Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales Community Plan Meeting March 8, 2018

From:

Sent: March 8, 2018 6:17 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca >; planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Subject: Gonzales Community Plan Meeting March 8, 2018

I am unable to attend the meeting this evening, but have the following comments and questions which may be raised by others and addressed during the meeting, but nevertheless I feel obligated to raise.

1. The plans states the existing population is 4175 and is the lowest density within the City of Victoria. Gonzales homeowners pay a premium to live in Gonzales, and the low population density is one of the main reasons they are happy to do so.

2. Given the existing population and the recognition that without changes to landuse regulations, Gonzales is "close to capacity", what is the projected increase in population if the plan, as currently written, is implented? There does not appear to be any population growth estimation which makes any discussion of future infrastructure requirements completely futile.

3. How are local institutions, specifically Margaret Jenkins, expected to handle increased enrollment from an unidentified increase in population, particularly given the fact it is already at capacity?

4. Why has an alternative plan to keep the entire community zoned as R1-G with spot zoning for the existing non-compliant lots been considered?

Yours Sincerely,

David Ley

LATE ITEM COUNCIL

MAR 1 5 2018

ITEM# 5

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan Inquiry/Feedback

----Original Message-----From: Jin, Erik X AEST:EX < Sent: March 8, 2018 6:45 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca >; planning@victoria.ca

Cc: <a href="mailto:plantage:p

Good evening,

I am a younger resident within the Gonzales neighbourhood on Maddison street. I recently received a neighbourhood notice/flyer regarding the proposed neighbourhood plan, which instructed to send an email to these contacts for more information as to the process should this plan be approved.

Is the city looking to move all families and residents within the single family homes in order to develop townhouses and apartments located on those lands? If so, how would this work, and when is this expected to occur? Many residents including myself are concerned about losing their home and possibly being required to leave the neighbourhood after so many years without a clear outline of what is happening.

I also understand and support the need for more housing due to the current housing crisis Victoria is sadly experiencing, but would like to gather more information as to the effect on current residents should this proposal be carried forward.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply!

Erik.

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales community plan

From: Nick Anderson <

Sent: March 8, 2018 8:45 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Gonzales community plan

I tried to attend the council meeting tonight, to provide a voice to the young families on Chandler street who are appalled at the idea of multi storie multi row townhouses without parking infrastructure. After 2.5 hours of listening to the arb&b topic, I returned home to my family, thoughts unheard.

The idea of a 500% increase in allowable density (double lots being converted to 12 town homes), is very concerning. Upon reviewing the minutes from previous meetings, it appears that the council takes a lot of things "under advisement", but doesn't make any changes to the proposal. I've seen/heard some very valid concerns be swept under the rug with short sighted excuses. Limiting parking (in our area and downtown) will not have a significant impact on the number of cars used by families. I assume none of the council are picking their kids up from work on a bicycle in December and taking them to hockey practice?

I would urge you to listen to these concerns and will be asking the many, many other families in the area to share their concerns with you, as they do frequently with me. I love this neighbourhood as it is now. I grew up a few blocks away and just recently moved my wife and son her because of fond memories growing up here. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that this 'community plan' has the potential to ruin this great area. It saddens me to think that this home may be a short lived stay, rather than a place for my son to grow up. Sincerely,

Nicholas Anderson

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

March 9, 2018

To Mayor Helps and Council,

I watched the March 8 Council Meeting with interest as I have been following the drafting of the new Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan for the past few years. Unlike all of the speakers, I think that staff did a great job TRYING to engage the residents. Members of our family, neighbours and friends attended several of the open houses (myself, husband and university-aged son) and were met with excellent presentations, detailed storyboards and staff who were willing to talk about, well, anything. My 90 year-old Mother, who moved to the neighbourhood to enjoy its walkability, didn't want to attend anything, but she's been following the developments through handouts that have been readily available.

I knew about the public engagement sessions thanks to our street newsletter, invitation postcards in my mailbox, signs at key locations and the City website. Anytime I contacted a staff person, I received a response within a few days, and next week my husband and I are meeting with a couple of planners to discuss the rezoning timeline for garden suites. We are heritage home owners who are interested in sharing our space with potentially my Mother (she needs to see it to believe it), a young couple or even our kids should they choose to stay in Victoria.

Public engagement is a two-way street. City staff had many methods of engagement throughout this process, including the free pizza for a group of residents in their own home, sharing a pint at the pub, a forum specifically for renters, or afternoon tea. But to be engaged, you have to read your mail, look at signs, visit the City website with its plethora of information, and talk to your neighbours. To a person last night, I listened to how wonderful the neighbourhood is, how everyone knows each other and feels safe — and then to complaint after complaint of not knowing about the process to draft a new neighbourhood plan. I would have spoken about this at the meeting, however in looking at the agenda beforehand, I realized that the short-term rental suite speakers would likely take up most of the evening, and I didn't have it in me to wait until 11 p.m. to speak (kudos to those who did though).

Ok, so here is where I could add what I think of the rezoning, the demolition of perfectly good houses (including a heritage-designated Rockland house that has resulted in my boycotting certain licensed establishments), etc. etc. But this letter is really to say THANK YOU to staff for their years of work on this, and for their efforts to get Gonzales residents engaged in the process. You did succeed in engaging many of us!

Also, I have a message for ALL Gonzales residents: join the Fairfield-Gonzales Community Association (or like them on Facebook) and receive timely information about what's happening in OUR community! It's free!

Keep up the great work!

Joanna Fox

1058 Davie Street, Victoria

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Thank you

----Original Message-----From: Rita Isaac <

Sent: March 9, 2018 7:28 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca >

Subject: Thank you

Hello Mayor Helps and Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young,

I would like to thank you for listening to the concerns of the residents who live in the area that was once designated "Subarea 4" in the Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan. We are all very grateful that this designation was eliminated and that townhouses will not be considered at the south east end of Stannard Avenue. At one point, I would like to discuss a few items about the Fairfield Plaza, but this is not the email in which to do this.

I attended last night's council meeting to hear the discussions of the Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan. I, like many residents in Gonzales, would also like to thank you for extending the consultation time for this area's residents. We are all now working hard to get input from many other of our neighbours to assist in the creation of both the Fairfield and Gonzales Plans.

Finally, I am thankful for your hard work, dedication and the tremendously long hours you all put in to serve the citizens of Victoria (as shown by the length of last night's meeting, as one example!) You listen attentively and patiently to all those who speak on their issues.

Enjoy a restful weekend!

Sincerely,

Rita Isaac 348 Stannard Avenue

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

----Original Message-----

From: Chris <

Sent: March 10, 2018 10:08 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

Hello All. We live right on the border and dividing line between the Gonzales/Fairfield neighbourhoods. This, I feel, allows me input into both neighbourhood plans.

Both communities are older, established neighbourhoods and already have enough density for the finite square footage that they are contained in. The proposed development, set out in both plans, for increased density, affordable housing and transportation routes seem like plans for newer unestablished communities. More for communities just starting out being built from the ground up. With the proposed increase in density where are the plans for the infrastructure associated with that? Like more roads, schools, green spaces? and who pays for these upgrades and where does the extra square footage required come from?

We are a very senior demographic group and that's not likely to change. We don't want to make it easier to leave our car behind, in fact as we age we become more dependant on our vehicle due to physical restrictions. Richardson St. is already a fine major thoroughfare which is working well. Why fix it if it ain't broke??

I feel this plan is in need of a do-over with more time spent for input and more common sense applied to the 'big picture'.

Thanks for considering this.

Christine Huzzey.

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales Neighbourhood plan

From: Mercedes Calvert < Sent: March 12, 2018 2:33 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Gonzales Neighbourhood plan

Hello

My name is Mercedes Calvert and I live at 942 Wilmer Street, in the Fairfield/Gonzales neighbourhood.

I wanted to write to Mayor Helps and the City Council to say that I feel the city has done a very good job of asking Gonzales residents for our feedback in regards to the new neighbourhood plan. I was involved in a neighbourhood consultation event (the pizza/mindmapping event), where my whole family (kids included) were able to give ideas/suggestions and thoughts about how we hope to move forward.

Since that time, there have been numerous emails/mailouts asking for input/feedback, which seemed quite extensive in terms of "reaching out" to us, as residents.

I support more densification- there are too many people (especially families) who are struggling to find afforable housing. We need more options to house our fellow community members.

Thanks for all of your hard work on this, Mercedes Calvert

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales neighbourhood planning process - good job

From: Dave Thompson <

Sent: March 12, 2018 4:22 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca Subject: Gonzales neighbourhood planning process - good job

Hi there,

I just wanted to let you know that the city did a good job in engaging residents. I participated multiple times in different ways, and there was no shortage of communication and opportunities to provide input.

Regardless of what one does in an engagement process, there will always be people who weren't aware of it for one reason or another. That doesn't mean that the process was deficient. I may not agree with everything that ends up in the plan, but the process certainly provided ample opportunity for citizen engagement.

Best regards Dave Thompson 959 Wilmer St.

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan Comments

From: Luke Mari <

Sent: March 14, 2018 1:03 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council < mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca >

Cc: Kristina Bouris <KBouris@victoria.ca>; Marc Cittone <mcittone@victoria.ca>

Subject: Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan Comments

Dear Mayor & Council,

I regretfully was unable to attend the meeting for the Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan (GNP) on March 8th but I have watched the video online. I find myself discouraged by the comments conveyed to Council. In my opinion, Planning staff has done an excellent job at community consultation and the staff report presented to Council is accurate in reflecting the support the draft plan has received to date. We know this because we attended almost all of the community events put on by Planning staff and we were admittedly surprised by the support for additional housing in an area that has traditionally been off limits.

What unfolded on March 8th is a familiar scene across the West Coast: a resistance to change that is hijacking responsible neighbourhood planning processes. We have been reading the opinions, letters to the editor, and news articles addressing the generational rift between established, older citizens and the desperate housing market needs of the younger generation. In light of this, many cities are advancing a long term vision for future growth of the city by approving policies that are in support of new housing, often in opposition to the wishes of the vocal conservative minority. For example, in Los Angeles, legislation AB 1505 would, if approved, would streamline approvals, create a housing czar, and pre-zone large tracts of land for multifamily use in order to create 17,000 new housing units of all types. In San Francisco, SB 827 is a state measure stripping power from local jurisdictions in order to approve multifamily housing in transit-connected neighbourhoods traditionally opposed to development. In Seattle, Mayor Ed Murray directed the planning department to essentially dismantle 13 neighbourhood associations that have traditionally been protectionist single family neighbourhoods opposed to new housing, in favour of infill development strategies supported by transit and job creation. This wave of new supply has actually led to a decrease in rent rates for the first time in over a decade. I acknowledge these are large city examples however we have a few significant things in common with these cities: historical new supply not keeping pace with demand (city growth), urban land base predominantly made up of single family neighbourhoods, and a skew towards new development occurring in downtown centres.

Closer to home, we in Victoria pride ourselves on inclusiveness and openness, yet when it comes to change that could welcome new people into neighbourhoods, our inclusiveness seems to have explicit limits. As an observer at proposals like the Townley Lodge or the Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan, I have noticed that almost every speaker is supportive of diverse housing types and more attainable housing...but somewhere else. We all seem to agree on a macro-scale that something has to be done to improve housing supply, until it impacts our ability to find an immediate parking spot. A new plan like the GNP by its very nature should challenge the community by the fact that the plan is designed to respectively consider the present, but ultimately lead us 15 years into the future. If we bend to the exclusionary position postured by a very singular demographic representation as on March 8th, we are essentially using neighbourhood plans and zoning as a divisive, invisible wall around core neighbourhoods that are best suited to well designed, infill densification due to their compact, walkable, and transit/amenity rich locations.

I often think of all the things that make neighbourhoods like Gonzales so great: walkability, services, sustainable healthy living, parks, and neighborliness. Without the introduction of new residents and housing types, the neighbourhood risks

being hollowed out. Plans like the GNP introduce aspirations and challenges to help the vitality remain, creating a richer environment for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Luke

"For things to remain the same, things will have to change" (Tacredi)

Luke Mari (MCIP/RPP) Director of Development Purdey Group

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

----Original Message----

From:

Sent: March 7, 2018 3:06 PM

To: Councillors < Councillors@victoria.ca > Co: planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Subject: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

We wanted to express our concern regarding what would be allowed under the proposed Fairfield plan.

Numerous family homes have recently been demolished in the Gonzales neighbourhood and replaced with huge, multi million dollar homes. This has greatly increased the value of other homes; but with huge increases in property taxes. For those of us who are seniors and on fixed incomes, this is of great concern.

We totally disagree with allowing DOUBLE rows on townhouses on our street as well as other streets. Allowing 4 storey apartment buildings along Fairfield Rd. should only be considered if the units would be for low income or "working poor" families. We feel that no houses should be demolished without a guarantee that they will be replaced with affordable housing - affordable for the average family! The only ones to benefit from the proposals currently being considered are the developers and realtors. (We have already had realtors approach us with a view to purchasing our strata duplex - hoping your proposed plan is approved.)

Traffic near Richmond and Gonzales is congested at peak times of the day. Numerous students cross at the corner (often on their bikes) and allowing more density would increase the danger. The City took out crosswalks at this corner years ago so cars speed along with no recognition of people waiting to cross.

We urge you, the City Mayor and Councillors, not to approve the drastic proposals for Fairfield and collaborate with residents who live or work in Gonzales to come with a suitable plan.

Kathleen and Gary Rankin 1820 Gonzales Avenue

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Proposed Gonzales Plan

From: VIVIENNE PHILLIPS < Sent: March 7, 2018 3:35 PM

To: Councillors < Councillors@victoria.ca >

Subject: Proposed Gonzales Plan

Dear Mayor and Council,

PROPOSED GONZALES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Today in the mail I recieved a flyer from Michael McMullen, Realtor with Re-Max Camosun it says:

"Hello Neighbour,

I have been reading with interest the proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood plans. What a time of CHANGE for your community!

I am sure everyone will be watching closely for the results of the upcoming Council meeting and Public Hearing. I believe the outcome could provide an exciting opportunity to anyone who is considering selling in Gonzales area.

It was a shock to think that a realtor was waiting on the outcome of this plan.

I love where I live, we have a amazing community where twice a year we all congregrate for pot-luck suppers in the local church hall. We catch up on the news of each others lives. There are very few changes of neighbours as everyone LOVES living here. Most people renovate their homes as they don't want to move. We have everything here the local grocery shop in walking distance, the wonderful family based beach where we all meet in the summer in "our spot", when it snows someone clears a neighbours sidewalk. We take care of each other ... and you want to change all of this NO NO NO. We live in old stock homes that are loved and cared for, a few square block homes have squeeked in, which upsets the look and feel of the neighbourhood.

There is nothing wrong with the way Gonzales is presently, we love it the way it is. Why do you want to change it please leave it alone.

Vivienne Phillips

Voter and home owner

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Re zoning plans for Fairfield and Gonzales Districts

From: Marg Penfold <

Sent: March 8, 2018 9:22 AM

To: Councillors < Councillors@victoria.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Re zoning plans for Fairfield and Gonzales Districts

Sent from my iPhone

From: Marg Penfold <

Date: March 8, 2018 at 9:09:23 AM PST **To:** planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Subject: Re zoning plans for Fairfield and Gonzales Districts

Good Morning,

I will be travelling today, so will miss the public meeting regarding rezoning.

I am providing feedback based on what I have read online about the proposed changes. I understand the need to increase density, but I have concerns about some of the proposed actions.

My concerns about the changes are:

- by dramatically reducing parking, will we lose the diversity of tourists who visit locations like Dallas Road, Gonzales Beach, etc. (Public transport is not as easy to follow here as it is in Europe, nor is it as frequent)
- by dramatically reducing parking will we lose how involved our seniors are in the larger community because they are unable to take public transit. (example, my neighbour who does quite a bit of city bus travel, finds it just too physically challenging to shop at her Shoppers Drug Mart because she has to take 2 buses, and the overall trip lasts more than 1.5 hours. When I drive her, the trip is 5 minutes, so we are able to shop at ease, have a coffee together and get her home before she is exhausted.
- by dramatically reducing parking, will we lose the diversity of families from outlying areas coming to Victoria for the day? (ie. too much "stuff" to bring when there are several children in tow
- Could sidewalks be widened to accommodate bicycles, scooters, and perhaps golf carts?

I appreciate you taking my concerns into consideration.

Marg Penfold 204 St. Charles Street

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

----Original Message-----Sent: March 8, 2018 10:28 AM

To: Councillors < Councillors@victoria.ca >; planandzone@fieldcommunity.ca

Subject: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Mayor, Councillors and Mr Biltek -

I am writing to let you know that I am strongly opposed to the proposed Gonzales neighbourhood plan. The plan does not appear to recognize the views and opinions of the majority of people that live in the neighbourhood. Further, it does not seem to recognize a number of practicalities such as the lack of infrastructure to support such a large increase in the local population. There are no plans for additional parks and schools, or ways to mitigate traffic congestion or to increase shopping areas. The Gonzales area is currently a pleasant neighbourhood with much green space, the majority of which would be built on or paved over if this plan should go ahead.

In addition, there are a number of houses currently rented in the area, and there are no plans to replace these houses/apartments with new rental housing if they are torn down.

Please consider the views of the people that live in the area and have much to lose in terms of their quality of life, if the proposed plan should go forward.

Sincerely -

Susan Phillips 710 Laurentian Place

Sent from my iPad

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Gonzalez Neighbourhood Plan -

From: Snow Fawkes <

Sent: March 8, 2018 10:46 PM

To: Councillors < Councillors@victoria.ca > **Subject:** Gonzalez Neighbourhood Plan -

Dear Mayor and Council,

I live at 941 Lawndale Avenue, in Gonzalez Neighbourhood and I have also been on the Gonzalez Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. I was unable to attend the Council meeting this evening (March 8) where you will be receiving comments from the public on the proposed Gonzalez Neighbourhood Plan so am writing instead.

I have been pleased to be able to provide input on the Neighbourhood plan as it has been developed. I should say that I was not prepared though for the amount of time that would be dedicated to planning the engagement with my neighbourhood. I think the City has done a fantastic job of trying to inform and obtain feedback. It seems that it's never possible to reach enough concerned citizens until the last minute when everyone seems to wake up, take notice, be alarmed and speak out against. This seems to happen time and again so it must be something engrained in us humans. I believe it was a wise decision to open this evening's council meeting up for comments on the Plan so that the last minute input can be received.

I thought that the Plan was moving ahead well until I received a broadly distributed email from someone in Gonzalez that seemed at odds with the Plan that I knew. Alarming language was used about "densification" and, "a flawed community engagement process where most Gonzalez residents had no real opportunity to participate", "the new plan proposed changes which WILL DRAMATICALLY CHANGE....our way of life" and other alarms and misinformation.

The engagement process was at the forefront of the work done on the Plan, and the process has been delayed on more than one occasion to make double sure that everyone in the neighbourhood had a chance to be engaged. Poster boards have been up at the parks for many, many months, post cards delivered, poster at the commercial nodes. Everything possible was done to gain the attention of the people of Gonzalez, so it is not correct to state that the engagement process was flawed. Some people simply didn't bother to take notice until the last minute.

As for 'dramatically changing our way of life', the anticipated changes will take 20-30 years to happen. I recently turned 50 and I look forward to hopefully being around to witness the changes to our way of life in Gonzalez.

As for densification, below is my response to the local email:

Be careful to not be alarmed by the word density as it can mean many things. I know of a number of duplexes, suites, garden suites, panhandle lots and other forms of 'density' within our neighbourhood and it seems to fit very nicely. The nice thing about density is that it means more neighbours at our block parties, more children playing in yards, basketball in the street, neighbours to help each other.

I believe that the increased density proposed for the Gonzalez Neighbourhood is appropriate and sensitive to the existing character. Quite simply, the buildings that are proposed are very close to the size permitted by existing

zoning. Site setbacks and heights are consistent with the existing patterns. The only difference is that more people will live here, which in my view is a fantastic improvement.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Adam Fawkes 941 Lawndale Avenue

Subject:

FW: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

From: Marty Riley <

Sent: March 10, 2018 10:34 AM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor) < mayor@victoria.ca >; Councillors < Councillors@victoria.ca >

Subject: Fw: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

Sent: Sunday, March 4, 2018 6:00 PM

Subject: Proposed Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

March 4, 2018

Mayor and Council City of Victoria Centennial Square, Victoria BC

Honourable Mayor and Council,

As a homeowner on Gonzales Avenue I was extremely distressed and appalled at the recent news regarding the proposed changes to this area! I was further shocked to learn that consultation on this proposal was open to people or groups who neither live, work or pay taxes here. It would therefore appear to me that this plan has been designed and or instigated by parties with questionable and perhaps financial motives!

Those with financial vested interests are NOT the people who will have to live with the consequences of this ill advised plan. Neighbourhoods should be designed with consideration for the people who actually LIVE in them! Literally NO ONE I have

spoken to in this area had any idea of this proposal until very recently and EVERYONE I've spoken to is strongly opposed to the concept of increasing housing density by at least double, in some areas quadruple the current density.

I have, along with my neighbours, become increasingly disturbed by the ever growing amount of traffic on Gonzales Ave. Vehicles racing between Richardson up to Rockland to get to the downtown area. There ALREADY is a problem with parked cars on both sides of the street, resulting in one vehicle width in which to pass. The development of condos, double rows of townhouses etc will only serve to create further chaos on our roads! Furthermore, there are NO sidewalks on this street creating a great risk to pedestrians ESPECIALLY the large number of school students attending GlenLyon Norfolk School.

It is my understanding that this school actually currently own several properties on Laurentian Ave, an area targeted for double rows of townhouses. It would seem to me to be an extremely questionable decision for them to consider this plan a good one in light of the potential traffic risks this would impose on their students??? I am wondering if the parents of these students are aware of this proposal?

This plan is so very flawed for so many reasons it is simply mind boggling! It would simply destroy this lovely neighbourhood, the character of which needs to be preserved NOT restructured for reasons of a dubious nature!

I sincerely hope that Mayor Helps and council will LISTEN to the people and consider their input before pushing through this agenda.

In Strong Opposition, Martha Riley 1836 Gonzales Ave Victoria BC