

Pamela Martin

From: Alcina Scratch [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 2:22 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Proposed Changes to Section 17 of the Official Community Plan

Section 17.10 (change highlighted in bold): *Support food production on private land where it is safe, suitable and compatible with the Urban Place Guidelines and subservient to the density, built form, place character, and land use objectives in this plan.*

I am a resident of James Bay (corner of Simcoe and Oswego) and have some concerns regarding the proposed changes to the above section. I am unable to attend the Public Meeting on September 8 and would like to add my views here instead.

I think the proposed change is unnecessary as inappropriate land use is already prohibited by the current wording of section 17.10. I think adding that urban farm initiatives are subservient to density, built form, place character, and land use objectives can and probably would be used to make James Bay a less vibrant and unique community.

I love seeing wise use of land in my neighbourhood and the variety of building styles and expression of individual personalities in that land use. I definitely don't want to see community stability and personal initiatives unnecessarily stifled.

Victoria is a unique and beautiful city and our tourism trade bears that out. I hear many comments every year from tourists about our unique and expressive way of life and I would hate for that to disappear. Personal garden stalls and even small livestock can only enhance our appeal.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alcina Scratch

Pamela Martin

From: Aerin Jacob [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 2:32 PM
To: Public Hearings
Cc: Councillors
Subject: Comments re: food production in Official Community Plan

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Councilors,

I am a Victoria resident and I write with feedback on the Official Community Plan, specifically about food production.

I applaud the many progressive steps taken recently to encourage food production on private land, like Boulevard gardening and planting fruit trees. These steps can help improve food security and foster a sense of community in the city; as a gardener myself, I have seen firsthand how Boulevard gardening and sharing food has improved connections amongst my neighbours.

However, I am concerned about changes to Section 17.10 that explicitly make food production "*subservient to the density, built form, place character, and land use objectives*". I think this changes both the tone and spirit of the bylaw. While acknowledging other uses is critical, we should not a priori put food production below other uses; rather, I encourage a flexible approach that allows us to evaluate dynamics among multiple uses and perspectives.

I ask you to decouple that section of bylaw 17.10 and vote it down. Food production is of great importance to me, my family, and my neighbourhood in Victoria. When I am tending my Boulevard garden, numerous people stop and ask questions about plants, share gardening tips, and chat about other issues. It's created a really lovely feeling of community and I hope others can share in it.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Aerin Jacob

Fernwood, Victoria, BC

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Sent from my iThingamajig

Pamela Martin

From: Ashley Whelan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Councillors
Cc: Public Hearings
Subject: Growing in the City Initiative

Hello,

Thank you for your continued efforts to support local food growth and its support for more sustainable communities.

I do, however, believe that this action should not be considered “subservient to the density, built form, place character, and land use objectives in this plan”. Although these characteristics are also valuable, it is time that local food growth is encouraged, and given an equal playing field to other methods of development.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Ashley Whelan
Fernwood, Victoria