



**Council Member Motion
For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of January 21, 2016**

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** January 15, 2016
From: Councillor Young
Subject: Council Sharing

Burnside Gorge Liaison

Community participation

Members of the community board have mentioned on more than one occasion that the general level of public participation in community committees and events tends to be low, compared to more affluent and populous neighbourhoods. The community also tends to be divided into sub-communities to a greater extent than other neighbourhoods, with the divide between the Selkirk area and the traditional residential neighbourhood being particularly marked. The light industrial areas contain few residents and the businesses tend to have different concerns than the residential areas.

Community Plan

I had attended several events focussed on the community plan. So far attendance by the general public has tended to be small.

Social Services Impacts

The neighbourhood contains two significant social housing facilities, the Ellice Street shelter and the Queen Street Cool Aid building, both of which have significant impacts on neighbours, judging by comments I have heard at community meetings. While staff at both facilities work hard to control activities there, they have no authority over people idling on the streets nearby. I am told that these are often friends (or exploiters) of residents and/or people who have been found unsuitable as residents and expelled. This area of the neighbourhood also contains at least one privately owned apartment that has tended to attract low-income transient residents and one business (the bottle exchange) that evoked many complaints when it was located nearer to the downtown. The result is that nearby businesses feel impacts in the form of theft, vandalism and perception of danger by customers. Council members will have received some of these complaints by email, while others come out at meetings.

Sewage treatment Plant

The BGCA is aware that the location of the sewage treatment plant will be of considerable interest to some residents. However, the impact will differ greatly depending on whether a

northern site is chosen (affecting Selkirk most heavily) or the remediated Hydro site, affecting downtown residents and businesses most heavily. I have asked the BCGA to discuss which neighbourhood amenities would be of greatest value to the neighbourhood as compensation for the impact of the plant. I have suggested a new pedestrian link across the mouth of Rock Bay linking to Bridge Street would be of most interest but have not had a response yet.

One problem will be the Local Area plan and treatment plant consultations going on at the same time (although this will increase interest, no doubt). As I am told, "LAP community consultations are in full swing into February, it has been difficult to pick dates that don't overlap as the City wishes to keep the two processes separately (understandably). There will be a lot going on in our neighborhood over the next month."

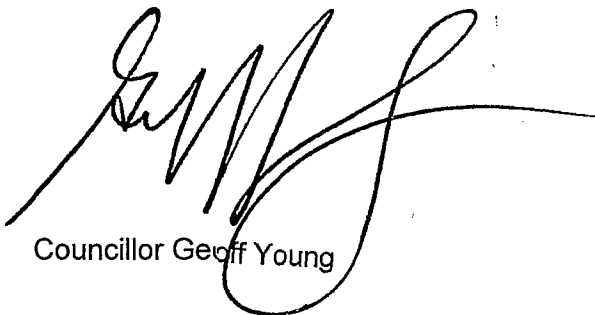
Grants

You will have had the communication from the BGCA indicating their concern with changes in our grant policy to limit size and number of grants to single organizations. This issue has also been discussed at BGCA meetings. To quote, "BGCA has concerns about one strategic grant per organization to \$25,000 as this will limit partnerships and our ability to apply for grassroots neighborhood projects in addition to programming that we see fit with the City's priorities.....don't see the benefit to limiting number of applications as long as the total does not go over the cap."

Selkirk

The Selkirk development is a dense multi-use neighbourhood and this gives rise to various frictions concerning noise from garbage collection, etc. and heavy use of parks by multiple users. Our parks and public works staff have helped work through some of these.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Geoff Young