



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of May 8, 2014

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** May 1, 2014
From: Robert Woodland, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Services
Subject: Relocation of Exclusive Parking Stand on Belleville Street

The City has received a request from the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) to relocate the exclusive parking stand located on Belleville Street adjacent to the Steamship Terminal, currently assigned to Victoria Hippo Tours. The GVHA has requested the change due to concerns with pedestrian congestion in front of the main entrance to the Steamship Terminal. They propose that the City switch the location of this stand (Parking Stand 3) with a Commercial Truck Loading Zone situated further west on Belleville Street. The letter from the GVHA requesting the relocation is attached as Appendix A. Appendices B and C show the current and proposed parking stand locations respectively.

Victoria Hippo Tours is supportive of the change and letters of support for the relocation have also been received from the Steamship Grill & Taphouse and the Robert Bateman Centre, which are tenants in the Steamship Terminal, and from Wilson's Transportation, which occupies Parking Stand 4 nearby on Belleville Street. These letters are attached as Appendix D.

Because the exact location of the stand is described in Schedule D to the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, the relocation requires Council approval. The proposed bylaw amendment is attached as Appendix E.

Staff within the Transportation Division of the Engineering and Public Works Department have reviewed the request and have no concerns with the relocation from a transportation perspective.

As the change in location is relatively minor, the affected businesses are in support, and the relocation may alleviate congestion concerns, it is recommended that Council approve the request.

Measurements taken to determine the new location of Parking Stand 3 revealed that the current description of the location of Parking Stand 4 included in the bylaw was incorrect. The attached bylaw makes the necessary correction.

The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw designates four motorized sightseeing vehicle parking stands on Belleville and Government Streets and names the motorized sightseeing vehicle companies that are exclusively allowed to use each stand. An exclusive stand allows an operator to park their vehicles and load and unload passengers. It also gives an operator the ability to advertise and sell tickets for sightseeing tours on the sidewalk adjacent to the stand.

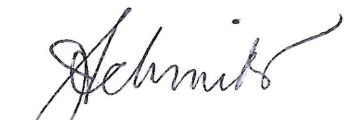
Since 2012, a competitive process has been used to determine the operators that are entitled to use each parking stand. On March 28, 2013, Council adopted an amendment to the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw that put in place the current stand allocations, which expire on April 1, 2015. Staff are preparing

to administer a competitive process for allocation of parking stands past that date and will be presenting a report to Council outlining the proposed approach to that process in the coming months.

Recommendation

That Council refer the proposed Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 11) attached as Appendix E to this report to the May 12, 2014 Special Council Meeting for three readings.

Respectfully submitted,




Shannon Craig
Policy Analyst
Corporate Planning and Policy Division



Robert Woodland
Director
Legislative and Regulatory Services

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date: May 1, 2014

Appendix A – Letter from Greater Victoria Harbour Authority



April 10, 2014

City of Victoria
Jason Johnson, City Manager
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Jason,

Further to discussions at your office on April 8th, 2014, we herein formally submit our request for minor reconfiguration of the curbside parking zones in front of the Steamship Terminal to alleviate pedestrian safety and congestion issues experienced during last year's peak tourism season.

As illustrated in the attached drawing, we propose to swap the location of the dedicated Hippo Tours zone and the general Commercial Vehicle Loading Zone, which will provide better pedestrian circulation space on the sidewalk and avoid obstruction of the main Belleville Street entrance to the Steamship Terminal. In addition, it will position Hippo Tours in closer proximity to their curbside kiosk, which was previously on the other side of the street on the Grand Pacific Hotel frontage and is planned to be relocated to the same side of the street, between the Steamship Terminal and Blackball Ferry terminal.

With the season rapidly approaching, we would kindly appreciate your support expediting the review/approval of this request.

Regards,

Curtis Grad
President & CEO

Encl.

GREATER VICTORIA
HARBOUR AUTHORITY

189 Dallas Road
Victoria, British Columbia,
Canada V8V 1A1

Tel: 250.383.8300

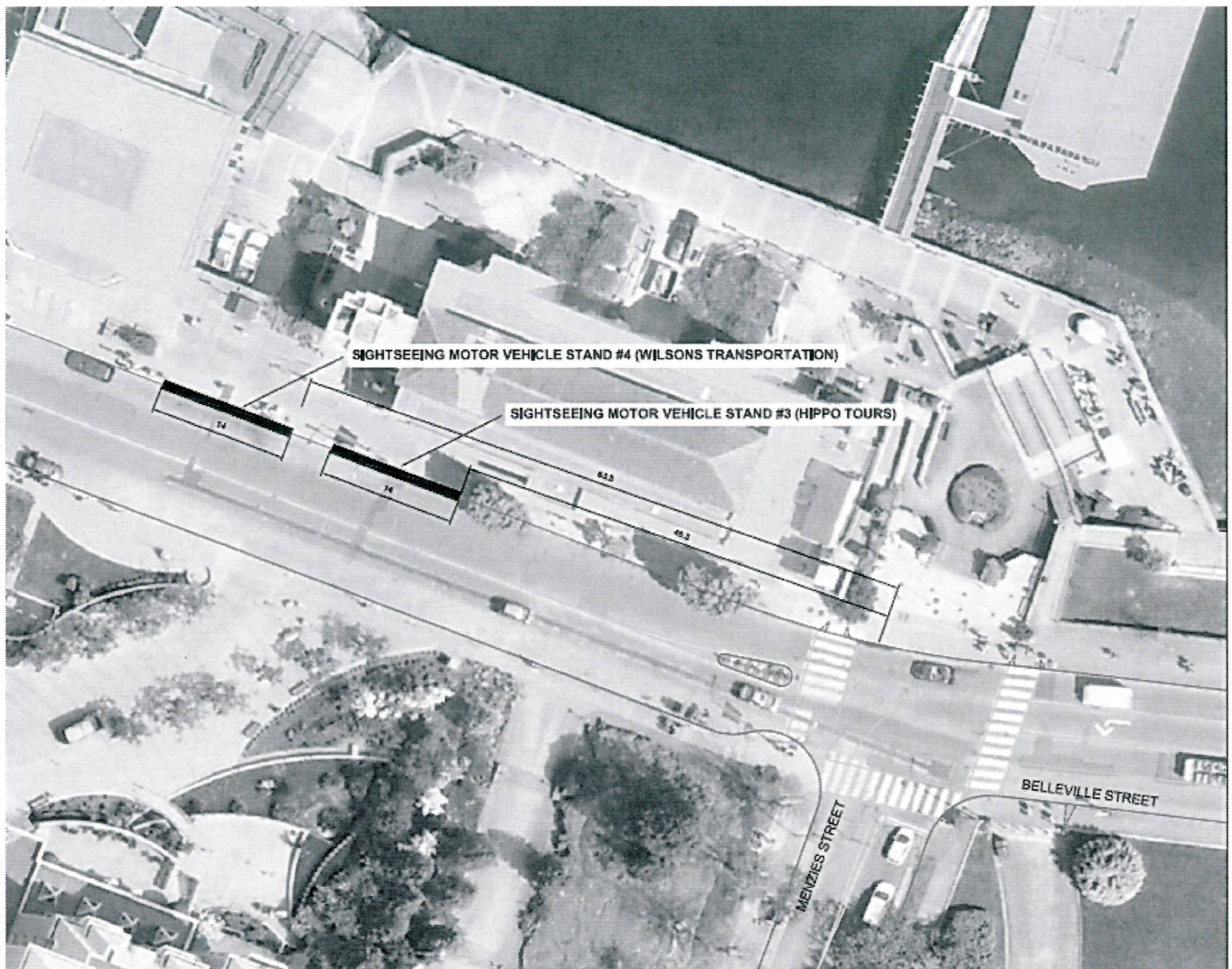
Fax: 250.383.8322

Web: www.victoriaharbour.org

Appendix B – Current Parking Configuration



Appendix C – Proposed Parking Configuration



Appendix D – Letters of Support

April 11, 2014

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Attention: Jason Johnson, City Manager
jjohnson@victoria.ca

Re: Hippo Tours Inc.
Letter of Support – Proposed Minor Reconfiguration of Curbside Parking at Steamship
Terminal on Belleville Street

Please accept this letter confirming support by Hippo Tours Inc. of the proposed minor reconfiguration of the curbside parking zones in front of the Steamship Terminal. The proposed configuration should assist to alleviate pedestrian safety and congestion issues experienced during last year's peak tourism season.

Hippo Tours Inc. support the proposed swap of the dedicated Hippo Tours zone and the general Commercial Vehicle Loading Zone. Hippo Tours Inc. has entered into an agreement with GVHA to provide a curbside kiosk adjacent to the proposed reconfigured zone for Hippo Tours Inc. This mobile kiosk was previously on the other side of the street on the Grand Pacific Hotel frontage.

We look forward to another successful season in Victoria.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Lind
President
geoff@victoriahippotours.com

Victoria Hippo Tours
941A Ellery St. Victoria BC V9A 4R9
Tel: 250-590-5290 855-884-4776
info@victoriahippotours.com
www.victoriahippotours.com



THE ROBERT BATEMAN CENTRE



April 14, 2014

Jason Johnson, City Manager
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8V 1P9

Re. Reconfiguration of the curbside parking at the Steamship Terminal

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I would like to express our support for the GVHA's request to relocate the Hippo Tours' parking location away from the main entrance to the Robert Bateman Centre.

During the 2013 tourism season we experienced concerning congestion issues in this location, and would greatly appreciate any efforts made to relieve the problem. This location was used by Hippo Tours to solicit business, and line-up their passengers. These activities significantly blocked pedestrian traffic, and added confusion to visitors wanting to enter our facility.

The Steamship Terminal is a difficult building to navigate, and due to heritage considerations, we are limited in our ability to identify this entrance as our entrance. We are working with the GVHA and the City to create the best possible signage solution, however having this moving billboard for another tourist attraction away from our front door would be a significant improvement in helping us to reach our attendance targets and sustainability.

While moving the parking for Hippo Tours down to our secondary entrance is not ideal, we do see it as a significant improvement. Once the lease has expired on this parking spot we would greatly appreciate being consulted before further renewal.

Regards,



Paul Gilbert, Executive Director
The Robert Bateman Centre

The Bateman Centre | 470 Belleville St. Suite 300 Victoria, BC, V8V 1W9 | 250 940-3626
www.batemancentre.org | Charitable Registration # 84698 7688 RR0001

April 15, 2014

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

Re: General loading zone and Hippo Bus parking, Belleville St.

To whom this concerns,

As the general manager of the Steamship Grill & Taphouse located at 470 Belleville Street, I am writing this letter to request a slight reconfiguration of the parking zones located just out front of the Steamship Terminal building.

During the fast approaching tourist season, our concern is the amount of pedestrian congestion directly in front of the main entrance to Steamship building this year with the addition of the restaurant and patio, our coffee house as well as the already existing Bateman Gallery and gift shop. I would like to recommend that the Hippo Tour Bus parking and the general loading zone parking simply swap locations. This will allow the Tour Bus to have a much wider sidewalk area to line up their passengers, limiting the congestion in the area previously held by them.

I very much appreciate your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Shona Bellows
General Manager
Steamship Grill & Taphouse


Lori McLaren

Subject: FW: Wilsons - Belleville Parking Reconfiguration

From: JV [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: April-16-14 12:41 PM
To: Lisa Krakowski
Cc: Sonterra Ross
Subject: Re: Wilsons - Belleville Parking Reconfiguration

Thanks Lisa,

Please accept this as confirmation, Wilson's Transportation and affiliated companies have no objection regarding the repositioning of the Hippo Tours parking as per the diagram you provided April 15.

Do let me know if you require a more formal statement of support.

Regards
John Varga
[REDACTED]

Appendix E – Proposed Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 11)

VEHICLES FOR HIRE BYLAW, AMENDMENT BYLAW

A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA

The purpose of this Bylaw is to amend the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw to change the location of Motorized Sightseeing Vehicle Parking Stand 3.

Under its statutory powers, including sections 8 and 36 of the *Community Charter*, section 3 of the 1907 *Act relating to the City of Victoria*, section 18 of the *Victoria City Act, 1919*, and section 9 of the *Victoria City Act, 1934*, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Victoria enacts the following provisions:

- 1 This Bylaw may be cited as the "VEHICLES FOR HIRE BYLAW, AMENDMENT BYLAW (NO. 11)".
- 2 Bylaw No. 03-60, the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, is amended by deleting Schedule D and replacing it with the Schedule D attached to this Bylaw.

READ A FIRST TIME the	day of	2014
READ A SECOND TIME the	day of	2014
READ A THIRD TIME the	day of	2014
ADOPTED on the	day of	2014

CORPORATE ADMINISTRATOR

MAYOR

Schedule D

Motor Sightseeing Vehicle Parking Stands

<u>Licensee</u>	<u>Parking Stand Allocation</u>	<u>Allocation Period</u>	<u>Monthly Rental Fee (including applicable taxes)</u>
CVS Cruise Victoria Ltd. (Incorporation No. BC0782440)	Parking Stand 1 The east side of Government Street, a distance of 21.4 m measured northerly from a point 68.4 m north of the north property line of Belleville Street	April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2015	\$1,755.00
Wilson's Transportation Ltd. (Incorporation No. BC0221816)	Parking Stand 2 The east side of Government Street, a distance of 21.4 m measured northerly from a point 39.5 m north of the north property line of Belleville Street	April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2015	\$1,755.00
Hippo Tours Inc. (Extraprovincial Registration No. A0086232)	Parking Stand 3 The north side of Belleville Street, a distance of 14 m measured westerly from a point 45.3 m west of the northerly lateral extension of the west property line of Menzies Street	April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2015	\$1,170.00
Wilson's Transportation Ltd. (Incorporation No. BC0221816)	Parking Stand 4 The north side of Belleville Street, a distance of 14 m measured westerly from a point 63.5 m west of the northerly lateral extension of the west property line of Menzies Street	April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2015	\$1,170.00