](https://www.victoria.ca/assets/City~Hall/Media~Releases/2021/2021.05.10_MR_Have%20Your%20Say%20-%20Neighbourhood%20Boundaries.pdf#search=)

Media Articles

CTV

www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/victoria-proposes-changing-neighbourhood-boundaries-seeks-feedback-1.5421525

Times Colonist

www.timescolonist.com/news/local/city-seeks-feedback-on-proposed-changes-to-neighbourhood-boundaries-1.24317494

CFAX 1070

www.iheartradio.ca/cfax-1070/news/victoria-proposes-changing-neighbourhood-boundaries-seeks-feedback-1.15166306



Appendix

Redacted survey comments and emails

Letters from community associations

Letters from residents

Appendix A



July 7, 2021

Mayor Helps and Council
City of Victoria

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Proposed Neighbourhood Boundary Adjustments

I write on behalf of the Burnside Gorge Community Association (BGCA) Board of Directors to express our concern about the proposed boundary adjustments for Burnside Gorge. Many residents of Burnside Gorge have expressed to our Board that they do not understand the rationale for these changes, nor understand why they are happening when there are more important issues for the City to address in Burnside Gorge.

The current proposal to amend the neighbourhood boundaries has created widespread confusion and frustration within the Burnside Gorge community. There is a lack of understanding of the implications for neighbourhood including the CALUC process and land use planning, community funding, community building and events, community identity and may create issues for board strategic plans and governance. No evidence has been provided to us or the neighbourhood about the rationale for this change or the desire of the residents and business owners in the area to be taken out of Burnside Gorge. Finally, a new initiative to form a Burnside Gorge BIA is dependant on the involvement of the businesses both north and south of Bay Street.

By this letter, the Burnside Gorge Community Association Board of Directors wishes to formally inform the City and Council of its opposition to changes to our neighbourhood boundaries.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cull
President, Board of Directors



Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

May 20, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Engagement on removing CALUC responsibility for the Gonzales neighbourhood from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association

The Board of Directors of Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) were surprised to learn that Council has opened up a public engagement to determine the level of interest in removing the Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) for the neighbourhood of Gonzales from the purview of the FGCA alongside the neighbourhood boundary questions- which are two separate issues.

We request some additional information about this process to develop an adequately responsive submission.

Namely, we request to know:

- Why Council is contemplating this now? The FAQ states that the intention is to "reconcile geographic anomalies and improve resident's sense of place," which does not seem to apply to this particular issue.
- What can FGCA expect as the next steps in this process following the presentation by City officials at the end of September?

FGCA would also appreciate a commitment that, prior to moving forward with any changes, we will be provided an opportunity to respond should Council take into

consideration any submissions that make claims about our operations or cite specific incidents.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Don Monsour

President, on behalf of the Board of Directors

president@fairfieldcommunity.ca



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8 June 2021

Dear Mayor & Council,

We write to confirm that the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) wishes to retain the Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) for the Gonzales neighbourhood.

If the representation of CALUC were to leave the purview of the FGCA, there would be no benefit to the community, and a considerable risk for representation of community member views. FGCA has a strong and reliable capacity to perform the CALUC function, having done so for many years in person and throughout the COVID pandemic online. We have a solid track record of keeping our meetings open to all who wish to attend, and of maintaining a courteous and civil meeting tone, where all people are given fair opportunity to speak, and all issues and viewpoints are recorded and reported to the City in an unbiased manner.

A few people are circulating a narrative that the FGCA does not represent or work for Gonzales residents. However, the fact is that FGCA has strong representation of Gonzales residents (including in CALUC), provides advocacy and services to the Gonzales neighbourhood that sit outside of the CALUC work, and makes its processes and governance transparent and accessible to all residents.

Board/CALUC/member Representation:

- Gonzales residents are actually overrepresented within FGCA's CALUC, Board, Executive, and general membership
- - o Gonzales residents represent 26% of Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood
 - o 57% of CALUC members are Gonzales residents
 - o 36% of Board members are Gonzales residents
 - o 60% of Executive members are Gonzales residents
 - o 29% members are Gonzales residents
-
- Many people choose to connect with FGCA in a manner less formal than membership, and who do not provide addresses; we have over 1600 e-news subscribers and over 3600 social media followers, many of these people live in Gonzales.
- We use a matrix for Board and CALUC recruitment to maintain and improve representation of both neighbourhoods, as well as other factors -


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renters/homeowners, gender balance, and representation of diversity in age, ability, culture, ethnicity, etc.

Recent services and supports/advocacy:

- Provide childcare at École Margaret Jenkins Elementary School in Gonzales for 100-110 families
- Host an Annual Community Yard Sale which includes a site at St. Matthias (across the street from Gonzales) and numerous yard sales in Gonzales
- Supported Gonzales volunteers to work with campers in Gonzales Park and Hollywood Park
- Supported Gonzales volunteers leafletting the neighbourhood during first wave of pandemic
- Hosted extra (non-compulsory) community meetings for development proposals in Gonzales at 1811 Oak Bay Ave (2018), 331 St. Charles (2018), GNS school (2020)
- Collaborated with the City on providing opportunities for input: Gonzales Local Area Plan engagement, Richardson bikeway info session, engagement on Oak Bay Ave / Fort / Jubilee cycling infrastructure, and hosted a renters' forum during the Gonzales Local Area Plan process
- Provided facility space for residents to organize re: Gonzales Local Area Plan
- Advocacy in Gonzales:
 - o Traffic calming advocacy (Maddison Street and Hollywood Crescent)
 - o Letter of concern re Official Community Plan amendments (through VCAN)
 - o Letter to support Brighton People Priority Greenway
 - o Supported and sent a letter re: protecting Gonzales Hill Regional Park
 - o Cycling Task Force input on Richardson bikeway
 - o Letter advocating return to community meeting requirement for development proposals
- My Great Neighbourhood Grants in Gonzales since 2017:
 - o Pemberton Park Picnic Bench (2018)
 - o Celebrating Indigenous Stories (included 1 book reading and Little Free Library 'seeding' with books in Gonzales Neighbourhood) (2019)
 - o Maddison street block party (2018)
 - o Community Inspiration Project (asset mapping project including several locations in Gonzales)
 - o Provided volunteers who laboured on community planters projects with both the Brighton and Maddison People Priority Greenway neighbourhood groups.

Access and transparency:

- The application to sit on CALUC is up on our website year-round. We advertise more broadly (Observer newspaper and subscriber list) at least annually.
- We advertise for Board positions to our members and subscribers (several times annually), and in the TC, Volunteer Victoria, and our Observer Newspaper (5000 households, mailed out)

- We advertise for membership 4x per year in our Observer (5000 households, mailed out), several times per year to our subscriber list, and at all of our events and outreach.
- Board and CALUC members' names are on our website at all times.
- We work to remove barriers to participation in our processes. We provide childminding at our meetings and provide accommodations for board members as needed.

We know that many residents of Gonzales self-identify as Fairfield residents. This is partly because of the services FGCA delivers in the area (e.g. École Margaret Jenkins Elementary). And, in terms of home ownership/real estate, the area is referred to as Fairfield East. The name "Fairfield" is simply in common usage among residents. Changing the CALUC to be identified as "Gonzales" or "Rockland-Gonzales" would create confusion and runs the risk of reducing participation and engagement of residents.

Thanks for all that you do to make Fairfield Gonzales, the ancestral, traditional, and unceded Aboriginal Territories of the Coast Salish People, and in particular the W̱SÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples, a great neighbourhood in which to live, work and play!

Yours truly

Don Monsour, Board President

Joanna Fox, Chair of FGCA CALUC
Kristina Wilcox, Co-Executive Director
Vanya McDonell, Co-Executive Director



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Fernwood Community Association Report: Engagement Regarding Proposed Neighbourhood Boundary Changes

Submitted to the City of Victoria by the Fernwood Community Association Land Use Committee
August 3, 2021

Executive Summary

From February to July 2021, the Fernwood Community Association Land Use Committee engaged with residents of Fernwood regarding three proposed boundary changes from the City of Victoria Committee of the Whole. Engagement included virtual meetings, direct email communication, and exchanges on social media. The LUC also received letters to council forwarded from individual authors, and a petition organized by a local resident. After analyzing the comments received, the FCA LUC has the following recommendations:

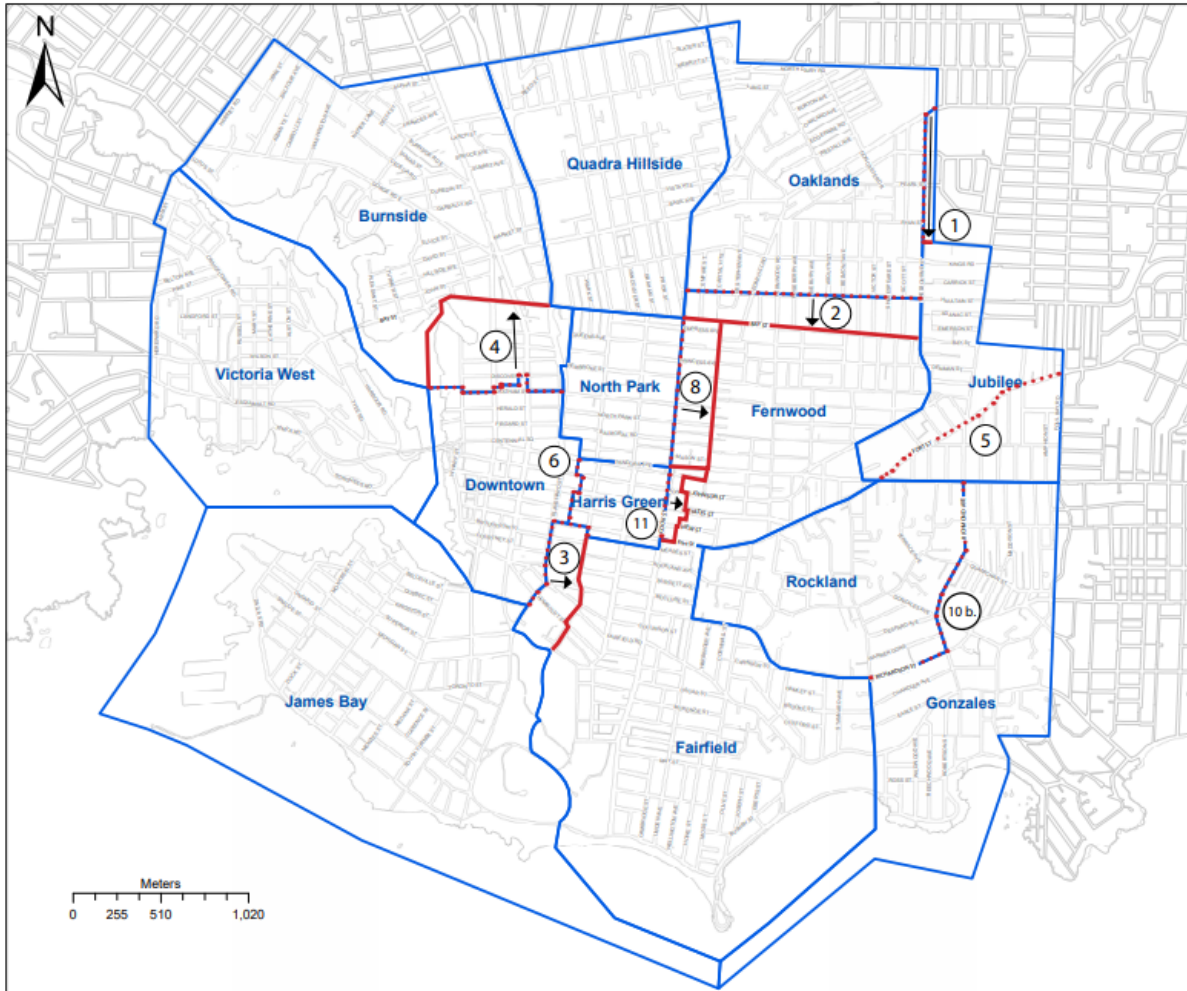
1. Proposed Change from Cook to Chambers: There is clear opposition to this change. Our recommendation is that this proposal be rejected.
2. Proposed Change from Haultain to Bay: There is less clarity about this change; a decision on this proposal should be suspended and the CoV should support both the FCA and the Oaklands Community Association to organize opportunities to discuss this proposal.
3. Proposed Change from Cook to Boundary Drawn Along Property Lines: There was little community engagement with the proposal for the downtown change. However, it goes against the CoV's own rationale for boundary changes, in that it creates an anomaly rather than amending one. Our recommendation is that this proposal be rejected.

In addition to these recommendations, the LUC concluded that the rationale for the proposed changes does not seem particularly robust; residents struggled to understand it for the entire six-month engagement process. In the absence of a clear rationale, speculation took hold that painted the CoV in a negative light. This should be carried forward as a lesson learned if the CoV is serious about meaningful community engagement, as a lack of transparency about the vision for proposed changes resulted in a great deal of theorizing that undermined trust.



Background

A City of Victoria (CoV) Committee of the Whole workshop identified three potential neighbourhood boundary changes that would affect the community of Fernwood (2, 8, and 11 on the map below).



- #2 – move the northern boundary of Fernwood from the current boundary of Haultain St. to Bay St. The residences, businesses, and all other land between Haultain and Bay would become part of Oaklands.
- #8 – move the western boundary of Fernwood from the current boundary of Cook St. to Chambers St. as far as Pandora Ave. in the south. The residences, businesses, and all other land between Cook and Chambers would become part of North Park. This would include George Jay School and its lands.
- #11 – along the southwestern boundary, move the boundary of Fernwood from Cook St. to a new line drawn around existing properties just east of Cook. The land affected would become part of Harris Green. This would include the greenspace along Pandora between Chambers and Cook.

All three changes would have the effect of making the Fernwood community smaller.



The rationale for these changes provided by the City of Victoria was:

- Reconciling geographic anomalies that may fit better in an adjacent neighbourhood
- There may be opportunities to better match boundaries with the neighbourhoods residents perceive themselves to be living
- Neighbourhood populations vary substantially and may present challenges for neighbourhood associations, e.g. too big for effective representation or too small to recruit volunteer support
- Some village centres are divided between neighbourhoods

The Fernwood Community Association (FCA) Board delegated a response to these proposals to the Land Use Committee (LUC) Co-Chairs, Dr. Kristin Atwood (applied sociologist) and Alieda Blandford (research librarian). These volunteer community leaders gathered, analyzed, and synthesized the response of the Fernwood Community to the proposed changes. This document reports on the findings of Ms. Blandford and Dr. Atwood's engagement with the Fernwood community.

Timeline

February 2021

- City Council workshop identifies potential boundary changes

March 2021

- Proposed changes are put forward as motions to direct staff to investigate
- FCA delegates response to the LUC
- LUC holds first discussion meeting
- LUC requests to know the City's engagement plan on this issue from our staff liaison
- Neighbours begin self-organizing in response to the proposed boundary change from Cook to Chambers Street

April 2021

- Original deadline for community engagement. Several neighbourhood associations advocate for more time through the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN). The deadline is extended. FCA is informed the new deadline for the staff report is September.
- CoV Have Your Say website created
- LUC produces a "frequently asked questions" (FAQ) document about the proposed changes for Fernwood and posts on the FCA website

May 2021

- FCA successful advocates through their Council liaison to require the City to mail out a flyer to all residents who would be affected by the proposed changes
- CoV survey launches
- LUC holds second discussion meeting, with guests from North Park Neighbourhood Association, Oakland Community Association, and the Downtown Residents Association.

June 2021

- FCA monitors mail out from City and learns that neighbours in the area most affected by the Cook and Chambers proposal have not received their mailout with less than 2 weeks before the survey concludes. This is reported to our City staff liaison and our City council liaison
- Mail out is completed
- LUC holds space at monthly meeting for continuing the conversation



July 2021

- CoV provides survey responses to LUC through our City staff liaison
- Community associations are informed that their responses are required by July 16
- LUC advocates for a deadline extension since this does not provide sufficient time for a fulsome volunteer-organized response; CoV extends the deadline by two weeks to August 3.

Data, Methods, and Analysis

Data on Fernwood residents' responses to the changes were compiled from several sources:

Source	N Responses
Zoom meetings held by the LUC	121
Direct email to LUC	10
Letter to Mayor and council cc'd to LUC	1
Petition organized by independent community member	146
Facebook comments from Fernwood Community Association and Fernwood Community Network pages*	49
Subtotal engagement responses by community**	327
City of Victoria Have Your Say Engagement Survey***	206

* These are the pages to which the LUC posted information to solicit comments directly. There are of course many other sources of social media information, but those other sources would not represent direct engagement from the LUC.

** Total engagement does not equate to unique individuals, as persons may have participated in more than one source.

*** 475 individuals responded to the survey, of which 206 were in Fernwood. Results were not provided for only Fernwood residents; however for each of the three boundary proposals the LUC was provided results that included a subset from Fernwood and the other community involved (e.g., Fernwood and Oaklands for the Haultain-to-Bay proposal).

Comments from all sources were stratified based on which proposed change they responded to and analyzed as follows and analyzed using these approaches¹.

- A content analysis approach was used to identify whether comments were in favour or opposed to a proposed change
- Thematic analysis was used to identify reasons why a respondent was in favour or opposed
- Thematic analyses followed the principles of a grounded theory approach which allowed for the emergence of additional themes related to the process and rationale for the proposed changes.

Some comments address more than one theme and some comments expressed questions or concerns without taking an explicit position in favour or opposed to the proposed changes.

Comments that were not directly related to the proposed boundary changes were sometimes provided, particularly through social media. These included general comments about the communities and their histories; questions that were unrelated to the issue of the proposed boundary changes; and general comments about the CoV. These were excluded from analysis. Also excluded was a social media exchange that requested a recap of one of the Zoom meetings which an individual had been unable to

¹ For more information on qualitative sociological approaches, consult Denzin, NK and Lincoln YS, Eds (2011). *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. See also Holstein, JA and Gubrium, JF, Eds. (2008). *Handbook of Constructionist Research*. New York: Guilford Publications.



attend. For the purposes of this report, a cut-off was established for inclusion of emails, letters, and social media responses of August 1, 2021.

Given the volume of responses received and the relatively short turnaround even with the addition of two weeks, this report does not quote verbatim from comments received verbally at meetings, but instead summarizes them. Transcription is labour-intensive and it was deemed not the best use of limited volunteer time. All meetings were recorded for transparency.

Findings

This section presents findings specific to each of the proposed changes, followed by a section on general comments that apply to all changes and to the process of community consultation that occurred.

Proposed Change from Cook to Chambers

Support for and Opposition to Change

64 comments specifically related to this proposed change were received from all sources.

Source	N in Favour	N Opposed
Zoom meetings	5	22
Direct emails	0	9
Letters to Council	0	1
Social Media	3	11
Petition*	n/a	13
Total	8	56

* 146 individuals signed a petition against this boundary change. The petition provided an option for individuals to comment on why they were signing. These comments have been included in the analysis. The petition comments were provided by the organizers, who were not affiliated with the FCA or its LUC.

The CoV survey asked individuals to rate their agreement in response to the question “should this portion of Fernwood be joined to North Park”. Of the 264 responses received from residents of Fernwood or North Park, 170 (64%) disagreed or strongly disagreed while another 23 (9%) were neutral, leaving 27% who agreed or strongly agreed. The majority of respondents (77% of this subset) were from Fernwood.

Key Themes Related to Support and Opposition

Thematic analysis of responses identified two primary themes related to support and opposition of this proposed change.

Theme 1: Personal and Community Identity

Community identity was of great importance in the discussion about this proposed change. Multiple comments were made from all sources from individuals who would be affected by the change, stating that they identified as a member of Fernwood and that this identification was important to their sense of self. For example, one comment noted that this is “more than just a name change” because being a part of Fernwood is a core part of their understanding of who they are. One comment from someone who identified as being in Fernwood said, “the people between Chambers and Cook are part of my community!”.



A number of comments contained words related to the emotions the responder felt in contemplating the change; comments like “very upset”, “saddens me greatly” were frequent. One individual said, “when I first heard about this proposal... I was a bit more than distraught,” while another spoke of feeling like they were being “pushed out” of the community they identified with. Several comments talked about the proposed change as representing a loss; for example, one comment said, “we would be losing a sense of collective community which has been nurtured over many years.” A number of individuals who identified themselves as living in the area that would be impacted took care to specify the length of time they had been living there, such as “for over 20 years” or “since 1985”, which can be seen as a way to signify that they felt they had longstanding roots as members of Fernwood.

Not all comments expressed such strong emotion, particularly not those in social media. Two social media exchanges occurred where individuals expressed disagreement about whether the contested area “felt like” North Park of Fernwood, with individual posters expressing support for each interpretation. It should be noted that in both instances, the specific area being discussed is the commercial area on the east side of Cook Street that is designated as North Park Village, which is only a portion of the area where the boundary is proposed to change (North Park Village is generally understood as being located between Caledonia Avenue and Grant Street, whereas the proposed change extends to Pandora Avenue).

Related to community identity, two less commonly presented responses were that the boundary change seemed “incongruent with the history of both neighbourhoods” and that there might be “economic ramifications for homeowners in terms of cache difference between both neighbourhoods”.

Theme 2: Questioning the Rationale for Change

A second key theme related to the sense that there was no strong rationale for this particular change; one individual who would be affected by the change stated, “I have real difficulty with the idea that this boundary change in any way ‘aligns peoples’ sense of space with where they reside. I can assure you I am absolutely fine with my current alignment as a Fernwoodian.”

In many cases this feeling that the proposal lacked a robust rationale led to speculation as to the “real reason” for the change. There were a number of theories posited for this particular change, including that it was being driven by the North Park Neighbourhood Association’s “own interest” or that it was “an attempt by CoV to retrofit the boundary to work within the Villages and Corridors model it has adopted in place of a community plan – rather than just creating a community plan that fits what already exists on the ground.”

As well as emerging from comments specifically related to this proposed change, comments related to the stated and perceived “real” rationale for the changes were made more generally as well, and these are discussed in a subsequent section of this report.

Other Themes

Other, less common themes included:

- Concern about implications such as for schools, zoning/density, business sponsorship of community events, and community association funding
- Belief that a main artery (Cook St.) is a better boundary than a “side street” (Chambers St.)
- Suggestion that neighbours currently have well-established processes for liaising with their neighbourhood association for assistance that would be disrupted by having to change



associations and rebuild “existing networks [and] processes... for navigating their concerns around issues like housing and development”.

Proposed Change from Haultain to Bay

Support for and Opposition to Change

26 comments specifically related to this proposed change were received from all sources.

Source	N in Favour	N Opposed
Zoom meetings	13	2
Direct emails	1	1
Letters to Council	0	0
Social Media	4	5
Total	18	8

The CoV survey asked individuals to rate their agreement in response to the question “should Bay Street be the new border between Fernwood and Oaklands²”. Of the 282 responses received from residents of Fernwood or North Park, 85 (30%) disagreed or strongly disagreed while another 41 (15%) were neutral, leaving 55% who agreed or strongly agreed. The majority of respondents (73% of this subset) were from Fernwood.

Key Themes Related to Support and Opposition

Thematic analysis of responses identified one primary theme related to support and opposition.

Theme 1: How a Border Should be Defined

The most substantial theme related to this proposed change revolved around how a border between neighbourhoods should be defined. A number of comments suggested that the proposed change should be made because “Bay is an obvious border” and because “Haultain is functionally the Oakland’s cultural main street”. In social media, there were two exchanges wherein a poster expressed surprise because they thought that Bay Street was already the border.

However, there was also opposition to the change from individuals who would be affected by it. One comment said, “are neighbourhoods defined by busy roads/business interests or by the people who live in them with a sense of place and belonging to a community?”

Some individuals living in the area indicated that they felt a closer affinity to Oaklands, but others identified more closely with Fernwood, with one commenting “this is our neighbourhood too”. One comment stated, “the borders are really inconsequential as long as our communities have good neighbours.”

Other Themes

As with the previous proposed change, comments specifically related to this proposed change also questioned the rationale for the proposal, with one comment asking whether there was some financial benefit to Oaklands that would result, while another said, “names and location of coffee shops is kind of [a] silly reason. I think we need more details on the real reasons.”

² We would like to call attention to the inconsistency of wording the CoV survey questions between the different proposed changes. It is not clear why the question would not be asked in a standardized way for all changes.



At a Zoom meeting where Oaklands Community Association members attended, they mentioned that there are only two seats available for non-residents on their Board. They commented that these seats are often sought by people living between Haultain and Bay Street who wish to be involved in Oaklands; thus, changing the border could affect the volunteer base for the Board. Although this is not technically feedback from Fernwood residents, the LUC felt it worth mentioning.

Proposed Change from Cook to Boundary Drawn Along Property Lines

Support for and Opposition to Change

3 comments specifically related to this proposed change were received from all sources.

Source	N in Favour	N Opposed
Zoom meetings	0	2
Direct emails	0	1
Letters to Council	0	0
Social Media	0	0
Total	0	3

The CoV survey asked individuals to rate their agreement in response to the question “should this portion of Fernwood be joined to Downtown/Harris Green (proposed) neighbourhood?”. Of the 188 responses received from residents of Fernwood or Downtown/Harris Green, 109 (58%) disagreed or strongly disagreed while another 17 (9%) were neutral, leaving 33% who agreed or strongly agreed. The majority of respondents (74% of this subset) were from Fernwood.

Key Themes Related to Support and Opposition

Thematic analysis of responses identified one primary theme related to support and opposition.

Theme 1: Impact on Other Voluntary Associations

This was that when this change is considered in conjunction with other proposed changes that will impact the Downtown/Harris Green community, the size of downtown will increase substantially. Coupled with the already higher rate of development that occurs downtown, this will create undue burden on those residents who dedicated their volunteer hours to supporting the community voice in land use decisions for that area. As with the previous proposed changes, there was also speculation about the “real reason” for this change, with one comment stating, “given Council’s density push, this is rather interesting... further confirmation of what is really going on here.”

At a Zoom meeting where the Downtown Residents Association attended, they voiced a concern that adding this area could strain their volunteer base. Although this is not technically feedback from Fernwood residents, the LUC felt it worth mentioning.

Concern Identified by the Land Use Committee

Although not raised by community members, the LUC Co-Chairs would like to state that using property lines to distinguish between neighbourhoods is far from common practice and that such a change would, in fact, create the kind of anomaly that the proposed boundary changes purport to eliminate. The FCA LUC is hereby on record as being opposed, in principle, to the creation of neighbourhood boundaries that follow individual private property lines. Not only is this an inconsistent practice; it also



presumes that the property lines will not change in the future, which is far from assured given the way that developments over time consolidate and divide properties to suit current needs.

General Comments on the Process and Rationale

Key Themes of General Comments

Analysis of the comments received identified a number of concerns that were not related to a specific boundary change, but rather to the process and rationale of all boundary changes. Four key themes emerged that were unrelated to any specific proposed change.

Theme 1: Requests for a Comprehensible Rationale

The most common general theme related to a lack of understanding regarding the rationale for proposed changes. Put quite simply, numerous comments asked, “why is this happening?” and relatedly, responses questioned why it was happening now, or why it had to happen “so quickly”. As with comments directed to a specific proposed change, general comments often suggested that the rationale they were being provided with did not seem legitimate. In the general comments, this was often phrased in terms of “who benefits”, illustrated well by these two social media comments³:

“I simply want to know, what are the practical impacts of this? Will it affect my property taxes, the zoning of my land and surrounding properties? It’s got to have some effect; otherwise why do it? Balancing the geographic boundaries and neighbourhood associations does not seem adequate”.

“Who benefits from these changes and how? This isn’t just about roads and houses. It is about people who are part of a community. In many cases it is about people who chose to live in a specific community and become active participants. How can that be taken away from them?”

Again, many general comments speculated on the “real reasons”, typically concluding that the changes were in some way related to making things easier for developers.

Theme 2: References to “More Important” Work

A second general theme was an appeal to focus on more important work. One comment asked, “isn’t there anything better for them to be doing?” while another said, “in my view, given the myriad of issues the city is grappling with, boundary changes should be last on the list.”

When something that was considered “more important” was specified, it invariably related to housing and affordability, illustrated in the comments of one responder who said, “there is no benefit to the residents for this change. House the homeless and stop looking for make-work projects.”

Indeed, “make-work” was a term used in multiple responses from different sources to indicate that the proposed boundary changes were not important. The proposed changes were also labelled “busy work” and contrasted with “the REAL issues we have now” to indicate that commenters did not consider boundary changes important.

In a small number of social media comments, the reference to “more important” work was framed in terms of asking why the respondent should care about this issue over other issues.

³ While we have generally refrained from extensively quoting verbatim from responses, it was felt that both comments encapsulated the theme so well that they should be included in their entirety.



Theme 3: Concerns about the Engagement Process

A third general theme related to the process of community engagement. There were two components of the engagement process with which comments took issue.

First there was the issue of a lack of overall awareness. Responders who were involved in self-organizing noted “most of the residents we spoke with had no idea the City was proposing these changes” and this lack of awareness is reflected in comments from other residents who noted that “if it wasn’t for [neighbours self-organizing], we’d be kept in the dark about yet another scheme”.

A number of residents who live in affected areas had participated in the Zoom calls and were aware that they should be receiving a mail out about the proposed changes. One reached out the LUC via email to inform us, “we who live in the immediate area did not receive our flyers until the deadline for the survey had nearly passed – we were watching for it!”

Second, a concern was identified related to a lack of collaborative engagement. In particular, comments suggested that prior to any workshop at the Committee of the Whole, there should have been an engagement process that included members of the community, so that when Council first examined the issue, they were doing so with background information about how those who lived in the affected areas felt about the proposed changes.

Relatedly, some commenters took issue with what they perceived to be a lack of effort on the part of CoV to produce a meaningful engagement tool, as illustrated in this comment from a direct email, where the responder indicated “I did fill out an online survey from the city (as I recall it was a couple yes/no questions with no option for comments)” before providing more fulsome comments on the specific proposed boundary change that affected them.

Finally, one commenter expressed concern that changes were being made “without the consent of the people who live there”.

Theme 4: Engagement with the Idea of “Sense of Place”

A fourth general theme that surfaced, although significantly less common than the others, was related specifically to the idea of a sense of place. Some questioned how the CoV could know what individual residents’ sense of place is (one asked “is there some sort of metric that the City is using?”) while others wanted to know why the focus was on these specific areas and not other areas that might be similarly contested in terms of residents’ sense of which community they belonged to.

As with responses to specific proposed boundary changes, some comments emphasized the importance of community identity to an individual’s sense of self, as illustrated in the social media comment that “the issue of boundary change when it meant neighbourhood change [is] a really emotional one. People are very attached to the communities in which they live or identify as living in.”

Other Themes

Other, less common, themes included:

- Wondering about consequences for property values (without identifying a specific proposed change)
- Three comments referenced the CoV 2019-2022 Strategic Plan to point out there was no mention of proposed boundary changes in that plan



Conclusion

The FCA LUC has put considerable effort into engaging residents about the three proposed neighbourhood boundary changes that will affect Fernwood. As a result of this engagement, the LUC recommends the following in response to each proposal.

Proposed Change from Cook to Chambers

There is clear opposition to moving the boundary from Cook to Chambers. This holds true across all sources of data, including the CoV survey. Our recommendation is that this proposal be rejected.

Proposed Change from Haultain to Bay

There is less clarity about moving the boundary between Haultain and Bay, with different viewpoints emerging from different sources. Our recommendation is that a decision on this proposal be suspended and that the CoV support both the FCA and the Oaklands Community Association to organize opportunities to discuss this proposal, with a particular effort to reach those that would be affected by the change, so that their voices are not diluted.

By “support” we mean time, staff assistance, and financial assistance as required. Note that the time required for community-led engagement may exceed what the CoV believe could be accomplished by CoV staff, because community leaders are volunteers who are generally simultaneously engaged in multiple other issues related to land-use and community planning. It is essential that the CoV work at the community’s pace in order to build trust and ensure that all voices are heard.

Proposed Change from Cook to Boundary Drawn Along Property Lines

There was little community engagement with the proposal for the downtown change, likely because the proposed change does not affect any buildings that are currently residential. However, as an LUC we object to drawing boundaries around a specific property line and doing so goes against the CoV’s own rationale for boundary changes, in that it creates an anomaly rather than amending one. Our recommendation is that this proposal be rejected.

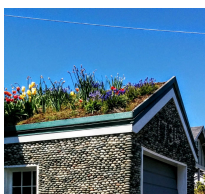
A Final Note

In conclusion, the LUC would like to reiterate that the rationale for these proposed changes does not seem particularly robust and residents struggled to understand it for the entire six-month engagement process. Despite repeated requests for further clarity, including asking those Councillors who directly proposed the boundary changes, residents never felt like they fully understood the point of the proposals.

In the absence of a clear rationale, speculation took hold that painted the CoV in a negative light. This should be carried forward as a lesson learned if the CoV is serious about meaningful community engagement, as a lack of transparency about the vision for proposed changes resulted in a great deal of theorizing that undermined trust.

For More Information

For more information contact the FCA LUC co-chairs at fernwoodlanduse@gmail.com. A reminder that this report relates only to the engagement undertaken by the FCA LUC with members of the Fernwood Community, and does not reflect the opinions of those who live in other areas or the personal opinions of the LUC co-chairs as individuals.



Gonzales Neighbourhood Association

359 Richmond Avenue
Victoria, BC V8S 3Y2

July 15, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Formation of Separate Neighbourhood Association for Gonzales

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association (GNA) I am writing to you to request the establishment of Gonzales as a distinct neighbourhood for city planning purposes, or to join with Rockland if that is acceptable to the Rockland Neighbourhood Association.

Given the results of the recent city survey it is clear that the majority of people **(64%)** want a situation different than the one that currently exists. **On a per capita population basis 4 times as many people in Gonzales and 2 times as many in Rockland voted in the survey indicating these neighbourhoods care deeply about the survey question.**

The city should recognize Gonzales as a separate neighbourhood from Fairfield for the following reasons:

1. **Size** - Fairfield currently has 17,000 residents and a geography that extends from the downtown core to the Oak Bay Border which is too large for one neighbourhood association to effectively manage. The FGCA building is closer to downtown than it is to the centre of Gonzales and is too far away to be considered a neighbourhood centre for Gonzales residents. The population of Gonzales is 4,200 which puts it in the middle population size for the various neighbourhoods in Victoria
2. **Board** - the majority of the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) board live in Fairfield. At the last FGCA AGM 4 people from Gonzales were elected to the board of 13 members. Gonzales issues will always be secondary to those issues of Fairfield.
3. **Community Hub** -The GNA has arranged to have association meetings at St. Jean Baptiste Church at 307 Richmond Ave. The Church already offers daycare and is regularly used for neighbourhood events.
4. **Representation** - The GNA currently has more supporters in Gonzales than the FGCA, and those supporters have a keen interest in the activities of the GNA. The GNA has demonstrated that it is intimately connected to the residents of Gonzales by virtue of

the fact so many came out in support, in such a short period of time, even though the GNA has few monetary resources.

5. **Neighbourhood Plan** - It was recognized by the city in 2002 that the geography and population of Fairfield and Gonzales was too big and diverse to be addressed through one plan; which lead to the creation of a separate Gonzales plan. It seems that it would be eminently sensible to align neighbourhood boundaries with those of city planning units, and therefore, to establish Gonzales as a stand-alone community association.
6. **Community Character** - Gonzales has it's own community character separate from Fairfield. The heart of the community is Margaret Jenkins school. Virtually every family in Gonzales falls within the Margaret Jenkins catchment. This means that families become well connected to each other; children grow up together and make life-long friends. This, along with other factors, has made our community the stable, child oriented one that it is today.

I hope this clarifies our intentions and we look forward to working with you and staff to figure out a method of neighbourhood governance that works for the residents of Gonzales.

Regards

Susanne Rautio
President

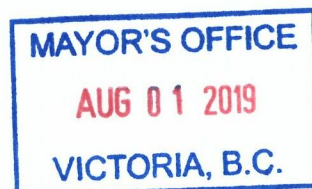


Gonzales Neighbourhood Association

359 Richmond Avenue, Victoria, BC V8S 3Y2

July 30, 2019

Mayor and Council
Victoria City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6



Mayor Lisa Helps:

Re: Request for Separate Gonzales Neighbourhood Association

The Gonzales Neighbourhood Association (GNA) is requesting that Mayor and Council recognize the GNA as the representative organization for Gonzales.

Fairfield and Gonzales currently have one representative association: the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) and one CALUC. Combined, these neighbourhoods have an area that extends from the downtown core to the Oak Bay border with over 17,000 residents. With a population of 4,200, Gonzales alone would fall into the mid-range when compared to other Victoria neighbourhoods.

For some time now, it has been apparent that the FGCA is not able to effectively represent the needs of both communities, and that the priorities of the FGCA make it difficult to respond to the needs of Gonzales residents. The FGCA board is made up of 13 members; however, only 3 of the board members live in Gonzales. The FGCA CALUC is also predominantly made up of Fairfield residents and has not been able to provide balanced representation when reviewing proposed developments. This is reflected in the fact that in June four CALUC members resigned due to conflicts with the FGCA board and staff.

The GNA has been active in the neighbourhood for quite some time, and, increasingly, it has taken a leadership role in dealing with the concerns of the neighbourhood. Along with its website, www.gonzalesna.ca the GNA produces regular newsletters in order to communicate with the community about items of interest. The GNA has over 300 members, supporters and subscribers, and it continues to gain support from residents.

The GNA project team has been looking at ways to engage the community and improve the overall wellbeing of the neighbourhood. In the fall of 2018, the team initiated a

community mapping project in conjunction with the UVIC Geography Department/Mapping Collaboratory. The result is a draft map designed to gain an understanding of the priorities of the community on three map layers: bike lanes and walking paths, housing density and ecosystem protection.

One aspect of the mapping project was to involve grade 5 students from Margaret Jenkins School in order to understand future generations' interests in the neighbourhood. One important point that has become apparent as a result of this mapping exercise is that generations may disagree on housing density or the value of bike paths but 90% of respondents agree that preservation of the neighbourhood's tree canopy, parks and beaches is paramount.

With the confirmation of a \$4,000 grant from the City, it will be possible to have the mapping project finalized and a product available within the year. The GNA is committed to continuing to concentrate on land use, transportation and placemaking in the neighbourhood.

The Gonzales Neighbourhood Association legally incorporated as a society on December 13, 2018 and, currently has 3 board members. The intention is to add 5 to 7 people to the board at the first Annual General Meeting to be held in November 2019. The GNA board conducts monthly board/project team meetings at the **St. Jean Baptiste Church**, which is located at 307 Richmond Ave. The church, which provides a daycare and is often used for neighbourhood events, is in support of the GNA and has office space available if needed.

The GNA requests that Mayor and Council consider this request for a separate neighbourhood association to be determined as expeditiously as possible. The consensus of the City of Victoria personnel which have been contacted (Andrea Hudson, Tom Zworski and Chris Coates) is that this decision is to be made by council once the request has been initiated with the submission of this letter.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Susanne Rautio', written in a cursive style.

Susanne Rautio, President



Box 661, #185-911 Yates Street
Victoria, BC
V8V 4Y9
npna@npna.ca

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC

August 3, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

This letter is to provide feedback on the proposed neighbourhood boundary changes that Council has requested that staff explore. The proposed boundary change that would impact North Park is to move the current boundary with Fernwood from Cook Street to the east by one block, with Chambers Street forming the new boundary. The NPNA is neither opposed nor supportive of this boundary change.

The City, as well as both NPNA and Fernwood Community Association (FCA), have completed a limited amount of public engagement on this topic. When the boundary change was first proposed, the immediate feedback from many Fernwood residents who live in the impacted block between Cook St and Chambers St was strong opposition. Through several community meetings, the City's short survey/engagement, and emails that we have received, the majority of the feedback has been in opposition to the move. However, it is important to note that many North Park residents strongly support the move, primarily due to the desire for North Park Village to "officially" be entirely within North Park, rather than split between two neighbourhoods.

Based on this feedback, the NPNA does not wish to pursue a boundary change if it is opposed by our closest neighbours in Fernwood. However, we would like to take this opportunity to emphasize our desire to be involved and consulted in developments and planning activities that impact North Park Village, regardless of which side of Cook St it occurs on. We would also like to note that the implications of the strong negative reaction from Fernwood residents indicates a clear disparity between the perception of Fernwood and North Park. Despite their geographic closeness, Fernwood is considered a "desirable" neighbourhood, while the underlying assumption of some feedback is that North Park is not a desirable place to live. We disagree with this sentiment but feel that it is an indication of a "have" and "have not" dynamic, and hope that the City recognizes the need for investment in North Park.

We hope that Council takes resident feedback into consideration on this decision, and that regardless of the outcome, staff and Council understand that the NPNA is highly invested in North Park Village.

Sincerely,

Eleni Gibson, NPNA Land Use Planning Advisor
On behalf of the NPNA Board

From: Alex McCumber S. 22
Sent: August 18, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Gary Pemberton <GPemberton@victoria.ca>
Cc: S. 22 ; ED <ed@oaklandsca.com>
Subject: Re: Neighbourhood Boundary report

From the position of the OCA, the proposed revisions to the boundaries are of benefit to the Oaklands community as it would capture the Haultain corners area to be fully inside the Oaklands boundary and include our neighbours caught between Bay and Haultain who are currently annexed from their Fernwood neighbourhood by Bay St. There also may be some enthusiasm for those caught in the North Jubilee boundary who already identify as Oaklands residents.

The OCA is generally supportive of the changes and has no opposition to the proposal as the changes are only beneficial to our neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Alex McCumber



Mr. Gary Pemberton
Neighbourhood Advisor
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square,
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

2021-08-27

Dear Mr. Pemberton;

The board of the Rockland Neighbourhood Association supports Gonzales becoming an independent neighbourhood association.

The RNA is not in a position to speak to the proposal regarding formation of a new Rockland-Gonzales Neighbourhood Association without going to its full membership. This could be raised at the next AGM, but at this time, the RNA does not have a mandate to support such a proposal.

Additionally, the results from the “Have Your Say – Neighbourhood Boundaries” survey conducted by the City appear to be consistent with Rockland maintaining its independence.

Regards,

Art Hamilton
Acting President
Rockland Neighbourhood Association

Victoria, B.C.

March 1st, 2021

Mayor Helps and Councillors,
City of Victoria.

Dear Members of City of Victoria Council,

Re: Neighborhood Boundaries

At the February 24th VCAN meeting, representatives from 11 of Victoria's neighbourhood associations had our first opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments to the neighbourhood boundaries.

While we agree a review of the boundaries is necessary from time to time, there is consensus that the process is happening before fulsome consultation with neighbourhood associations and engagement with residents and other stakeholders. Many associations have yet to discuss the proposals with residents.

The neighbourhood boundary changes will have significant implications for associations, including implications for the CALUC process, community funding, community building and events, community "feel" and may create issues for board structure and governance.

We understand that at the February 25th Council meeting, council approved an extension of the consultation period from April 30th to September 2021. We welcome this change and feel this timeline is more appropriate for our members.

We also request the opportunity to be involved with City staff in the days ahead to review any proposed consultation and engagement processes being designed to move this initiative forward. At that time, we would expect to identify or clarify information which will be needed to assist us in communications with our residents, businesses, and neighbourhood groups.

Each neighbourhood association will provide an update on the status of discussions on boundary changes in a few months. We look forward to working with staff and Councillor liaisons on this initiative.

Regards,

VCAN signatories:

**Burnside-Gorge
Hillside-Quadra
Oaklands**

**Fernwood
South Jubilee
Fairfield-Gonzales**

**VicWest
North Jubilee
Downtown (DRA)**

**Rockland
JBNA
North Park**

Victoria, B.C.
June 26th, 2021

Mayor Helps and Councillors,
City of Victoria.

Dear Members of City of Victoria Council,

Re: Proposed Neighbourhood Boundary Adjustments

At the February 17th, 2021 meeting, City Staff presented a report to Council to request “clarification and additional information regarding the neighbourhood boundaries workshop.” In that report, staff clearly stated that they did not understand the rational for amendments to the neighbourhood boundaries and expressed serious concerns about the process for neighbourhood consultations and the ability to report back in a timely fashion.

We are writing to inform Council and staff that the current plan to amend the neighbourhood boundaries has created widespread confusion and frustration across Victoria’s 12 neighbourhoods. As a result, we request this process be put on hold until such time that communities understand the rational for the changes and have the information required to make informed decisions.

The primary concern we have is “why?” Why is this happening now? Many residents throughout Victoria still do not understand the rational for these changes, nor do they understand why they are happening when there are more important issues for the City to address. Furthermore, there is a complete lack of understanding of the implications for neighbourhoods. For example: what do the changes mean for our Local Area Plans? What do they mean for the Village and Corridor planning? How will changes impact CALUCs and land use planning?

Another major concern is that the communities were not provided any data to help us make informed decisions on the proposed changes. For example, it would be helpful to know the population of each community, the percentage of owners and renters, the status of Local Area Planning, and the proximity to community centres or other amenities. Without adequate information, it becomes very difficult to seek community consensus and make a decision that will have long-term implications on communities. We need understand the pros and cons of each change, to ensure that all decisions are fair, equitable and justified.

The proposed engagement approach does not go far enough to resolve community concerns or allow residents to truly understand the impact of propose changes. We feel that staff have been given the difficult job of communicating changes with no strong rational. The online engagement process is overly simple and not sufficient.

We request this process be put on hold and that staff work with community associations directly to develop a plan that will allow for proper information sharing and engagement. This process should not be rushed. The Victoria Community Association Network would be happy to provide input on a more robust engagement plan that will meet the needs of communities

and the expectation of residents. Collectively, we believe the best path forward would be a face to face meeting with VCAN representatives (1-2 from each community), along with city staff and Council liaisons. We would be willing to arrange this for some time in the next month or this summer.

If you have any questions about our request, please contact Don Monsour, VCAN Chair, at president@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Regards,

VCAN signatories:

**Burnside-Gorge
Fairfield-Gonzales
North Park**

**Fernwood
Downtown (DRA)
Rockland**

**VicWest
JBNA
Hillside-Quadra**

**South Jubilee
North Jubilee
Oaklands**



August 3, 2021

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the neighbourhood boundaries. Our comments are limited to the proposed changes to the boundaries of the Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods, which comprise the area and residents served by the Downtown Residents' Association (DRA) and are made on the express understanding that the other affected neighbourhoods are in agreement with our comments. Further, we believe that additional information would have been of assistance in assessing these proposed changes.

Amalgamation of the Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods

The DRA sees merit in consolidating the boundaries of the Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods into one neighbourhood, as that is the de facto neighbourhood area currently served by the DRA. The poll data indicates strong support for this proposed change. However, we request that the "new" Downtown neighbourhood identify Harris Green as the official name of the "sub-neighbourhood," similar to Humboldt Valley, Old Town, and Chinatown. This acknowledges the historical nature of this area, recognizes it has some unique characteristics and respects the wishes of some of the current residents of Harris Green to retain a special identity for the area.

Extension of the northern Downtown neighbourhood boundary to Bay Street

We support this proposed boundary change as an appropriate move forward given the nature of the development planned for this area in the next ten to fifteen years. These lands are located within the Downtown Core Area Plan boundaries, and therefore, it makes sense that this area is included in the Downtown neighbourhood. It would be a natural extension to the Downtown neighbourhood, both in "feel" and land use.

While the Downtown Residents' Association is willing to assume the responsibilities of the neighbourhood association in this expanded area, we are very concerned about the significant additional time and effort required of our

volunteer organization to properly reach out to and represent this new and larger area without additional funding. As Council is well-aware, this area will be the subject of substantial re-development in the very near future, which will mean significant time and effort for our already overburdened Land Use Committee. Given that this area does not contain a large population base, we are also very cognizant that a simple adjustment to our base grant funding will not be commensurate with the additional time and effort that will be required. On this basis, additional funding over and above adjustments to the base grant must be made available to the DRA, similar to the funding now being made available to the North Park Neighbourhood Association.

Boundary changes with the Fairfield Neighbourhood

The DRA also sees merit in the proposed change to the boundary with the Fairfield neighbourhood, but only to the extent that the proposed changes align with the boundaries set by the DCAP. This is a natural urban/suburban divide, and it would make sense to us if the area under the DCAP currently within the Fairfield neighbourhood became part of the Downtown neighbourhood. We see the alignment of the DCAP and the neighbourhood boundaries as potentially promoting better and more comprehensive neighbourhood input into those land use planning decisions that are subject to and apply the DCAP.

Boundary changes with the Fernwood Neighbourhood

We do not see any merit in or rationale for the proposed change to extend the boundaries of the Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods to include those lands currently within the Fernwood neighbourhood. The lands east of Cook Street are outside the DCAP boundaries and subject to different land use policies. Cook Street provides a clear demarcation for the eastern boundary of the Downtown neighbourhood. For these reasons, we can see no rationale or basis for including these lands, and the residents of these lands, within the Downtown neighbourhood. This proposed change is, therefore, not supported by the DRA.

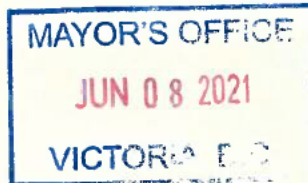
We will be pleased to discuss the boundary changes and appropriate funding adjustments further with City staff.

Sincerely,

Sandra Severs

President

Victoria Downtown Residents' Association



S. 22

June 7 2021

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am unable to attend your meeting about changing boundaries, and would just like to express my opinion. We have been living in Fernwood for almost ten years. On arrival, we were encouraged to become involved in community events. My husband and I have volunteered for several Fernfests as well as other events.

As a result, we have felt "at home" in Fernwood since we arrived. I would hate to be thrown out of my neighbourhood!

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

Fernwood/Oaklands

Hi - I feel the portion of Fairfield from Quadra to Blanshard and Southgate and Courtney, basically Academy Close area, St. Anne's Academy, and Mt. St. Mary's Hospital, the 800 block, etc., should remain as Fairfield. Area is still older residential style, has historic significance, and needs to be maintained and protected as is. Thank you, S. 22

I am strongly opposed to the Oakland/Fernwood boundary changes. The reasons that city provided for proposing these changes are ambiguous at best, and potentially dishonest. It is my belief that the city is proposing these changes in order to facilitate new development without the influence and oversight of the Fernwood NRG. In particular, I believe that these changes would allow the destruction and redevelopment of Haultain Corners. This village is one of the gems of the city, and is the emotional heart of our neighbourhood. I would have no problem with improving this part of the neighbourhood, for example, in a fashion similar to the development of the Belfry area in Fernwood. I can imagine, however, that developers are salivating over the possibility of replacing the village with multi-storey buildings full of million dollar condo units and high end professional and retail space at street level. For this reason, I think that these boundary changes should not occur. I appreciate that the city is concerned about improving my "sense of place" (I'm being sarcastic here), but for your information, my sense of place would be improved if the northern boundary of Fernwood was Hillside Avenue, not Bay Street.

I live in between Bay and Haultain Streets, which is presently classed as Fernwood. To me, it feels like Oaklands where I live. We are separated from the rest of Fernwood by Bay street. When I walk around the neighbourhood, it is through Oaklands, to Oaklands park, up the pedestrian-friendly King Street. My feel of place is Oaklands.

Boundaries should exist along major, easily identifiable streets. Chambers St does not qualify. There is a Fernwood community garden located on Garden St that the proposed boundary change would be re-located to Oaklands. Fernwood resident gardeners would be unfairly impacted by the boundary change. The vagueness of information regarding the motivation for changing boundaries that have existed for over half a century leads to distrust and suspicion. I suspect that future development approvals may be impacted by these boundary changes and believe that it has the potential to be detrimental to the Fernwood Community (such as expanding Harris Green commercial and high density development). I also expect that funding for the Fernwood Community Resource Group which has been very active in the development of Fernwood would be cut. Fernwood also has more than its share of low-cost housing developments and social services. These needed resources need to be located more equitably with the other Victoria neighbourhoods. Consequently, I do NOT support any changes to the boundaries of Fernwood and question the vision the Victoria City Council hold for the future of Fernwood .

My family and I live on Haultain Street, west of Fernwood Road. We have deep ties to the Fernwood community and would like to remain Fernwood Residents!!

Please consider leaving the homes, businesses and park between Haultain Street and Bay Street, west of Fernwood Road, within the Fernwood Neighbourhood!!

Demographics and neighbourhood economics change. The neighbourhood of today is not as it was 5, 10, or 40 years ago. Victoria should balance history with the evolution of communities. If we sat as stagnat city we would not enjoy many of the new facets of being one of the most enviable places to live in Canada.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

While I too agree with many of the comments made here that council needs to first focus on fixing many prominent issues, such as crime and homelessness, it also needs to continue day to day business. I agree with some, but not all of the changes. Changes to the neighbourhoods of Fernwood, Oaklands, and North Park have particular impacts to housing prices and optics. Council needs to consider the impact they are making to the land value of residents who "bought" into desired neighbourhoods only to have them rezoned into a different one.

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: May 10, 2021 9:20 PM

Hi there,

I had some additional feedback on the neighbourhood boundary proposal that could not be captured in the survey or short comment section. I am directly impacted by the proposal to change the boundary between Fernwood and Oaklands as I live at S. 22 Avebury avenue and I would like to express how opposed I am to the proposed change that would take away the neighbourhood I love and am proud to call home, in exchange for a neighbourhood I don't know.

I've noted my reasons organized by the council's observations when discussing neighbourhood boundaries and propose that the boundary for the north part of Fernwood should be left alone for many reasons, including that we are just starting to get better biking connections to our neighbourhood later this year and how the block between Bay and Haultain are a gradient between the two neighbourhoods of Fernwood and Oaklands and serve as a transition area between the two where the transition to Oaklands is finished north of Haultain and becomes more homogenous.

Reconciling geographic anomalies that may fit better in an adjacent neighbourhood

- This neglects to consider architectural form, history and reasons for why some of these neighbourhoods evolved as they did. Fernwood is a former streetcar suburb that mostly predates mass adoption of cars. Between Bay and Haultain is where the transition between the neighbourhood exists to pre and post mass car adoption as can be seen by the few sidewalks and change to housing with more parking off street north of Haultain. My block on Avebury avenue is a perfect example of this. Several homes nearest to Bay street are pre-1920s, my home and neighbouring homes are mostly 1940-1950s and often do not have garages or carports. Further up the block nearest Haultain is where the homes are mostly 1960-1970s and have carports or garages for two cars. Beyond Haultain is designed more after the mass adoption of cars, as mentioned with more parking, garages, carports and newer home styles where few homes do not have a garage. In addition, there are unfortunately also few streets with sidewalks or sidewalks on both sides of the street north of Haultain, unlike the blocks south of Haultain where both sides have sidewalks on every block as they were a part of the streetcar suburb design for the area.
- The neighbourhood has created a clear identifier for Fernwood, the well known painted hydro poles in Fernwood, during the early days of the pandemic my husband and I made the effort to walk every block in Fernwood, and a few surrounding streets that identified with Fernwood to picture and map every painted hydro pole: <https://bk01.github.io/photo-maps/art.html> as you can see there is a strong sense of being part of the Fernwood community north of Bay street (though many blocks only have poles on one side so there are sometimes blocks with fewer poles to paint) and that that sense of being connected to Fernwood and activities like painting hydro poles is stronger where there are better pedestrian crossings of Bay street and less where there are no safe crossings along Bay. More and safer crossings along Bay are something the city

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

could improve to further strengthen the neighbourhood sense of connections but many already feel connected to Fernwood north of Bay street.

There may be opportunities to better match boundaries with the neighbourhoods in which residents perceive themselves to be living.

- I live at S. 22 Avebury avenue and chose to live where I do because it is in Fernwood and I knew during our search for a home that we wanted to live in Fernwood. S. 22 S. 22, I enjoy reading the Fernwood newsletter known as the Village Vibe that is delivered to my home, I have volunteered at Fernfest, I pick-up my veggies from the good food box program from the Fernwood community centre, I completed surveys for the Fernwood neighbourhood plan and the Fernwood connector part of the bike network that will finally make a safer connection for my street to my neighbourhood. Fernwood is my neighbourhood.
- It is only finally this year that we are getting a better bike connection to our neighbourhood with the Fernwood connector route that will connect Fernwood north to south between Haultain and Pandora. I appreciated getting the mailer about the bike route and am pretty astounded that a neighbourhood boundary change didn't require any sort of notification to the people living on the impacted streets. The survey didn't ask me my opinion about which neighbourhood I perceive myself to live in, it asked me where I live and I live in Fernwood between Bay and Haultain.
- I am frankly insulted at the insinuation that I don't know what neighbourhood I live in or that I don't feel like I belong to the neighbourhood I do. I chose Fernwood and I am Fernwoodian and I absolutely hate that the city may arbitrarily take that sense of connection and community I have away for what I think are awfully flimsy reasons.

Neighbourhood populations vary substantially and may present challenges for neighbourhood associations, e.g. too big for effective representation or too small to recruit volunteer support

- I propose that North Park be disbanded rather than expanded like it is in the current proposal which would benefit surrounding neighbourhoods for better representation for Downtown, Fernwood and Hillside-quadra that could be logically organized.
- North Park is the least known and most nonsensical neighbourhood, after Harris Green, and should be disbanded and split up between Fernwood, Hillside-Quadra, and Downtown.
 - Downtown should acquire the parts of North Park south of Caledonia and west of Vancouver. So many parking lots that should be developed here.
 - Fernwood should get the total portion east of Vancouver for both the more consistent housing form of duplexes, multiplexes and smaller apartment buildings along with encompassing the entire business area along Cook street to be more consistent as a large urban centre within a single neighbourhood. Businesses that moved into (e.g North Park bikes used to be in North Park but it is now in Fernwood) and businesses that identify as Fernwood businesses (the very well known throughout the city Fernwood coffee of course).
 - Hillside-Quadra should get the remainder, North of Caledonia and West of Vancouver. This would give the Central park along Quadra street to Hillside-Quadra.

Reasons to disband North Park as a separate neighbourhood:

- No community centre, just a sign placed awkwardly behind a bike rack on one side of Cook street.
- No markets, farmers markets or other types of community gathering places
- Few residents, no sense of community or cohesiveness that I can tell, no festivals, events, workshops, community programs, daycare programs, etc.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

- Banners were added in the middle of Cook street for North Park a couple of years ago because otherwise the neighbourhood doesn't exist in any logical or recognized way. These banners could be replaced with Fernwood banners easily.
- Our main city police station is outside of downtown? In a neighbourhood called North Park? Either put it in downtown or Hillside-Quadra, a neighbourhood that people know exists as it has a community vibe too that North Park does not.
- If kept the neighbourhood should be renamed North Parking Lot, there are more parking lots than publicly accessible park spaces in this area.
- Way more density of housing is needed here, most of the neighbourhood should become a part of downtown, especially the parking lots by Quadra street / Blanshard area.
- No one says 'meet me in North Park' because no one knows where North Park is, there are no well known neighbourhood destinations or logical meeting points. People do say 'meet me at Hillside mall' or 'meet me at Haultain corners' or 'meet me at Fernwood Square' because these neighbourhood destinations are in Oaklands, the Fernwood/Oaklands border or in Fernwood respectively and make sense.

Some village centres are divided between neighbourhoods

- In my opinion the village centre of Oaklands is the business district along Hillside that includes Hillside mall, not Haultain corners and not the Haultain fish and chips further down by Cook either, I would consider both to be in Fernwood.
- The Oaklands community centre is within the Oaklands elementary school which is just two blocks from Hillside and the mall area, this is the village centre for Oaklands. Oaklands is more car oriented because of the development period that most impacted the neighbourhood and housing so unfortunately their neighbourhood centre is a suburban mall surrounded by parking lots rather than cute shops along a neighbourhood street so I get why they may want to try to claim Haultain but in reality it isn't the village centre of Oaklands and should therefore continue to be the shared boundary with Fernwood.
- In the back of Koffi on Haultain they have had a painting up for years of a cat that says 'mayor of Fernwood' on it, they know they are in Fernwood and make light of being in funky Fernwood. Businesses themselves know which neighbourhood they are in.
- If the city considered Haultain corners to be the village centre for Oaklands then why was nothing done to make it into a square as part of the Haultain bike network? A diverter at Belmont or complete closure of Haultain at Belmont could have created more of a people oriented square if this was meant to be a village centre. Instead it is only getting a single parklet, on the Fernwood side only too! The reality is that I don't believe the city even believes that Haultain corners is a village centre in Oaklands only, it is a fringe village at the border between neighbourhoods and it works as it is.
- Why would it even matter that Haultain corners, a minor village centre, straddles a neighbourhood boundary?
- In any case I do not think the boundary for Haultain corners should be changed to capture some businesses in one neighbourhood more than another, businesses don't make a neighbourhood, the people do and on the south side of Haultain we are Fernwood, see my previous points about why and consider that there are many more from others who may not have noticed this consultation.
- I also think the boundary for Fernwood should include all of Cook street and be expanded to Vancouver street, see my proposal to disband North Park for details.

I really hope you will consider what I have submitted and not pursue further boundary changes for Fernwood at the northern border with Oaklands that would kick me out of my much loved neighbourhood.

Thank you.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

From: S. 22

Sent: May 18, 2021 8:16 PM

Hello,

I live in Fernwood between Haultain St and Bay St and just heard about the neighbourhood boundary discussion. Of particular interest to me is the Fernwood/Oaklands border.

I feel proud to call Fernwood home based on its sense of community, amenities, culture and festivals. I regularly eat in the square and our household donates to the community centre.

I really don't want to call Oaklands home and feel no connection to it.

Please consider consulting closely with the people who live in the potentially impacted areas of Fernwood. I hope to see this fizzle away just as the dogs on the bus topic did.

People are upset that their neighbourhood is being taken away and have not seen legitimate justification. We need to prioritize what the people who make a neighbourhood think, and not just satisfy a few busy bodies, bloggers or businesses.

Fernwood proud,

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: June 8, 2021 12:52 PM

Hello,

I live in Fernwood S. 22 . I feel I am more connected to Fernwood than Oakland's, I went to S. 22 I volunteered for the student dinner at the Fernwood Centre, and I spend most of my time in the Fernwood square whether it's at the mystical shop 7 Rays, or the coffee shop Little June's. I am more connected and prouder to be part of Fernwood, I think the borders should stay as they are right now.

Please take this into consideration.

Warmest regards,

S. 22

Oaklands/Jubilee

- 1)The "geographic anomalies" I assume refer to the narrow strip between Oaklands and Jubilee. Yes, that component makes sense. However, the expansion of Downtown, which is really what most of the other adjustments seems to be about, does not support previous neighbourhood ideas of small village centres.
- 2)"Council identified potential benefits...", is the City going to share these with residents?
- 3)"Staff do not believe there are significant implications..." It seems as though Council is trying to adjust these

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

boundaries to increase density that matches with the OCP of Downtown and North Park without having to go through a full revamp of the existing OCPs for Fernwood, Fairfield, and Burnside/Gorge.

Council, please make it clear what exact benefits are to changing these boundaries.

Hello! Thanks for providing the opportunity for feedback. Our family lives in the S. 22 block between Bay and Haultain. We are so happy to have the boundary changed so we are officially in Oaklands. We feel very much a part of the Oaklands community and are excited to be included. Thank you for making this happen!

I thank the City of Victoria for this opportunity to provide perspective on the proposed revisions of neighbourhood boundaries. My Oaklands neighbours and I are proud to be a part of the process.

In the spring of 2019, data collection at the Oaklands Spring Celebration confirmed that attending residents living on the south side of Haultain Street supported establishing the Oaklands Neighbourhood boundary at Bay Street.

In the summer of 2019, weekly information tent sessions were held across twelve Oaklands Community Sunset Markets and signatures were collected from Oaklands residents' supporting their desire to shift the present boundary from Haultain Street to Bay Street.

Many neighbours living on the south side of Haultain Street thought they were already a part of Oaklands Neighbourhood vs Fernwood Neighbourhood citing affinity with and proximity to Oaklands given the perceived natural boundary of a busy Bay Street.

Development of the Haultain Village as part of updating the Oaklands Neighbourhood Plan is supported by residents who affirmed that the process would be streamlined and more effective if the Haultain Village was understood to be within Oaklands rather than straddling two neighbourhoods with differing characteristics and affinities.

Inclusion of the Haultain Village within the Oaklands Neighbourhood contributes to the neighbourhood's identity, a sense of community and provides a focal point for cultural exchanges, fostering community pride.

Some residents living on the east side of Shelbourne Street feel a greater affinity to Oaklands Neighbourhood - a greater sense of belonging due to their relationship with Oaklands Community Centre and the Hillside business centre.

As a resident of Oaklands I write in support of the suggested revisions to the Oaklands Neighbourhood boundaries.

Thanks for hearing me.

Thanks for facilitating input. I urge the City to place the links to the February workshop and Committee of the Whole Council discussions of the topic as this would alleviate many of the concerns expressed.

I note that some respondents object to a generalized action by the City, yet speak generally for all, relative to the topic.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

As a resident of Oaklands, I can say categorically that the strip along Shelbourne, just one lot deep to the boundary of Saanich, is a strange anomaly that denies residents any say in the neighbourhood that is most geographically logical and which offers a broader range of services than the current North Jubilee assignment.

The proposed Haultain to Bay shift similarly reflects a geographic logic because the Bay Street arterial can influence pedestrian choices—why cross Bay when there is a whole world of less-traffic walkable streets in the other direction? The Haultain to Bay strip does, however, present a cross-Bay draw in at least two senses. The dog walking park across Bay is an understandable draw, regardless of the need to cross traffic made very heavy coincidental with three hospital shift changes daily. And, for those in the strip close to Fernwood Road, proximity to the Gladstone village area is an understandable draw.

Development of the Haultain Corners village would be simplified and enhanced by the shift in boundary, offering two choices to those residents. And, Oaklands Park now has a zone designated as a dog walking area at certain times.

Critical to my view is that community associations depend upon volunteers willing and able to step up. Over the last many years in Oaklands, key positions (and people) have resided in the Shelbourne strip and in the Haultain to Bay strip, outside the neighbourhood boundaries. More have expressed interest in serving than could be accepted because the Board policy accepts only two people living outside of Oaklands, as is right and proper. It is a serious problem, however, when a Board is incomplete and needs volunteers, but cannot accept that needed service.

During Council discussions, it is clear that the City "sees" neighbourhoods in terms of the given Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC). Much assertion of the role of the CALUC as "representative" ignored staff clarification that the CALUC cannot effectively represent, being by mandate a "conduit" that does not filter. In Oaklands, this limitation is understood by the Board (as confirmed in correspondence and evident unwillingness to take positions) as limiting the role of the community association. It must be acknowledged that community associations, by and large, do not have easy ways to identify or engage with the populations they ostensibly represent, so they are reluctant to make a claim of "representation". In short, it ain't easy.

On that score, it is critical for the City to recognize that funding for the infrastructure to run a community centre (e.g. Oaklands, Burnside-Gorge, Fernwood) provides the illusion of support for community associations. Funding for neighbourhoods without a community centre operation was raised in the Feb 4 and 25 Council discussions (if I recall correctly) and this is laudable. However, it is critical to note that running a full slate of community centre and daycare programs requires a consuming, and very differently focused, management effort. It should be separately recognized that a community association that purports any kind of "representation" needs to be resourced/supported to be effective in that regard. Until very recently, the City was not even willing to entertain support for outreach through mail-outs coincidental with other City mail-outs. And, we continue to hear of the challenge for the City in targeting mail-outs. Please trust the ability of citizens to distinguish—on a single insert— Neighbourhood A content from Neighbourhood B content. It's a matter of good, organized writing and not hard or costly to do. Invite an "opt-in" approach to empowering community associations to identify, recognize and engage with residents who wish to be a part of their neighbourhood's activity and planning, and do this annually.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Over many years of engagement on certain matters, I have come to understand that there is great good intent and ability among those with differing views. City practices are often driven by systems that build-in excessive cost and time frames, sometimes inhibiting the kind of direct engagement needed and often inhibiting desired—even agreed—outcomes. Citizens react to this with dismay and suspicion as to underlying motives. It is too easy to dismiss the reaction as resistance to change, even when the language suggests that is the case.

Please support community associations in their engagement of community. That can do a lot. And, as someone who has held multiple Board positions at various levels in the civic, social and international professional spheres, I suggest it may be valuable to examine how broad, multi-generational, effectively representative service on Boards can be supported. Again, this form of public service ain't easy and is very costly on a personal level. Three of my past positions required in excess of a 50% commitment, two became full-time volunteer roles in periods of organizational crisis. I know of a local colleague whose loss in personal earned derived from a 50% (plus) commitment. If we are serious about bringing people with experience and capacity into such matters, the current model may not be sustainable, and at best, it is unfair to individuals who step up to serve. (I appreciate that this observation may have a certain resonance with Council.)

Thanks for this opportunity—and to all for their engagement. The work of the Engagement team is greatly appreciated.

It would be great if there were more questions. For Jubilee, it's more complex than one question. North Jubilee could be merged in to Fernwood and Oaklands more easily than with South Jubilee. The crossroads of Fort and Richmond are very distinct in terms of neighbourhoods, there are so many areas converging at that point. I think North Jubilee should be partially merged with South Jubilee. The areas North of Fort and Richmond should be with Fernwood and Oaklands. The area closest to the hospital by Foul Bay could be part of Jubilee, or Oakland or Fernwood could be extended

The proposal of aligning the strip along Shelbourne away from North Jubilee (NJ) to Oaklands goes against its purposeful inclusion in the first place! This strip gives NJ a more secure voice at the table of any discussion regarding the traffic management and development along the Shelbourne corridor including with our neighbouring municipality. Otherwise, the differing demands would be represented by Oaklands, a neighbourhood with a very different configuration and means to disburse traffic and development in its midst. North Jubilee has no midst! We are bounded on ALL sides by secondary arterials and need to maintain Shelbourne along the entirety of our border to retain the continuity and weight of our input and influence in decision making along this corridor. I sat on the original Traffic Management Committee for Oaklands and was a long serving member of the executive of North Jubilee. I KNOW the inclusion of this strip was not arbitrary! Also, please STOP referring to the TWO distinct neighbourhoods of North and South Jubilee as one. We are separate for a purpose. The demands and interests of each of our areas differ. There was good reason to be distinct when formed and those reasons remain. The whole purpose of having distinct neighbourhoods is to address problems, concerns, aspirations that neighbours identified within when forming. These reasons and all the hard work done to meet, create and maintain neighbourhood associations CANNOT be seen by looking at a map! There is no one-size-fits-all Official Plan that can expect to address the real differences between neighbourhoods. Council and staff must bend their ears (apply their eyes) to the local plans. The process to create these is time-consuming and painstaking and yes, they should be updated, but they are the place that you need to zoom into to see why the identities are strong and why the borders exist as they do. As another comment suggests, the arterials like Shelbourne, Fort, Richmond (for instance) are often seen as chasms. We don't need to look across the existing boundaries (chasms) for more concerns and we most certainly don't need

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to change the ones we have to create more. As for NJ, it is small but overarching many of its issues is the enormous presence of Royal Jubilee Hospital. It impacts our neighbourhood like no other. It fills our plate and diluting our concerns by merging us with South Jubilee does not address the specifics of its impact and vice versa. We have always worked well with SJ on issues of common interest but merging us is tantamount to a return to the days when Fernwood was so farflung as to be unknowing or unable to address the specific concerns of our two areas. DO NOT merge the neighbourhoods and please stop referring to them as one!

Oaklands densification plan is different from North Jubilee's. You can already see how there are many more townhouses on the Oaklands side of Shelbourne than the North Jubilee side. If all of Shelbourne becomes part of Oaklands, there could be even more densification in the area. North Jubilee has fewer streets than Oaklands, so it is not possible to disperse the increased traffic. The result will be a higher volume of traffic cutting through residential streets from one major artery to the next. This would be a challenge for residents! Also, having part of Shelbourne "belong" to North Jubilee gives our neighbourhood an opportunity to have input in what happens there. We live right next to Shelbourne St and any changes to it will definitely affect us as well.

As a resident owner on the east side of the S. 22 -block, Shelbourne St., it always felt odd that we were part of the Jubilee areas, when our interests - in land use, in traffic, and so many other aspects lay with Oaklands. The subdivision of the Jubilee areas into two also felt odd - and it would seem was, in that both were too small to field a suitable team of representatives. Again, the change makes complete sense. The others seem to make sense, as well, though I do not have very strong feelings either way. But then, I've only been a resident here for S. 22

Why does your map not include North Jubilee and South Jubilee as these are two separate neighbourhood associations? Moving the area of North Jubilee into Oaklands will only serve to make North Jubilee smaller and they need people to contribute to the vibrancy of their association. Therefore, I am against this proposed change.

North Park/Fernwood

Leave the Fernwood boundaries alone. The Fernwood area has been the same since I was a child in the 1950's and is a vibrant district. I am not interested in being part of North Park.

re: North Park/Fernwood boundary

As someone who lives in North Park, works on Cook St, and spends a lot of time in Fernwood I think incorporating the businesses along the east side of Cook as "North Park" (which I feel is already the case) makes more sense than pushing the boundary to Chambers, and incorporating many homes that I definitely feel are part of the Fernwood community. If it's for administrative purposes, do as you've proposed with the Harris Green area and incorporate ONLY the businesses among the Cook St North Park Village as North Park

I live on Caledonia Ave, between Cook & Chambers, and would therefore be directly impacted by the proposal to shift the Fernwood/North Park Boundary from Cook to Chambers. I would no longer live in the neighbourhood that I chose to move to S. 22 ago, at the apparent whim of City officials. And I do not use the term 'whim' lightly. I have attended two neighbourhood meetings on this proposed boundary change and have yet to be provided with a credible reason for it. That the North Park/Fernwood boundary runs through the commercial block that is now called North Park Village is not in any way a credible reason for the boundary shift. The North Park and Fernwood Neighbourhood Associations have, for years, worked collaboratively and effectively together on land-use, development and other issues that have arisen in

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that commercial area. Residents of both Fernwood & North Park frequent the area and support its businesses. Simply because it now is termed 'North Park Village' does not warrant a boundary change.

Also, that some feel it would be 'cleaner' if the Village did not span both neighbourhoods is not sufficient reason for a boundary change. I have asked if anyone, business or resident, has faced any serious problems arising from the fact that the Village straddles both neighbourhoods and have received no reply. I would think that the level of co-operation exhibited by the North Park & Fernwood Associations in matters pertaining to the Village would be welcomed by the City in this time when divisiveness seems so prevalent in much else in the public sphere.

I am aware that a similar argument of the need for North Park to encompass the block east of Cook arises from this emergent 'vision' (whose, I am not sure) to turn the half-block of North Park St. east of Cook into a meeting place so some sort. This 'vision' has been referred to as a gathering place for North Park residents. Given that, as I have noted previously, Fernwood residents frequent North Park Village as much as do North Park residents, I can't help but wonder if the vision originates with those who know little about the neighbourhood that they are striving to shape. Also, as the 'vision' does not have fulsome support in the neighbourhood and has yet to be approved by Council, altering the boundary on this basis seems rather premature.

I have real difficulty with the idea that this boundary change in any way aligns peoples' sense of space with where they reside. I can assure you that I am absolutely fine with my current alignment as a Fernwoodian. And, given the total lack of support for the proposed boundary change among Fernwood residents in the neighbourhood meetings, I can assure you that my neighbours appear similarly happy with their current alignment. In fact, with the North Park Association assuring us that they did not ask for this change and Fernwood clearly not having championed it, I have to ask where it came from and, as importantly, what is driving it?

When there is no apparent credible reason for a proposed change, it is reasonable to ask: 'What is really going on here?' And, although at least one Councillor has assured the neighbourhood that the City has no ulterior motives, I am among those that remain unconvinced. Is the boundary change intended to ease approval for denser zoning or even commercial zoning in the block east of Cook?

In conclusion, I remain adamantly opposed to moving the North Park/Fernwood boundary from Cook to Chambers. And I am certain that, if appropriately and thoroughly canvassed, my neighbours will be similarly opposed. I would ask Council to actively canvas impacted residents, to abide by their preference and not to impose a solution to a problem that does not actually exist.

I live on Grant in the S. 22 block and like my neighbors we have put up Fernwood proud signs in or windows. this is because we identify with Fernwood, participate with Fernwood on neighborhood issues including rezoning. North park can get their own community center and council has no need to redefine out boundaries. Chrystal pool if it remains in North park would be a more suitable place for them. My primary social gathering point is the Fernwood inn. for issues in our area.

Please just leave us alone. Council has screwed enough up in Victoria. Too many changes for change sake. I have not seen nor heard of any call for a boundary change from we who live here

I do not understand the motivation and reason for such a drastic move, that will surely make hundreds of citizens unhappy and displeased. From my understanding the North Park Community Association did not request this move. So is the origin of this "wouldn't it be nice to", which is pretty weak in terms of a benefit for the greater good of the citizens. This Council seems to favour a winner and loser governance system from our residents, instead of reaching for common ground amongst all parties. After living here in Fernwood for close to S. 22 one develops a sense of loyalty and appreciation for the neighbourhood. I would truly feel the loss

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

of that collective feeling if I was asked to relocate against my will. I hope members of Council abandon this effort and refocus on some of the more pressing matters at hand.

Having the North Park village split in two makes no planning sense. That said, if Fernwood residents don't want to be part of NP then they should not be forced to be. The real takeaway from this is the passion with which people object to moving different boundaries. These indicate serious disparities. We should be working towards having a city where these boundaries do not matter. Clearly given the passion with which some in Fernwood do not want to join North Park, we have a long way to go here. This is the significant takeaway the City should be hearing.

The council member who initiated the work and discussion on boundary changes is Ben Isitt – as is public information. That said, he was not the one to recommend some of the more contentious changes; for example, Council Member Sarah Potts was the one who proposed the Fernwood/North Park change, again, this is public record.

Initial February 4th workshop meeting, can be found here:

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=750a1f19-ede2-4647-802c-9ec227c4aec1&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=14&Tab=attachments>

Follow-up meeting February 25th can be found here:

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=0e1eacef-4dcc-4918-85c4-9dd38b7e234c&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=13&Tab=attachments>

These changes will cost all City of Victoria residents taxpayer dollars and they have already cost us \$ on the labour and administrative work involved in meetings, maps, planning, and engagement.

Residents did not bring these changes forward to council in any formal matter, it was council who proposed these changes.

It started as a “housecleaning” matter to turn squiggly lines straight with maybe 2-3 proposed changes under the notion that some residents perceived that they lived in a different community than they actually do. This quickly snowballed in to more than 10 proposed changes.

If the true intent is to turn squiggly lines straight (reconcile some geographic anomalies) and improve residents’ sense of place, wouldn’t it be more effective to have the engage team go door to door in these areas and simply ask “what neighbourhood do you live in”? I can tell you without a hesitation of doubt, that residents between Cook and Chambers know they live in Fernwood.

I can also tell you that the village on Cook St (and Haultain for that matter) are not the only ones straddling neighbourhood boundaries. No matter where you put a boundary, things change and shift and villages will pop-up where they pop up, not as any result of being within one community or another, and sometimes actually despite it. Who is to say that 20 years from now another commercial village emerges on Chambers, or, the more likely scenario of Bay Street – would another boundary change be proposed again at that time?

In addition to this survey, if you want to express your opposition to changing the Cook St boundary, there is a

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petition started by community members found here:

<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-victoria-keep-the-fernwood-boundary-at-cook-street>

'Oh talk to me not of conversion to North Park's story!

Dear Fernwood has roots much deeper in glory!

Grant Street is salted heavily with "Fernwood Proud" signs.

And we are sincerely committed to keeping Fernwoodian lines!

No matter WHAT decision is made, When asked "you're in what part of Victoria's glade?"

We will respond "Fernwood, dear" - And we are making it *abundantly* clear! '

One of the reasons I settled permanently in North Park was because S. 22 I lived S. 22 on North Park Street on the Fernwoodian side. I had no idea that was Fernwood. The rental ad said North Park; the vibe was a little edgier than Fernwood (with a supported housing for mental health next door and that super cool recording studio across from the Parsonage where I met some wild musicians and dancers, of course the legendary Logans. Even now, when I've listed the neighbourhoods I've lived in the city, I have a hard time thinking of that time as Fernwood (as much as I admire and love Fernwood). I think the boundary change does make sense, but this is not a hill to die on. North Park is on a roll improving our community. I think some of the Fernwood pride is an awareness of the actual class differences that exist. Maybe soon, the people who are invested in Fernwood pride will feel like it is no big deal to their identity or house prices to be considered North Park. Meanwhile, I think North Parkians and Fernwoodians have to continue to join forces. North Park is small and typically does not have the community engagement needed to fight the powers to make us more like Fernwood (or to be honest, to take some of the load of services for an equitable share that would make the region more mixed, less ghetto). Any support is appreciated wherever the boundary is.

re the North Park/Fernwood boundary:

I live on Chambers and think the new boundary makes way more sense. Fernwood is huge and we have our little "village centre", it makes sense for North Park's village centre along Cook Street to all be actually in North Park.

With respect to the change to add a portion of Fernwood (along Cook) to North Park, I agree with this because the orientation of this portion of Cook is to the businesses and activities along Cook and not to the Fernwood Village. It only makes sense that this area be classified as North Park because the vitality along Cook is to the businesses and activities along Cook and as well as Crystal Pool, Central Park and not be Fernwood. With respect to adding the portion of Burnside Gorge (south of Bay0 to Downtown, a gain the orientation here is to Downtown and not the Burnside Gorge. In fact, most people are do not realize this area south of Bay is even part of the Burnside Gorge and, in fact, they are astonished to realize this is the classification. This to include this area as part of the Burnside Gorge is a complete anomaly.

As a North Park resident, I would be in favor of extending the eastern boundary of North Park to Chambers Street, primarily for incorporating North Park Village into the neighbourhood. I feel that issues regarding the Village, including the concerns of businesses could be better addressed dealing with one organization rather than 2, particularly when development of the Village as a whole is concerned.. Since Fernwood has its own neighbourhood village, It would be logical for the North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) to respond to the needs of the Village, including perhaps the establishment of a Village Business Improvement Association.

I understand that residents and households living in the Cook/Chambers corridor identify more strongly with Fernwood for its historic ties as well as its character. However, I do not believe that the NPNA is looking to change the character of that area. In fact, the NPNA has been very vigilant in maintaining our neighbourhood's character, much of it being similar to Fernwood's with heritage homes and some mid-density dwellings. Also

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due to proximity, people living in the corridor frequently shop in the Village.

Anyway, as part of a welcoming community, I would relish the opportunity to welcome new neighbours into our neighbourhood!

Re: moving area of Fernwood north of Bay Street into Oaklands, I live in Fernwood just north of Bay, so I would be living in Oaklands with this change. I do engage with the Haultain Corners in Oaklands to an extent, but I am much more oriented to Fernwood. Oaklands seems a lot more single-family-dwelling and car-focused; other than Haultain Corners, there is not really a pedestrian-friendly commercial area. However, I can see the argument for Bay Street being a transition point and the area being more oriented towards Oaklands. So I've taken a neutral position on the change, despite personally not liking it.

Re: moving area of Fernwood between Caledonia and Cook into North Park. Two neighbourhoods can share the village/commercial area, Fernwood on one side and North Park on the other, just fine. The commercial area on Cook Street is much larger than Fernwood Square and serves a different function. The area between Cook and Caledonia will always be Fernwood to me; both sides of Caledonia, which is a small neighbourhood street, feel firmly part of the same neighbourhood. The proposed change makes no sense.

We have lived in Fernwood for years and strongly identify with the neighbourhood - the sense of community, the vibrant Belfry Square, the Compost Education Centre and Allotment Gardens, Fernfest, the Belfry, block parties, etc etc. In addition, we believe that changing our neighbourhood to North Park will adversely affect our property values.

I bought my house in Fernwood because I want to live in Fernwood not in North Park. Perhaps removing the North Park signage on Cook St. and renaming it would be a better solution than displacing current Fernwood residents and "re-assigning" them as North Park. Shame on the City for imposing this to me and my neighbors. When I see my neighbors our topic of discussion is never about the weather. Rather, it's usually about the City encroaching on our mental health because of their actions or inactions. Please pick on someone your own size!

Neighbourhoods are defined by those who live in them and how they self identify as a community. Changes to neighbourhoods are most effective when the neighbours request a change to improve something. This proposal appears to addresses city planning districts associated with development areas and the boundaries for community association catchment areas. Originally Chambers was the boundary of the town and suburb of Fernwood was defined by spring ridge. In the 1970s Fernwood was Hillside-Quadra-Fort-Shelbourne then as sub neighborhoods organized the boundaries shifted. This current proposal seems like a natural evolution. I appreciate the city for consulting the community. The North Park boundary change is trickier as a strong Fernwood identity reaches to Cook St. I would defer to them. Do they feel they are in North Park?

I live in North Park Neighbourhood. Since formal discussions were rumoured/begun regarding shifting NP neighbourhood boundary to Chambers "Fernwood Proud" signs have appeared in windows of homes that are proposed to become part of NP neighbourhood. To me, disrupting relationships between NP and Fernwood through boundary changes is not worth the disruption. NP has a collaborative relationship with Fernwood residents and businesses. Collaboration is the way forward now and in the future. Imposing boundary changes will only cause angst and open (already seen as evidenced by the signage) hostility. Further, the words "anomalies" and "issues" are suggested reasons to change boundaries. No definition of anomalies and issues has been forthcoming. "Smoke and mirrors" comes to mind. What is council's end game here anyway. The publicity around reasons for the proposed changes has been unclear from the start and it is, I think, disingenuous of council to go forward with a survey that is based upon unclarified reasons for the changes and then ask for feedback from the public.

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I feel that there is merit to merging Fernwood and North Park in full, the two neighbourhoods are so intertwined that their development should be considered as a whole, especially if Chambers is to become the new border.

I said I agreed with the North Park/Fernwood boundary change mostly because of the work of the NPNA and the Cook Street businesses to beautify and make safe their areas. It feels to me like the east side of the Cook St. is more relevant to North Park than to Fernwood. However, in spite of that I tend to agree with Charles that if North Park is going to be seen as the enemy by vocal Fernwood residents, it's not worth it to force this boundary change on them. It's a shame there hadn't been more time devoted to dialogue between the City and our neighbourhoods for a collaborative outcome, perhaps even a modified boundary change.

Disingenuous is a polite way to describe the public face put on these boundary changes. The proposed changes were first dropped on the FCA in February of 2021 much to the surprise of both board members and the general public. The City's initial plan was to rush these through by April of 2021 and it was only due to public resistance that the "consultation" date was pushed back. Despite multiple direct questions including some to counselors present at land use meetings the City has yet to provide any concrete justification for these changes beyond vague terms like "house keeping" or "sense of place". They have also been misrepresenting the fallout such as funding to the community associations which is tied to population. What makes this especially frustrating is that the city has clearly stated in public meetings that Fernwood will not get an updated Official Community Plan and in its place that "Villages and Corridors" will apply.

How convenient then that moving the Fernwood boundary to Chambers (for example) would place the Caledonia development immediately within the 400m of an "urban village" where as now it is outside of that. The proposed changes have too much synergy with the major Caledonia development and mock-ups for the "future" of North Park Village to be taken as anything other than an attempt to sidestep concerns while reducing venues for community oversight. If the City is going to flat out misrepresent their intent how can we as community members possibly have any meaningful engagement?

Instead of these cynical boundary changes how about the city providing Fernwood with an updated Official Community Plan as well as publicly posting the full "Villages and Corridors" plan so we have a concrete and public base for these discussions?

I am in general against all the proposed boundary changes. Shifting them does little to change what is occurring on the ground. If the city wants to have discussions about the growth of the downtown core and in neighbourhoods surrounding it, those conversations do and should continue to occur at the neighbourhood level.

A well-organized neighbourhood association does an incredible amount of heavy lifting when it comes to providing land use and development feedback to the City while advocating for neighbourhood amenities like green space or community gardens or fair, affordable housing. Funding for the associations is on a per capita basis, meaning the proposed boundary changes will have an economic impact.

Fernwood, where I live, has a well-organized neighbourhood/community association with a long history of advocating for the neighbourhood. As the proposed boundary changes decrease funding to FCA, they also and more importantly disrupt the relationships people have built as a means of engaging on issues related to land-use, development, housing, food security, green spaces. Put broadly, they disrupt the existing relationships between people, place and community.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

I live in the block between Chambers and Cook and I do not support moving that boundary. I do support neighbourhood associations and feel this is a call for all neighbourhood associations to continue to strengthen ties. We can achieve more by standing together than being divided.

Cook Street is a very logical boundary for Fernwood. I bought my Grant Street home because I loved the area and because it is in Fernwood, I'm really not interested in a change. Our neighbourhood is facing an enormous amount of upheaval (some already done and lots yet to be finished) and I really don't think more change is needed. I, and many of my neighbours, have become quite disenchanted with many of the proposals for our area. I work full time and my life is too busy to be at every meeting, and to be part of the many committees. The city has not listened to any of our concerns and we are being directly impacted by this (and other) proposed changes. I would really like to see my tax dollars put to much better use.

The proposed new boundaries for Fernwood make sense. The vehicle traffic volumes on Bay and Chambers isolate those portions and residents naturally orient toward the other adjacent neighborhoods.

With so many really important issues facing the city I really wonder why we are changing the boundaries. That being said I am sure this council will ram through whatever they wish.

Cook Street is a logical break for Fernwood - changing it makes no sense. Bay Street is a logical break for Oaklands (and they are one of the few groups who actually wanted the change).

S. 22 in Fernwood and now this. I have a few questions:

- Did Residents propose these boundary changes?
- Don't you think time, effort and tax-payers' dollars could be better than using these for pushing through a council driven proposal?
- What are the consequences of the boundary changes for the residents of these areas?
- Will our services or service dates change: i.e. recycle, garbage, road and boulevard maintenance? As far as I have noticed city staff and crews most times don't consider anything north of Bay is even part of the City of Victoria.
- Will our property assessments go up/down? Will we pay more/less property tax? Will our home/tenant insurances be affected?

The survey only consists of 2 questions:

Question #1: Do you agree, neutral, disagree and few options that lay in-between?

Question #2: Which neighbourhood do you live in?

Honestly, when I attend a seminar or use accommodations I am given more questions to answer in surveys.

I proudly purchased a home in the community of Fernwood. My family have used many of the services provided by the community center. I am proud to identify as a Fernwood community member.

Not impressed to be presented with a proposal by City Council, qualified by the fact that there has been "ongoing informal discussion suggesting boundary adjustments for many years" that could change something that I feel is very important to me and my community.

Shame.

No No No No No I will not support this adjustment - not now - no one has shown me any cause or benefit that

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

makes any sense. Just looks like people wielding power because they are in a position to do so. Bad form - Top down.

With a complete lack of information on why these changes should occur, beyond feel-good bureaucratic platitudes, I get the sense there is more going on here than council is willing to reveal. Is the city looking to expand the already massive growth in high-rise rabbit warrens down both sides of Cook street into the current Fernwood area? Are we looking at the start of a twenty year plan to "upgrade" this wonderful urban area and turn it into a cement and steel traffic corridor? Impossible to tell from this survey, but with no apparent rational for the changes, I'm thinking we should follow the (developers) money.

I think it's important to consider what might happen to Haultain Corners if the Fernwood boundary is extended. How will Fernwood's land use committee view this? Will expensive condo developments be approved that are out of the price range of most families (like what happened in the Cook St Village)? Or will quality affordable housing be built that fits in with the existing character of the neighbourhood and the wishes of residents already living there?

While I have several thoughts on these proposed changes (like why?) I particularly object to changing the Fernwood boundary off of Cook St. Those unlucky enough to be caught between Cook and Chambers are going to feel isolated from both communities. One by boundary and one by a busy street. These are established neighbourhoods that shouldn't be changed unless the push comes from them, not from the City.

The purpose of these proposed changes is unclear. I have never heard of any supposed geographic anomalies and there is no information as to what these are. Why is there no information on this?

I wonder if this is a prelude to zoning changes and increased densification of our lovely Fernwood neighbourhood, which is already getting too dense and heavily travelled.

There is also no information on any issues with residents' sense of place, whatever that means, and again - why not?

The proposals for Fernwood would seriously reduce its boundaries and, in my view, diminish the neighbourhood feel in Fernwood.

The area between Cook and Chambers is definitely part of Fernwood, as far as I am concerned, as is the area between Bay and Haultain. It seems to me the City has enough to do without carrying out this odd and ill-thought out proposal.

As a Fernwood resident bordering Chambers, please let me know why it would be advantageous to give away a portion of our neighbourhood? I assume it's to grab more land to eventually tear down family homes to make way for more towers. Am I wrong?

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: May 10, 2021 5:06 PM

If some elder neighbors cannot sign up online or voice their opinion, have a drive by Pembroke/Cook area to see all the houses with Fernwood signs. This is an established old neighborhood engrained in Fernwood. We do not want our boundary changed.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Thanks

S. 22

Oh talk to me not of conversion to North Park's story! Dear Fernwood has roots much deeper in glory! Grant Street is salted heavily with "Fernood Power" signs. And we are sincerely committed to keeping Fernwoodian lines! No matter WHAT decision is made, When asked "you're in what part of Victoria's glade?" We will respond "Fernwood, dear" - And we will be making it *abundantly* clear!

From: S. 22

Date: Tue, 23 Mar 2021 at 18:20

As a resident (and homeowner) of S. Grant Street I am directly in the path of yet another "create problems where they don't exist" project of City Council. I am sending this letter in opposition to the City of Victoria's proposed boundary changes that my neighbours just informed me of. I would have thought that the city could have at least spoken to residents, but alas this was not on any of the recent online forms and informational pieces that have been posted all over the neighborhood. I know because I have filled those out.

All of the recent changes (real and proposed) in my neighbourhood have saddened me greatly and I feel like City Council is trying to push home owners out of their neighborhood. I am not a retiree, I live in Fernwood because I like the area and the diversity it offers. I have never viewed this area as North Park, all of the flags on Cook Street saying North Park Village have nothing to do with me or my neighbours. I intentionally bought a home in Fernwood on the border of downtown. I don't want to move, but this city is really working hard to drive me out and into another municipality.

Thank you for your time,

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: May 13, 2021 6:42 PM

Hello everyone: Neighbourhood Team, Engagement Team, NPNA and FCA Land Use Committee ~

I completed the City of Victoria Engagement online survey's two questions: 1) I strongly agree with the proposed boundary changes and 2) I live in North Park. As the survey did not offer space for comments I wish to submit the following for your consideration.

When I moved into North Park in June 2018 I began to explore my new neighbourhood by walker-walking about and researching on the Internet. Liked the idea that we were a village with a prominent sign on Cook Street announcing our presence. In 2019 I became S. 22

Heard that my neighbour to the East, Fernwood, also had a village and searched for it on the Internet to discover " ... Fernwood Square at the heart of its village centre ... is the community's gathering place with seasonal markets and lively summer celebrations. ..." There was also images of the Square showcasing an inn, pubs, cafes, shops and, all together, a friendly gathering place.

Enter the boundary proposal and I'm surprised to learn that the North Park Village is located on just the East side of Cook Street. I had assumed it would be on both sides as that would be the most 'makes sense' situation. In my S. 22 experience, that includes living in rural Quebec, Ottawa, Edmonton, Vancouver and now Victoria, I have never

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

encountered a village that was confined to one side of the street. (One exception: the village of Wakefield, Quebec, is located on one side of the highway/road as a railway track occupies the other side.)

Except for the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA), and a BIA in Oak Bay and a number of city centres on the Island, I didn't find one listed for any of the villages in Victoria. I am familiar with the 22 BIAs in Vancouver when I worked as a freelance recorder to board and AGM meetings. Not writing to promote the establishment of BIAs throughout Victoria, but rather to note lessons learned from the concept: businesses thrive when they share common interests and communicate with each other and customers/clients. Residents benefit too, especially now when we're eager to support/buy local and become informed and aware of what is available locally.

It is my understanding that Fernwood Community Association has no objection to the North Park sign on Cook Street that identifies its Village. That's welcomed and easy to appreciate as its Village is located in the heart of its neighbourhood at Fernwood Square.

Don't anticipate this would be a problem for Fernwood Dental; no need to change its name in a similar way to the Cook Street Barber shop. Formerly located adjacent to Wellburn's Grocery Market and now relocated to Yates Street downtown as the Cook Street Barber shop.

To sum-up: I submit that it makes logical practical common sense that the North Park Village boundaries be expanded to the East side of Cook Street as noted in the city's proposed boundary changes' documents.

Respectfully and with best wishes,

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: May 14, 2021 6:27 PM

I live on Balmoral Rd. Between Cook and Chambers Sts., which is a block being considered for inclusion in the North Park neighbourhood, and I wish to voice my opposition.

I strongly identify with the Fernwood community vibe of diversity, inclusion, family, and sustainability. North Park may be developing its own vibe of inner city dynamism, and I think it will be wonderful. However, my property value is linked to Fernwood and I hope to keep it that way.

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: May 14, 2021 3:49 PM

I have already taken part in the neighbourhood boundaries survey (which was a bit simplistic) but I would like to say here that the Fernwood/Northpark boundary change makes no sense, especially if the idea is to "align" with our sense of place. East side Cook street is fernwood. West is north park. I met my husband at Logan's Pub in FERNWOOD. He works for FERNWOOD COFFEE located at Cook and Caledonia. It makes no sense. If you want a vibrant North Park, revitalize the blocks of Quadra and north park that really need it!! Or even Vancouver street. The rebranding of cook as North Park village is tantamount to civic colonialism. It is clearly and forever FERNWOOD. Please listen to us.

Thank you

S. 22

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Born and raised in Victoria, Vic high grad 2000

From: S. 22

Sent: May 22, 2021 12:57 PM

Dear Neighbourhood Committee:

I am a Fernwood resident and am not in favour of changing the neighbourhood boundary from Cook Street to Chambers St.

This is another city-council proposed unnecessary change to our city. What is the purpose of such a change? To confuse the residents? There is no reason for this disruptive proposal. Neither North Park nor Fernwood Land Use Committees requested a change. Our neighbourhood includes Mount Royal Bakery, Patisserie Daniel and the WIN store; George Jay School and all of Chambers Street.

The number of "Fernwood Proud" signs in the windows of the affected residents indicates to me that many of my neighbours are against this unwanted change to our neighbourhood. This can hardly be a useful priority to pursue when there are so many actual issues to resolve in the city.

Sincerely,

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: June 7, 2021 11:19 AM

North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA)

Re: Proposed Boundary Change of Cook to Chambers

Hello,

As a current Fernwood resident living between Cook and Chambers, I wanted to reach out to provide my sentiments and express why I oppose this change, for your consideration. Firstly, I would like to express that I have visited many North Park pop-up events, I regularly attend(ed) the Harbourcats games, Crystal Pool, and subscribe to Mason Street Farms CSA box; I also have always subscribed to the NPNA newsletter and like living adjacent to your community.

Let me ask you, and the residents of North Park this: would you like to become a part of Fernwood? If the immediate answer is no, then you can understand the connection you feel to your current community, if the answer is yes, then perhaps this is because Fernwood has a strong sense of community, and to many a realtor and resident, is undeniably considered a more desirable neighbourhood – I chose to live in Fernwood with purpose for this reason, not North Park. Now let me ask you a follow-up: would you like to become a part of the Downtown Neighbourhood Association? If the immediate answer is no, then you can understand even more so how it is I (we) are currently feeling. The closer you get to the core, the denser the OCP and the less sense of community you are likely to have. This can be said for any city across the country that grows up not out. If you

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

said yes, then I encourage you to pursue that because based on the City's proposed changes this round, it seems like only a matter of time before North Park will be annexed into downtown.

To the reasoning of wanting your own village... by annexing the Eastern side of Cook St, many residents I have spoken with feel that in doing so, North Park is trying to pilfer the livelier and more desirable half of the street home to established and loved businesses that chose Fernwood specifically as their home: Cold Comfort and Fernwood Coffee to name a couple. I have three main thoughts on this specific "wanting our own village/village should be within one community" argument.

1. **Commercial Districts are naturally built on borders and busy streets.** By moving the border of the North Park Community further East, we are not resolving this issue, rather, perpetuating it. Because borders are naturally busy streets, they are also generally most likely to include commercial and high-density residential units to act as a "barrier" for sound and traffic to lighter residential areas within the same neighbourhoods.

Some examples include:

- a. Cook Street Village: busy street
- b. Quadra Village: busy street
- c. And most similarly to our Cook Street location is the village on Oak Bay Avenue straddling Rockland and South Jubilee between Richmond & Foul Bay

As North Park has more relaxed zoning and allows for higher density, by moving the border to Chambers, we would be opening the door for commercial zoning to pop along Chambers especially in conjunction with the new development proposed along Chambers from Caledonia to Grant Street, in conjunction with another lot waiting to be developed between N. Park and Grant Streets. In short, by moving the boundary border, we could be experiencing the same predicament along Chambers in 20 years.

2. **Create a new village centre in North Park.** North Park is home to a plethora of commercially zoned spaces and if a dedicated village centre is desired within your borders, ask the City to work with you to create one, rather than try to annex one. As an example, the new development where the old Wellburns used to be along Mason Street and Pandora may be a great location to explore. There is a park, food trucks, a grocery store, commercial businesses in the Save on Food/Bosa building along with established Yoka's coffee house and a furniture store. Take that, with Mason Street Farm and I could see a lively bustling walkable street and centre that is full of potential. A few conversations with the developers asking for retail plans or partnerships, talking with Yoka's and the Furniture Store about long term plans, and perhaps even partnering with Mason Street Farm through supportive funding initiatives to see if they could move their farm stand to Mason Street would be one of many, many, options that are currently afforded to you in North Park with existing zoning. I would personally be happy to help with this initiative if you were to pursue it.

3. **Fernwood should expand West to Vancouver.** This is the exact same argument, in reverse, that North Park is proposing, but it would be of benefit to Fernwood rather than North Park. This would solve the issue that a commercial zone, or village, needs to be within one community. We can have a marketing blast and call it upper Cook Village/Caledonia Village, or Ferntown. I am being somewhat facetious, but this suggestion should equally be considered and proposed as a viable option to incorporate Cook St businesses within one neighbourhood. Other neighbourhoods like Fairfield have two or more villages, so it is reasonable to think that would be suitable for Fernwood as well.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

In my opinion, the only reasons that some people refer to the businesses along Cook St between Pandora & Caledonia as “North Park Village” in the first place is because a) “Cook Street Village” was taken... and b) it runs through N. Park Street. This street name village notion can be evidenced by many villages, regardless of their community:

- Haultain Village (currently within Fernwood because it is along Haultain) – you don’t see people referring to it as Oaklands Village – why? Because it is not on, or running through a street named “Oaklands”
- Fernwood Village (runs along Fernwood Road)
- Fairfield Plaza (runs along Fairfield Road)
- Quadra Village (within Quadra/Hillside, runs along Quadra)
- Etc. Etc.

From a personal perspective, I feel a connectedness to Fernwood that spans a long history. S. 22 immigrated to Fernwood in the 1960’s and although I grew up in Saanich, when it came to purchasing our first home, I wanted to look no further than my favoured community which I had rented in and learned about from my mother over the decades. S. 22

S. 22 If the proposed change were to take place, I would a) no longer be eligible to receive the periodical to which I write about, and b) would lose the opportunity to write about many of the businesses that comprise the 26+ food related establishments within Fernwood. If you were to follow-through on your request to annex our block to be a part of North Park, I would not only feel cut off from the community I feel most a part of but would also feel cut-off geographically from North Park by the busy Cook Street. As one resident put it, borders are naturally busy streets – if you wouldn’t send your kid to cross the street to play in the park, it doesn’t feel like your neighbourhood.

As much as North Park residents who are in favour of the change have tried to ease fears of maintaining different density, zoning, and preserving heritage, it is only a matter of opinion; the only way to ensure this doesn’t happen is to keep the boundary the way it is. By supporting this change, to some, it seems like you are not encouraging a growing community, rather creating a more divisive one.

Your Fernwood Neighbour,

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: June 14, 2021 2:23 PM

To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>

Subject: Re: Proposed changes to the current neighbourhood boundaries

Hi, going to scrap this engage site, am getting tired of runaround. Can't you please relay my regards on the subject to this council, isn't that who it goes to anyway? I am STRONGLY against the proposed changes. I am and always will refer to the boundary of my residence S. 22 Princess Ave.) as being in Fernwood, NOT North Park!

Sincerely, S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: June 1, 2021 10:01 PM

To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>

Subject: Proposed Neighbourhood Boundary Adjustments: Fernwood

Dear Sir/Madam/Mayor Lisa Helps or Related Sycophants,

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

I was born at a very young age in the neighbourhood of Fernwood, whence have come some of my fondest childhood memories and even fonder adult memories, since making the journey to move out by four blocks. Imagine my surprise, upon opening my letter box this afternoon and perceiving a most ill-mannered and dastardly scheme to reduce the borders of the long-defended civil kingdom of Fernwood (here 'kingdom' is acknowledged politically inaccurate but conveys, I hope, the gravity with which this bountiful land is regarded by her residents).

Some would argue that to quibble the arbitrary borders of a city neighbourhood differentiated only by passing association is little more than a sad attempt to assuage the temporal struggles of the mortal condition and to stave off entropy a little longer. To these people, I ask: Have you ever met someone from Oaklands? From North Park? From Harris Green? I haven't, and I heartily wish to keep it that way. I shudder to imagine these foreign miscreants feeling entitled to live on the land of my forefather. Worse still, some or perhaps all of these people will have once been loyal Fernwoodians, converted overnight to scheming invaders by the cruel stroke of a bureaucrat's pen.

Should the borders of my homeland be quashed, one cannot imagine the peace will be kept. War shall be declared by one district upon another, fought in the form of grumbled discord at neighbourhood barbecues. That atrocity may yet be averted. I urge that the iron bureaucracy of the Hegemony of Downtown may reconsider their plans.

Yours Faithfully,

S. 22

From S. 22

Sent: June 18, 2021 9:02 AM

To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>

Subject: feedback

Good morning Counsel Members:

I live on Balmoral Rd. between Cook and Chambers Sts, a block which would be switched from Fernwood to North Park. I don't see the point in changing my counsel liaison representative unless it's a step towards eventually changing zoning laws. I would foresee this to allow increased density and commercial viability. This is in conflict with benefits I derive from association with the Fernwood neighbourhood. North Park is well-suited to development and no doubt Victoria's population will embrace this urban neighbourhood. So please leave Fernwood as is.

If you want to spend money and give city staff something to work on, how about more street trees? You might start with my block S. 22 Balmoral Rd.

Thank you, S. 22

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S. 22

Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Harris Green is effectively downtown now. It's deletion might as well be recognized. However, downtown should NOT expand into Fernwood, North Park or any other residential neighbourhood. Affordable apartments and business spaces should be preserved no matter the area, and we're tired of seeing the rubble.

Every residential neighbourhood should be zoned to allow 'missing middle' housing, instead of concrete sky boxes that aren't sustainable socially, for the climate or our wallets.

Hello,
If you plan to merge downtown with Harris Green,

Then the area of Fernwood abutting Harris Green cannot become part of Harris Green, because it will actually become part of downtown.

It is inappropriate for downtown to extend further east beyond Cook Street.

Therefore, do not allow Fernwood to give up the area abutting Cook Street to Harris Green/downtown.

Only properties included within DCAP area should be included in the Downtown Harris Green neighbourhood. And more broadly, only properties included under their particular LAP should be included within the relevant neighbourhood. Why should any CALUC/NA have to be familiar with the LAPs of neighbourhoods other than their own? Additionally, there have been a few "housekeeping" issues regarding boundary changes that have been talked about for 15 years, but some of these changes seem random and no rationale has been offered to support them. Why such sweeping changes?

EMAILS

From: Mike Nugent S. 22
Sent: May 9, 2021 9:47 AM

Hello All of you working on behalf of the Neighbourhood Associations and specifically the proposed Boundary change. Our family group, Nugent Properties Ltd, are the owners of 1101 Yates Street which is currently leased to Volvo Victoria. It makes sense to add the proposed properties into the Harris Green as from my perspective they are more a part of the Harris Green area than the Fernwood Community, particularly as I believe the future of the Cook & Yates hub will become a focus or neighbourhood hub more suited to belonging to Harris Green. Therefor I am very much in support of this proposal.

Thank you for your work and time on this proposal.
Best regards,

Mike Nugent
Nugent Properties Ltd.

S. 22

From: Towagh Behr S. 22
Sent: June 17, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Neighbourhood boundary changes

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

City of Victoria,

The boundary between North Park and Harris Green does not follow the natural division of neighbourhoods. The natural boundary appears to be Mason St, rather than Pandora Ave. As the owner and operator of a business on the 900 Block of Pandora I can tell you that both sides of Pandora Ave feel very much downtown, with downtown issues and commercial spaces. Although my building and the one next door each have small residential units, the buildings are primarily commercial. The north side of Pandora Ave has more in common with Harris Green than it does with North Park.

Also, I am concerned about what boundary changes may mean for the boundary applied to the Downtown Business Improvement Area. At the moment the area excludes Harris Green but I would assume that at some point this will change? As an operator of a business on the 900 block of Pandora, I want the City to know that I have to deal with more downtown issues than anyone and could really use the support of the City in having the sidewalk area adequately cleaned, stepping in to address my neighbours yard (against my building) being used as an outdoor toilet, and in dealing with graffiti.

Thanks,

Towagh Behr, MA
Anthropologist, Principal
Kwusen Research & Media
916 Pandora Ave

S. 22

Fairfield/Downtown

Regarding Fairfield /Downtown. No changes are needed. This area of Fairfield is predominately residential. The DRA has stated that this change is not in character with downtown buildings and development issues. Plus the DRA is over burdened with development issues.....little support. from the city ..DRA has no set meeting space, and difficulty engaging the numerous condo dwellers,.

My main concern is the fact that developers do cross boundaries to say "we are on the border of, so try to use the items of each area to get around height, parking, etc.

S. 22

I find the most contentious proposal is expanding the boundaries defining Downtown. Apart from the stated objectives of this project, the reality is that zoning, development, and concessions will be linked to future projects according to the neighbourhood. Is Harris Green a part of Downtown? I think most Victoria residents would think so. Fairfield? Nope. And redrawing the Downtown boundary could affect older, lower cost housing opportunities in that part of Fairfield, or could lead to the City planners agreeing with zoning proposals for densities much higher than the existing residents had imagined.

I don't think that anyone would consider the area north of Chatham St. as a part of Downtown due to the low-density commercial land use in the area. If the City wants that to change for the basis of decades of upcoming urban development, please be more honest with the City's residents about the goals.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

RE Fairfield / Downtown Boundary change. I'm not sure that including the St Anne's Academy block in the Downtown Neighbourhood is a good fit. But if it is to be included, I would make a further revision to the Downtown / James Bay boundary. Move the south boundary for Downtown one block further south to Superior. That is, have the area bounded by Government, Superior, Douglas, Blanshard included in Downtown.

I feel like there should be some reasoning provided for the change in each area. For the expanded Fairfield area I do not support it. The area added does not seem to be homes but more of a downtown businesses and thus should stay with the downtown area. Please provide reasoning/motive for adding that area to Fairfield. Once that is known then one can make an informed decision.

Commenting on the proposed change to Downtown-Fairfield boundary: while I agree that the section from Fort to Burdett and Blanshard to Quadra should belong to Downtown, the remaining area from Burdett to Academy Close and Blanshard to Quadra should remain in Fairfield, or move to James Bay (after all much of this area actually stands on the shores of the original James Bay).

Hello,

I live on a block of Humboldt street that is currently defined as being part of downtown. However the bulk of my neighbourhood activities occur in James Bay or Fairfield. Therefore these proposed boundary changes, by annexing more of Fairfield to downtown, would further alienate me from my 'sense of place'. Indeed I would suggest removing the peripheral and primarily residential portions of downtown and uniting them with their adjacent neighbourhoods, and thus make my block of Humboldt part of James Bay or Fairfield.

Regards,

S. 22

I expect that by redrawing the boundary from the hedge at st Ann's to Quadra st. Would make it much easier to put in high rises beyond what is already here. The last thing I want is to have the open view up the hill to the church replaced with a view into someone's livingroom on the sixth floor. I am perfectly fine with this area remaining residential and part of Fairfield.

I live in the area of Fairfield that is potentially changing to downtown and I don't agree with the proposed change. I could maybe see the rationale for changing the boundary for the area north of Fairfield Rd if that aligned with the views of the residents there but the area south of Fairfield Rd doesn't make sense to be considered downtown in my opinion. That would include Mt. St. Mary's, S.t Ann's Academy etc. and that whole area feels like Fairfield to me. Changing it to downtown would actually be a step backwards in terms of aligning with my own sense of place.

Many people in these neighborhoods take pride in being residents of their neighborhood. We go to the neighborhood block parties and participate in neighborhood associations and now face being told that we are no longer part of that neighborhood. The info says that this change is to make people more proud of their neighborhood, when it seems to be doing the opposite. What's the point of feeling part of a neighborhood when it can be arbitrarily changed on you? Many people's neighborhoods are part of their identity in a way. It might be an extreme comparison, but what if it was decided to change your sexual orientation or last name because they thought it would suit you better? A suspicious person would suspect that these changes were a way of carving off parts of neighborhoods that were opposed to condo developments and adding them to higher-density neighborhoods like Downtown and North Park. This would eliminate the opposition from neighborhood associations like Fairfield for example and replace it with downtown which is more open to high density.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

I live in the Cathedral precinct, a small gem of an area with quiet, broad, tree-lined streets. If we join downtown, I fear that all of this will be replaced with concrete and high rises. We already have several supportive housing establishments in this small area. More are not needed. The rationale for making the boundary change is being decided upon by people who do not live in the area and do not understand its qualities. I am concerned that the current sight lines for the Cathedral will not be honoured. What a shame.

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: May 10, 2021 10:08 AM

Feedback on the engagement exercise.

The link from the news page to the engagement page is broken

The maps used are missing boundary street labels in many cases. I had to open Google Maps too, to find out the exact area in question.

I find this engagement very different and less effective than others that provide more explanatory information.

In this engagement, no implications are given, such as the zoning differences between Fairfield and Downtown. That information is key to an informed opinion.

There is no opportunity to provide reasons, so that issues could be addressed. You could learn so much more. I had done my research to find out what is currently in an area identified for change, and had no opportunity to share more granular input.

Downtown/Burnside Gorge

RE the Downtown / Burnside Gorge boundary. I agree with the boundary change, but would like to see the block bounded by Blanshard, Pembroke, Dowler, Bay be included into the North Park neighbourhood, not Downtown.

I live in Burnside Gorge, and agree that the area in question feels more akin to downtown than to Burnside Gorge. BUT my biggest concern is that the moratorium on more supportive housing in this neighbourhood will therefore no longer apply and we'll end up with even more supportive / transitional housing in this area. There's already plans for more on Gorge / Albina just over our border to the west (just a couple blocks away from the big new building going up at 210 Gorge). Although it's officially a different municipality, the effects on the neighbourhood will be the same. I don't know if there's any way to change the border, but retain the moratorium?

Changing the Burnside Gorge boundary would be problematic for the neighbourhood. There is currently a moratorium in place that prevents BC Housing from allowing any additional supportive housing in the neighbourhood. If the boundary was changed, how would that impact the moratorium? In addition, efforts are currently underway to establish a Business Improvement Association within the boundaries of Burnside Gorge. The proposed boundary change would reduce the number of businesses and the corresponding tax base that could be reinvested back into the neighbourhood. Currently, the majority of the city's craft breweries are located in Burnside Gorge. This is a unifying characteristic that we would like to maintain. Finally, the area that would be cut off from Burnside Gorge is Rock Bay. This particular area has undertaken tremendous effort to try and establish its own identity for its community of businesses. The question is would the needs of Rock Bay get lost within the downtown core and can the downtown organizations serve that community as well as a Burnside Gorge focused organization could?

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

I do not have trust in this Council and don't want any changes to be made to boundaries with the current Council in power. We need to come together as a community of Victoria, not divide us more. With the Moratorium in place for additional supportive housing in Burnside/Gorge, I am worried this is a tactic to continue to put the hard to house in this community by changing it's boundaries. Surely there are other pressing issues the City can focus on now.

BC Housing has already broken their promise not to purchase more shelters within Burnside Gorge community boundaries. I fear that moving the boundary with result in more shelters in this area. Please distribute supportive housing around the city rather than concentrating it into one neighborhood. I constantly find needles and human feces in burnside gorge, have had numerous encounters with mentally ill and drug addicted individuals either on my property or while walking my dog (resulting in calls to police for fear of my safety), have had multiple vehicle break ins in the last year, and am awoken multiple times a night by sirens and loud bangs. We have had Individuals break into our condo complex to gain access to residences and the parking garage. Enough is enough. Until you experience what life is like in this neighborhood, you have no business changing to neighborhood boundaries in order to side step the promises made (and broken) by BC Housing.

At this time, the city and Provincial government have done so much harm to Burnside Gorge that they need to just stop. The conditions in the "temporary shelters" are unsafe and illegal. Travelodge was without hot running water for days, one of the rooms was used to house a dangerous criminal under "24 hour house arrest" and Cool Aid Society is great at putting up signs, but apparently not great at actually running a safe housing facility. Now, moving the boundaries is only seen as a way around the Moratorium. Mayor and Council, you are supposed to work for the residents. This does not benefit the residents. Give it a rest. Come back to us in 2 years after those housed in the temporary shelters have been actually housed somewhere appropriate and then we can begin from a place of trust. Moving boundaries at this time looks awfully shady.

So...with an agreed moratorium against any new supportive housing in Burnside Gorge - agreed by the City and the Province, let's just change the boundary to remove a bunch of Burnside Gorge so we can use that space. Too convenient!!

After working for decades on Rock Bay rehabilitation, just when it's about to come available for development, council wants to move it out of Burnside Gorge and into Downtown. Too convenient

You should include the Royal Museum and the BC Legislature in Downtown

Leave Burnside Gorge alone, council, BC Housing, and Minster Eby have done enough harm and this is just another way to bypass the moratorium on housing in Burnside Gorge by removing a large portion of ready to develop land

Before you push your ideology onto Burnside Gorge, try talking to our residents first. Rather than listen to the partially City funded community association (who do not represent our residents), listen to the voices of those that live in the community.

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: May 14, 2021 8:37 PM

My concern with your proposal for changing area boundaries is that you want to stuff more shelters and low income house in the current gorge burnside area by moving a imaginary line. We are at the max capacity for low

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

income housing in our area. By moving that line you would be putting the housing at the corner of queens and Douglas into Downtown and leave you room to put more of YOUR problem in my area.

Concerned citizens and parent.

S. 22

Fairfield/Gonzales/Rockland

I don't have an opinion on most of the proposed boundary changes, but as a long-time Gonzales resident -- about 39 years now -- I am concerned about the idea of separating Gonzales from Fairfield for planning purposes. The present Fairfield-Gonzales Community Association does its job well, providing community services as well as facilitating community consultations. The so-called Gonzales Neighbourhood Association is a lobby group opposed to developments that respond to the need for low-to-moderate income housing. The "neighbourhood association" label is just a disguise. I note that the Association endorsed candidates in the last municipal election who were overwhelmingly rejected by Gonzales residents. If the City does separate Gonzales from Fairfield, it should give Gonzales residents the chance to form a proper community association that represents everyone in the neighbourhood, not just a disgruntled minority

As for the distinction between Fairfield and Gonzales , I would say that I have always thought of myself as living in Fairfield. The part of Gonzales where I live -- the little area between Fairfield Road and the sea, between St. Charles and Foul Bay -- seems like an eastward extension of the Fairfield neighbourhood, whereas the area north of Fairfield seems like something different. Let me add that when we moved into the neighbourhood it was quite mixed, socially and economically -- very different from south Oak Bay. It has become more homogeneously upper-middle class in the intervening years, which is unfortunate. Ideally, people at all income levels would be able to find housing here.

I oppose Gonzales separating from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, and in particular I oppose any role by the group calling itself the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association. I have lived in Gonzales for over 30 years.

In my view the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association has done a very good job through its executive and committees to address a broad range of concerns/needs of various community residents and to generally enhance living in this community. Its land use planning committee has established procedures to provide opportunities for residents to voice their different views and to report back to Council a summary of the range of opinions and concerns. It has guidelines that recognize the issue of conflict of interest for committee members and members must stand down from participation on these specific issues.

By contrast, it seems to me that the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association is a collection of residents recruited by one shared interest -- opposing almost all multi family developments (which would provide opportunities for cheaper housing than single family residential and more dwellings for people to live in our neighbourhood). It does not appear to have any interest in the views of community members that differ from them. And it does not have any interest in wider community needs such as child care, or recreational and educational programs for residents of all ages.

S. 22

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

It is self evident that Gonzales is distinct from Fairfield and has much more in common as a neighbourhood with Rockland. While, as a Gonzales resident, I am supportive of an independent Gonzales Neighbourhood Association, I also believe it could be combined with Rockland's. Both neighbourhoods have a similar look and feel, shared values, and residents' interests would largely be aligned under a shared association. What is clear is that shoehorning Gonzales into what is effectively the Fairfield Community Association is not working.

As someone else stated, "Disingenuous is a polite way to describe the public face put on these boundary changes." However, in this particular instance I am not as polite. I live in the Gonzales neighbourhood and there are no proposed changes to our boundaries.

That said, stating the reasons for the proposed changes are to "Help reconcile some geographic anomalies and Improve residents' sense of place." says absolutely nothing. No one understands what that means because it doesn't mean anything.

Everything that Lisa Helps and this current council does in their approach to supposedly governing our beautiful Victoria, is to either state something vaguely or not at all, so that their hidden agenda can proceed unabated. It doesn't matter if it is the DBA survey that categorically stated that the businesses need vehicular traffic to continue on Government street only for that now to be restricted till noon as of this week or the countless requests to review the proposed changes to Richardson street for bike accommodation, or the ongoing destruction of Beacon Hill park and the impact on all Victoria residents. It simply doesn't matter!

So when do you hear from Lisa Helps? You hear from Lisa Helps when she wants to take another opportunity to add to her national reputation in pursuit of her ambition for a future Provincial or Federal political appointment. Items such as the recent cancellation of Canada Day celebrations in support of the horrific discovery or missing First Nations children from Residential schools or the removal of the statue of Sir John A McDonald as a gesture of reconciliation. All very worthy causes in their own right, but certainly not what the Mayor or Victoria and her council should be focusing on.

Yes, tackling real problems such as homelessness, drug addiction, lose of tourism and businesses due to the pandemic is hard work.

What we need from this Mayor and her council is to work towards supporting the real issues that directly affect Victoria residents.

I don't think there is a problem having FGCA be responsible for land use meetings for Gonzales is a problem, you should maintain the status quo. FGCA is credible and welcoming of different viewpoints in hosting the CALUC function for the community. The only reason there has been any questioning of this is because there is a small, but vocal NIMBY group that wants to take over this function to force their NIMBY agenda. This will come at the expense of anyone who doesn't share their opinion. The organization that wants to perform this function in Gonzales openly is hostile to developers and residents to disagree with them - to the point of name calling. This organization has a Facebook group that is only welcome to those who agree with them, and do not share information about their meetings. Making this change will only cause problems for the city, and Gonzales residents. They are not credible or welcoming of non-NIMBY viewpoints. Please keep the status quo, don't try solving a problem that doesn't exist.

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: June 7, 2021 10:02 AM

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you in regards to the current survey on Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland Land Use Decisions. I am a resident of Gonzales and feel strongly that maintaining the status quo would best serve the residents in all neighbourhoods involved. I have attached an email distributed by the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association (GNA) outlining their position on this issue. I am sure you have already received this message from the GNA as well. I'd like to point out some inaccuracies in the arguments the GNA makes regarding their amalgamation with the Rockland Community Association (GNA statements in red):

- we are a similar size in population and so would not be dominated by the population of the other neighbourhood on the board; The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) Board has 11 members, 4 of which reside in Gonzales (including the president, vice president, treasurer and CALUC chair). Given that Gonzales is less than 40% of the Fairfield/Gonzales populations, this representation is in perfect alignment with the population, and is not being "dominated".
- we have a shared geography and housing types; particularly on the height of land that extends from Gonzales Hill through to Queen Anne Heights through to the Lieutenant Governors house; Gonzales houses and lots are generally smaller than those in Rockland. Rockland is also much hillier, has no waterfront, fewer parks and no schools. While this point is not particularly relevant, I would argue Fairfield and Gonzales have much more in common than Rockland and Gonzales.
- we have similar views on development.; As I note below, the GNA is not well positioned to represent the views of the community. While the GNA is openly opposed to all development that is not single family homes, my experience is that this is NOT the view of the majority of Gonzales residents.
- there would be a larger membership base on which to draw an executive/CALUC from as well as the possibility of more programs for the community. A larger membership base and programs for the community are already provided by the FGCA. Separating from the FGCA would result in less programs for Gonzales residents.

In addition to these inaccuracies, I feel the GNA is not an appropriate body to act as a community organization for the following reasons:

- The GNA operates a Facebook page, but restricts access to Gonzales residents with the same views as their board. Gonzales residents have been denied access to this group on the grounds that their "views are too different". As a result, this page has only 26 members, or approximately 0.65% of the population of Gonzales.
- The GNA holds regular board meetings, but does not post or distribute agendas or minutes for the community. For example, I became aware of a meeting they were holding on the 902 Foul Bay development, but was told there was no agenda, would be no minutes taken, and I was not permitted to attend (despite being a GNA member).
- Gonzales residents have also been excluded from the GNA Annual General Meeting, again for holding a different viewpoint than the board.
- GNA Vice President Nick Humphries has publicly stated that renters should have no say in community development. Given that over 60% of Victoria residents are renters, I feel this elitist viewpoint is wildly inappropriate for a community organization.

The GNA claims to be "the voice of the neighbourhood" yet excludes all neighbours with differing viewpoints. In contrast, the FGCA serves the community appropriately by acting as a conduit for neighbourhood feedback rather than "speaking for" the neighbourhood. I strongly urge you to maintain the current neighbourhood representation, rather than trying to fix something that isn't broken.

Thank you for your time,

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

From: S. 22

Sent: June 17, 2021 5:42 PM

To: Development Services email inquiries <DevelopmentServices@victoria.ca>

Subject: Survey Feedback

I tried very hard to respond to a City survey on the boundaries between Gonzales and Fairfield.
I failed to register, and hit the "forgot your password" button. I was told I would receive a response to enter a new one.
I never received such a message from the City.
I tried multiple times, with the correct user I'd, with the same result.

The survey closes on June 18.

Could you please pass this message to the appropriate office if this is not you?

My vote is that I do not want to continue with the Fairfield neighbourhood association, but rather for Gonzales to be independent.

Thank you,

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: June 18, 2021 3:52 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; Lisa Helps (Mayor) <LHelps@victoria.ca>; Marianne Alto (Councillor) <MAalto@victoria.ca>; Jeremy Loveday (Councillor) <jloveday@victoria.ca>; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor) <cth Thornton-joe@victoria.ca>; Ben Isitt (Councillor) <BIsitt@victoria.ca>; Geoff Young (Councillor) <gyoung@victoria.ca>; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor) <sdubow@victoria.ca>; Sarah Potts (Councillor) <spotts@victoria.ca>

Subject: Additional feedback: Fairfield-Gonzales neighbourhood boundary feedback

****Please have this message included for the package of materials for mayor and council to review in making a decision on neighbourhood boundaries****

Hi Mayor and council,

I'm writing to you today to provide some feedback on my feelings about your consideration for changes to neighbourhood boundaries. I completed the online forum feedback, but wanted to write separately as well.

I'm a resident of Fairfield-Gonzales, and more specifically in the Gonzales boundary if this area was to be considered a separate neighbourhood by the city. I very much want you to keep the Fairfield-Gonzales neighbourhood together. There are two reasons for this:

1. I love the entire neighbourhood and feel like there is a lot the area as it is seen right now has a lot in common - waterfront, schools all close together, FGCA providing childcare services to many families in the area, and is along the boundaries have some great commercial areas. I love it as-is, please keep it!

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

2. In terms of land-use community involvement, FGCA has done this well, is professional in running the CALUC function and is welcoming of people with different viewpoints. The Gonzales Neighbourhood Association board of directors on the other hand, are openly hostile to people with opposing views to their own anti-development agenda. They are explicitly and openly anti-development, think homeowners should have more of a say in community planning, and also are hostile to new people to the neighbourhood. I was told by a board member that because I have only lived in the area for S. 22 I should have less of a voice. Another board member states that homeowners should have more of a say. S. 22 commented in support of a local proposed development - and a GNA board member called her a "developer shill".

These viewpoints, if allowed to guide development input in Gonzales, threatens to stifle voices of younger people, renters... and of course wealth and property ownership is divided on social class and racial lines. We need different voices in providing input on the future of our neighbourhood, not just long-time homeowners. We have a housing affordability challenge in Victoria, and only listening to those securely housed in a home they own isn't right.

Is stifling of voices in Gonzales along age, social class, wealth and racial lines what you want? I'm guessing not - so please take a stand for equitable input from community members, and don't let Gonzales Neighbourhood Association take over the CALUC function in my neighbourhood.

Thank you for your consideration,
S. 22

Downtown/Harris Green

Thankfully Harris Green is not downtown - you should leave us alone.

From: S. 22

Sent: May 26, 2021 9:22 AM

Hello,

I just responded to the survey and I want to provide additional comments.

First, the survey should provide responders an opportunity to explain the reason for their response. For example, if someone responds that he/she strongly disagrees with a statement, wouldn't it be useful for the City to know why?

Second, I strongly disagree to the proposed changes to the boundaries of the Harris Green neighbourhood because I do not support the inclusion of Harris Green with the large Downtown neighbourhood. Most of the visions and strategic directions for the Downtown in the OCP, do not apply to Harris Green.

In the OCP, Harris Green is primarily designated for Core Residential and the redevelopment of the neighbourhood over the past few years reinforces that Urban Place Designation. If one of the goals of the proposed boundary changes is to provide a sense of place, then Harris Green requires more focus on the Placemaking strategies in the OCP to create a high density residential neighbourhood that contributes to the sense of place through human scale, design of buildings, streetscapes and public spaces. In my opinion, this is not happening and the neighbourhood is losing its identity rather than providing its residents with a strong sense of place.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

The OCP also identifies the North Park neighbourhood for a significant amount of Core Residential. I suggest that the North Park and Harris Green neighbourhoods be consolidated and that more attention be given to providing a high density residential neighbourhood with the form of development and amenities that contribute to creating a strong sense of place.

Finally, I'd like to point out that it is not uncommon from high density residential neighbourhoods to be located adjacent to a downtown core, but it is uncommon for the residential areas to be consolidated into the same "neighbourhood".

Thank you for considering my comments.

S. 22

North & South Jubilee

I can't answer your survey question without understanding the pros and cons to merging South and North Jubilee Associations. Where is that info found?

I concur, for the Jubilee's, this was a vote. Comments should have allowed after the questions/votes. An explanation as to why this is being considered would help, especially for citizens that are not fully engaged.

It was also disappointing to see the map had linked N & S Jubilee. A big assumption that then begs the question if the city has already decided.

I was a resident of S Jubilee when it was created as a separate neighborhood. The action was precipitated by the lack of support from Fernwood over a contentious development on Richmond and Bank that would have been a large L shaped building. The neighbors rallied against the L shape and the developer had to revert to the initial plan that fronted Richmond only. Subsequently the aroused neighborhoods organized to form a separate neighborhood association.

The question of borders was discussed and there was unanimous consent that S

Jubilee would not cross Fort Street, There is little of interest on the North side of Fort. Less so today with the demolition of a medical building. The feeling amongst the S Jubilee neighborhood was: we never go there, We know nothing about the issues North of Fort.

The South Jubilee Neighborhood was duly created as a legal entity.

3 Years later, North Jubilee formed an association as they felt that Fernwood was not addressing issues or support. Feel free to check the Societies Act to confirm these dates.

The lesson to be drawn is that big neighborhoods do not deal well with outlying neighborhoods, They consider them throw away zones.

This narrative runs counter to that espoused by city staff that assume N & S Jubilee were one neighborhood, and then one day someone drew a line down Fort and created 2 neighborhoods.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Fort street may as well be the Grand Canyon or a major river, without bridges or connections. As a major thoroughfare, Fort it is a natural geographical boundary.

Merging south and North jubilee will make the neighborhood too large and no longer a "neighborhood ". In fact already in the survey it's referred to as "jubilee ". That is worrisome

There is no benefit in merging North and South neighborhoods. We are different and distinct communities. What would this merger serve?

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: May 12, 2021 2:03 PM

Hi Engagement Victoria,

An added comment on North and South Jubilee Merge Survey:

There was NO option provided, de facto "Merge" as drop down menu only offered de facto "Jubilee" option.

A fair de complet?

No matter: it makes sense to merge for service boundary, Small Village Hub per previous OCP.

General Feedback

This is a terrible way to spend time and money. There are serious issues to be addressed in this city - issues that define people's lives on a daily basis. Why is City Hall focusing resources on redefining arbitrary lines on a map? I am extremely disappointed that my tax dollars are being spent in this way. It's appalling.

Yet another solution in search of problem. How about this: consult the citizens for real on Richardson Street, clean up the parks, potholes, various maintenance issues such as painting, bring back the hanging baskets. ... Once these issues are addressed, then we can talk neighbourhoods.

We are in a pandemic.

Businesses desperately need an economic recovery from the biggest recession since the 1930s.

People are sleeping in parks and on the streets.

There is a climate emergency - and the City postponed / cancelled its Climate Champions Program due to the pandemic.

We are in an opioid overdose crisis.

But neighbourhood boundaries are a priority at this time???

The new neighbourhood boundaries seem more intuitive as they use major roads as dividers, and I have no concerns about the new boundaries. I think modernizing the neighbourhood boundaries is a good idea.

I note that some people are concerned about the boundary revisions as gerrymandering to obscure increases in supportive housing, or for other purposes, so I request that Mayor, Council and City Staff respond to those concerns with as much transparency as possible.

Doesn't Council have enough on its plate without taking on something as low priority as this? Such a waste of time and energy.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

I don't have any comments about the boundary changes but would like to propose a change to the name of our neighbourhood. Quadra/Hillside does not sum up the feel of our unique neighbourhood and think developing this area with a new neighbourhood name would be awesome. All the other names have an association with them except ours. It's time to define what the vibe is for our neighbourhood and think a new name would help!

I find it difficult to identify justifications for these proposals. The proposed boundaries do not correspond with either the DCAP, or the area of Victoria 3.0 Arts and Innovation District. I can only assume that the unspecified "geographical anomalies" they are meant to resolve will be replaced by a new set of anomalies. The existing boundaries may not make much sense, but unless very sound arguments are presented for changing them, such as creating a ward system for the election of councillors, it is better to avoid the administrative bother and costs of altering maps, websites, and any legal documents that refer to them, and let stay as they are.

If the residents actually wanted to split off and join a different neighborhood, they would get together and engage with the city and the neighborhood associations and campaign to make the change. To have other people decide what is best for them seems pretty egotistical. It almost seems like it's gerrymandering for ulterior motives. It can't actually be because some outsiders actually thought that parts of the neighborhood "just don't fit".

There is absolutely no reason to spend time, money, or energy on this. Unless of course there actually is some "dark" money from developers behind this move.

I attempted to take the survey three times and instead of a survey loading, a page came up: "submitted." I know the city has a reputation for ignoring citizen input in favour of special interest groups but this is ridiculous.

Not much of a survey. What possible difference does a differentiation in the degree of agreement/disagreement make? Wouldn't it make more sense to allow comments on each separate portion of the boundary proposals? Then at least it wouldn't be another make-work project to collate the results.

I agree with the last commenter. Not really a survey, it's a vote. And the idea of having comments on each proposed change rather than en masse for the reader to wade through makes more sense. Thanks!

I don't trust this city council and its abilities to make sound decisions for the citizens. Please explain the REAL reason as to why you are doing this at this.

I would be ok to leave things as is and spend council dollars on other initiatives.

It is very clear. If the boundary were changed for BG the moratorium on housing would not apply in the new area. The trust of Victoria council is not there..

The BG boundaries if were to be moved the housing moratorium would not apply and we need the moratorium .. if you continue the moratorium in that proposed area. Put it in writing and publicly announced. We might start understand councils / City halls motives and gain some trust

There should be a Comments section for each of the proposed changed. As it is, there is far too much to wade through. Also, the surveys give no option for commenting on the boundaries. Perhaps some would agree with a change, but would suggest a different boundary than what is proposed.

You start by saying the changes are to align residents (of the areas) sense of place. BUT on reading the information Council directed staff to engage the various community associations that Council already had identified as wanting/needing change. Residents did not come to you. So what is the actual rational and intent of the changes proposed. This is not stated anywhere. Most likely it is so you can proceed with more housing the homeless without having to deal with pesky neighborhood organizations. As an aside I do not reside in any of the affected areas. This Council seems to be less than honest about their agenda.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Once again Council is looking through the wrong end of the microscope. Your priorities are completely out of whack! Forget neighbourhood boundaries; forget any more bike lanes and electrify the core and adjacent neighbourhoods and subsidize the metering. That way, those folks who still need their vehicles will be encouraged to switch to EVs and everyone will benefit.

Redrawing boundaries? Just another red herring to hide some other agenda!

S. 22

Looks like a plan to make it easy to get rid of single family homes and build lots of condos.

This does not capture the spirit of a survey. I, too, would like to know the real reason behind these proposed changes. The leaflet I received in the mail provides the exact same information as on the website, which really isn't much. Mayor and Council need to be a lot more transparent.

This is a very top-down proposal for something that should be bottom-up and driven by the the community organizations themselves. Community identity is developed by the culture and traditions within the community itself rather than that identity being prescribed by a body of bureaucrats and politicians.

This is an interesting dialogue we are getting through reading the comments. I am not suspicious of motives and think its interesting to to be able to rethink these boundaries for the benefit of civic planning and community identity. I also think the point that zoning bylaw is not tied to these boundaries has been lost in the discussion and is generating some confusion. Providing some examples of what these boundary changes might mean and assurances that building zoning is a separate item would have been helpful.

It remains unclear to me why this proposal is being put forward. The 'mailbox' leaflet delivered to my home did nothing to elucidate. The response to the question: 'Why are these proposed changes being suggested?' is "City Council believes that these changes would help reconcile some geographic anomalies and improve residents' sense of place." This word salad fails to shed light on the question.

Why are you directing your questions only to residents? Why are you again ignoring the commercial properties and businesses?

'Reconcile some geographic anomalies', makes no sense. No sense. Who is going to get rich from this. You want to change my sense of place? Because? I just want to know why this neighborhood is better than that one. I'm in a better neighborhood than you? That will help our sense of community...

A nebulous and useless action proposed by an increasingly dysfunctional council

I echo the concerns others have shared about the lack of transparency. What are the potential benefits council identified? Who do they benefit? How? When I am not provided supporting information, I doubt the good faith intention.

'If we could get a tad more detail from council on the two points raised in this survey it would help citizens to make informed decisions.

- "Help reconcile some geographic anomalies." What geographic anomalies?

- "Improve residents' sense of place." What does "sense of place" even mean?

How would these two issues be addressed by the proposed boundary changes?

By the way - if you didn't know, our bike lanes are being upgraded to have audible signals for the blind. This is good, because no one wants to get run over while boarding a bus. But I haven't seen any cost numbers for this upgrade to all our bike lanes. Lisa, anyone? Any numbers?

I live in the area that will be affected by the proposed boundary change, and while I don't feel strongly either way I do feel that the city is not being transparent in their motives. It's hard for me to be on board with the change when the reasoning is quite vague and doesn't seem to have any strong concrete arguments behind it.

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

I'm not sure whether there is a hidden agenda to the proposed change, or whether the city just hasn't fully thought it through, but I don't feel like I am able to make an informed decision about my thoughts on the issue due to a lack of information.
Don't change boundaries so you can hide changing crime demographics. We already have a sense of place. Start prosecuting criminals and reducing crime. Do your jobs
"Council identified potential benefits for each of these boundary changes". Where can I look over these benefits to see if it's true and applies or just bad perception. I'd like to peruse these before I answer my one survey "slider style" question of negative option. S. 22
I live in one of the areas that would move into another neighbourhood. So far I have heard not one advantage to me for a boundary change. Nor any disadvantage. I got a flyer telling me that "Council identified potential benefits for relocating proposed boundaries." This tells me nothing. What benefits? There are a lot of "mays" on the "How We Got Here" sections on the Neighbourhood Boundaries page. How about something definite?
I need to understand the motives for this change. Who on council initiated this boundary change? Who lobbied for this counsellor to bring forward this proposal (when we have so many more pressing issues)? Funky Fernwood resident.
Yes, the downtown district is currently undersized and should be enlarged to accommodate higher density. Single detached homes are considered a luxury nowadays in light of population growth at the expense of wildlife and the forest. We need to be more efficient with the use of current allotted space and minimize expansion horizontally.
What is the cost of this change? It is absolutely a waste of time and money. Can't the Mayor and council find something more pressing to look after - maybe the homeless, help downtown businesses survive.
Why on earth does it matter? Are taxes different in particular neighborhoods? Do people despair because "downtown" is across the street and they live in "Harris green"? Are there not any more useful things our city can spend time money on.....I have a few suggestions.....like the Topaz park project that has been on the books for as long as I remember.....nothing changing there.....or fenced dog parks.....nothing there either...come on people, you can do better!
I strongly disagree with this. I gave called Fernwood my home for 20 years and I find is utterly appalling that the council would attempt to change the boundaries arbitrarily. It frustrates me that the council is wasting its time with silly notions such as this when the downtown core is rife with crime and we still lack basic services for homeless. These sort of ideas are why I will be voting to the removal of the this council.
I feel that these changes to neighborhood boundaries are completely whimsical in nature and proffered by a city council that makes changes which affect citizens' lives without regard for what the majority wants or needs. The fact that the only profile question in the registration page is 'what is your age' does show the tendency of the council's decision-making process as strongly ageist. Fernwood is identified with a special character and reputation and there is actually a strong identification of residents with these qualities. The fact that councilors wish to change this for NO GOOD REASON reveals the callous nature that is informing most of it's decisions which are strongly affecting the quality of life in Victoria.
It is difficult for one to formulate an opinion on the proposed changes without receiving answers to other questions before hand. It appears that this survey has been constructed in such a way to meet a specific agenda that has not been made available to residents affected. For example; I live in Fernwood which could see boundaries shrink on a number of sides. Will this result in less funding to the Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group? Will the proposed changes, if accepted by residents, be used by City Council to meet other

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

hidden objectives such as confining low cost housing to specific neighbourhoods. Fernwood already has more than it's share of low cost housing. This needs to be more equitably distributed to other neighbourhoods. Will existing zoning be the next target if the boundary changes are accepted. It is time to come clean on what is really behind the proposed changes.

We live in an area of Fernwood at Bay that has duplex lots. On our once working class street are now over a million dollar homes, with multiple residents and cars. Many folks have driveways, but choose to park on the street, causing the street to be very narrow, PLUS it is used as a bypass around the light on Bay. Dangerous and noisy.

Our house is heritage designated (2004) as is the one next door. This was a deliberate act on our part to contain the density and maintain the integrity of our area. But we are now surrounded by massive homes that tower over our yard and space, and creeps on our privacy.

It seems that the "luxury" of owning a single family home is in jeopardy with the changes in the boundaries.

Therefore I won't support any changes to the existing system now in place.

PLUS The sentence "reconcile some geographic anomalies" is ridiculous, as if you are talking about some sort of disease that needs to be eradicated. You might want to speak to your wordsmiths about using more layperson lingo that us working folks can understand.

NONONO, I won't support any changes. S. 22

EMAILS

From: S. 22

Sent: May 10, 2021 4:41 PM

Why ??

This is not exactly important right now ?

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: May 11, 2021 2:21 AM

I do not want to have the boundaries changed. There is no need.

S. 22

From: S. 22

Sent: May 10, 2021 12:44 PM

What a stupid idea, many of which Mayor Helps has put forth. Who the heck wants to change borders when it is totally unnecessary?? Nobody wants to adhere their property to the mess the Mayor and her Council have made of the downtown core. Also, this would definitely devalue their property, being associated with that crime arena. You have to wonder what the hidden agenda is behind this ridiculous venture, as for sure, she will find one.

Elections to oust this Mayor and Council can't come soon enough!!!!

S. 22

Fairfield

From: S. 22

Neighbourhood Boundaries Feedback

Sent: May 12, 2021 9:52 AM

The recent political movement and associated survey regarding adjustment of neighbourhood boundaries is a complete and utter waste of time and resources. It is so unnecessary that it staggers the imagination as to why Lisa Helps in her published statement thought this was worthwhile direction for Council.
Cancel and move on.

S. 22

Fairfield.

From: S. 22

Sent: June 11, 2021 9:39 AM

To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>

Subject: "Anomalies" and "residents sense of place"

Dear Sir/Madam,

With all due respect, the flyer I received in the mail about boundary adjustments tells me nothing about what the plan is, what "anomalies" are being discussed and why they are a problem, if there are costs associated with the proposed changes and why I should be struggling with my "sense of place"-you can call where I live Timbuktu and it will not change my "sense of place".

I am actually not even sure what "sense of place" means and could care less if I am in Fernwood, the downtown, or Harris Green (Pandora and Cook) and cannot see the point in any of this given the lack of information. I have not signed on to take the survey because I do not wish to be placed on a listserv.

It is unfortunate that we cannot take the survey and participate without this requirement of signing up-I don't want more junk mail. Anyway, I have no idea why this is occurring given the nebulous information we have been given and would think that focusing on the homelessness issue and many others would be far more important than worrying about something like this. How much do these mass mail-outs cost us? Thank you.

S. 22

Victoria

Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments



1

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to deliver the results of the Have Your Say online survey that took place from May 10 to August 3, 2021.

This offered residents the opportunity to participate in seven neighbourhood proposed boundary surveys, one survey regarding a land-use decision and one survey regarding a neighbourhood association merger.

The survey results coupled with additional correspondence submitted by Neighbourhood Associations and individual residents in the attached appendices will help inform Council to make their decisions regarding each proposed neighbourhood boundary adjustment.



2

Public Engagement Process

Opportunities for public participation were directly promoted through:

- The City's engagement platform (engage.victoria.ca)
- Flyer mailout (to specific areas that would be directly impacted by the proposed changes)
- City of Victoria website (latest news and victoria.ca/neighbourhoods)
- City e-News (June 2021 edition)
- Emails to all the neighbourhood associations which included survey information, and updates to process and timing.
- Neighbourhood Hotsheets
- Neighbourhood Association meetings
- Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Media release, media coverage and interviews promoting the opportunity for public input.

Examples of promotional and advertising materials were included in the report.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

3

Overall Survey Results

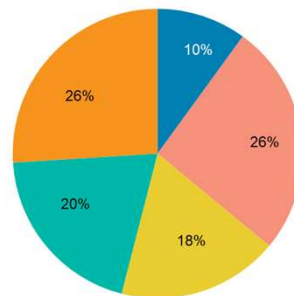


Have Your Say - Statistics

May 10 – June 19, 2021

- 1,053 survey respondents
- 111 comments

Demographics – Age of Respondents



■ 18-31 ■ 32-42 ■ 43-53 ■ 54-64 ■ 65+



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

4

Survey Results: Fernwood/Oaklands Boundary

2500 – blocks between Cook Street and Shelbourne Street, and Bay Street and Haultain Street.

Q.
Should Bay Street be the new
border between Fernwood and
Oaklands?



- 158 (55%) **agree**
- 41 (14%) **neutral**
- 85 (30%) **disagree**
- Fernwood Community Assn. requested more time be given for consideration
- Oaklands Neighbourhood Assn. is supportive

A total of 282 people from Fernwood and Oaklands participated in the survey. 43% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 15% of survey respondents live in Oaklands.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

5

Survey Results: Oaklands/Jubilee Boundary

2700 – block to 3000 – block of the east side of Shelbourne Street

Q.
Should this portion of Jubilee be
joined to Oaklands?



- 70 (65%) **agree**
- 20 (19%) **neutral**
- 17 (16%) **disagree**
- Oaklands Neighbourhood Assn. is supportive
- No comment from the Jubilee Neighbourhood Assns.

A total of 108 people from Oaklands and Jubilee participated in the survey. 19% of survey respondents live in Jubilee. 17% of survey respondents live in Oaklands.

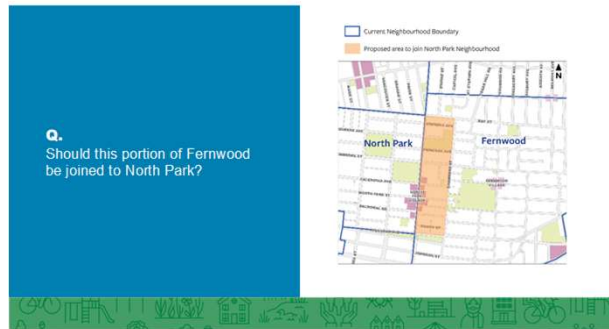


Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

6

Survey Results: North Park/Fernwood Boundary

Changes would be between North Park and Fernwood, From Bay Street to Chamber Street to Pandora Avenue.



- 71 (27%) **agree**
- 23 (9%) **neutral**
- 170 (64%) **disagree**
- Fernwood Community Assn. recommended this be rejected due to strong opposition
- North Park Neighbourhood Assn. noted strong opposition and does not support it

A total of 265 people from North Park and Fernwood participated in the survey. 46% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 14% of survey respondents live in North Park.

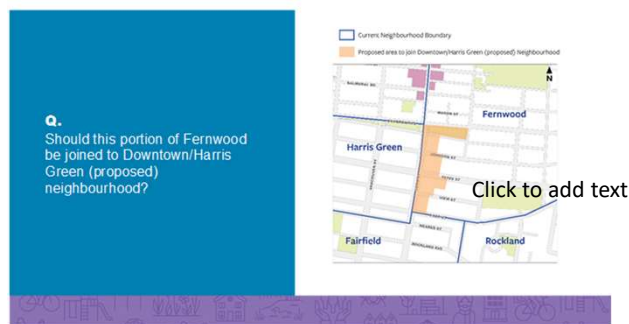


Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

7

Survey Results: Fernwood/Downtown/Harris Green Boundary

Changes would be between Fernwood and the Downtown/Harris Green (proposed) neighbourhood, from Pandora Avenue, Johnson Street, Yates Street, View Street to Fort Street



- 62 (33%) **agree**
- 17 (9%) **neutral**
- 109 (58%) **disagree**
- Fernwood Community Assn. not supportive
- Downtown Residents Assn. not supportive

A total of 188 people from Fernwood, Downtown and Harris Green participated in the survey. 40% of survey respondents live in Fernwood. 7.4% of survey respondents live in Harris Green. 7% of survey respondents live in Downtown.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

8

Survey Results: Fairfield/Downtown Boundary

800-block between Fort Street and Academy Close, and Blanshard Street and Quadra Street.



- 91 (52%) **agree**
- 18 (10%) **neutral**
- 67 (38%) **disagree**
- Fairfield Community Assn. not supportive
- Downtown Residents Association believe that the proposed boundary change would be beneficial if it were adjusted slightly to align with the Downtown Core Area Plan boundary

A total of 176 people from Fairfield and Downtown participated in the survey. 38% of survey respondents live in Fairfield. 6% of survey respondents live in Downtown.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

9

Survey Results: Downtown/Burnside Gorge Boundary

Changes would be between Burnside-Gorge and Downtown, from Chatham, Discover, Caledonia to Bay Street.



- 55 (51%) **agree**
- 5 (7%) **neutral**
- 48 (44%) **disagree**
- Burnside Gorge Community Assn. not supportive
- Downtown Residents Assn. is supportive

A total of 108 people from Downtown and Burnside Gorge participated in this survey. 26% of survey respondents live in Burnside Gorge. 10% of survey respondents live in Downtown.



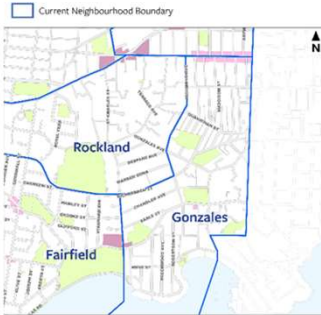
Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

10

Survey Results: Fairfield, Gonzales & Rockland Land Use

Q. Should Council

- Recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales Neighbourhood?
- Have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association?
- Remain as is, and have the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association continue to represent Gonzales for land issues



- 107 (48%) should recognize the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and its land use committee as representative of the Gonzales neighbourhood (Option A)
- 35 (16%) should have Rockland represent Gonzales on land use issues under a unified Gonzales-Rockland neighbourhood association (Option B)
- 80 (36%) should remain status quo
- Fairfield Community Assn. supports status quo
- Gonzales Neighbourhood Assn. supports Option A
- Rockland Neighbourhood Assn. supports Option A

A total of 225 people from Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland participated in this survey. 32% of survey respondents live in Gonzales. 20% of survey respondents live in Fairfield. 12% of survey respondents live in Rockland.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

11

Survey Results: Downtown & Harris Green Merge

Changes would remove the current Downtown and Harris Green border, between Blanshard Street and Quadra Street.

Q.

Should Downtown and Harris Green be recognized as one neighbourhood?



- 34 (72%) agree
- 1 (2%) neutral
- 12 (25%) disagree
- Downtown Residents Association supported the change, but believed that Harris Green should retain its identity as a locale within the Downtown neighbourhood

A total of 47 people from Downtown and Harris Green participated in the survey. 10% of survey respondents live in Harris Green. 5% of survey respondents live in Downtown.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

12

Survey Results: Jubilee Association Merge

Q.

Should the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations merge to form one association?

- 31 (61%) **agree**
- 6 (12%) **neutral**
- 14 (27%) **disagree**
- No comment from the Jubilee Neighbourhood Assns.

A total of 51 people (24% of respondents) live in Jubilee.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

13

Conclusion

The feedback received provided essential insight into the opinions of neighbourhood associations and residents.

All feedback received helped create the staff report to inform Council on the proposed neighbourhood boundary adjustments.



Proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Adjustments

14