



REPORT TO COUNCIL

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

APRIL 23, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 2:05 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

- PRESENT:** Councillor Heather Deal, Vice-Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson*
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow*
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Tim Stevenson*
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth
- ABSENT:** Councillor Andrea Reimer, Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
- CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Penny Ballem, City Manager
David McLellan, General Manager - Community Services Group
James Ridge, Deputy City Manager
- CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting of April 9, 2009, were adopted.

VARY THE AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to deal with the item pertaining to "Bottled Water in Civic Facilities" as its first order of business as per Council's motion earlier this day.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Councillor Chow absent for the vote)

Note from Clerk: The additional item is listed as Item 4. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded chronologically.

4. Bottled Water in Civic Facilities

At the April 23, 2009, Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting, Vancouver City Council heard from speakers on this matter and referred debate and decision on the following motion, to the afternoon meeting of Standing Committee on Planning and Environment Committee.

Staff from the Water and Sewers Department responded to questions.

The Committee agreed to separate the vote on components of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver adopt Metro Vancouver's Tap Water Declaration and immediately eliminate the Civic purchase of single serving sized bottled water for Staff and delegation consumption, and substitute with tap water options.
- B. THAT staff incorporate access to municipal drinking water into designs for new civic facilities and those scheduled for renovation, such as City Hall and Crossroads at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Source of funds to be the 2009 Facilities Capital Budget, subject to approval of the 2009 Basic Capital Budget.
- C. THAT staff pilot options for year-round access to municipal drinking water in outdoor public spaces at an estimated cost of \$35,000. Source of funds to be a reallocation of \$5,000 from the 2009 Waterworks Operating budget and \$30,000 from the 2009 Waterworks Capital Budget, subject to approval of the 2009 Basic Capital Budget.
- D. THAT Council forward A, B and C above to the Board of Parks and Recreation, PNE Board, Library Board, and Police Board for their consideration.
- E. THAT staff report back on options that will promote access to municipal drinking water in all new buildings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

- F. THAT staff prepare an inventory of existing public access options (e.g. fountains) to municipal drinking water supplies across the City and develop a plan that prioritizes the installation and activation of public access options taking into account the unique needs of each neighbourhood; and

FURTHER THAT staff also identify venues where less healthy beverages will be sold in place of bottled water and make recommendations on strategies to ensure drinking water remains available in those venues.

CARRIED
(Councillor Anton opposed)
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

1. Urban Trail System

At its meeting on April 21, 2009, Vancouver City Council referred this item to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on April 23, 2009, in order to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from two speakers who spoke in favour of the motion and expressed concern regarding potential injuries on walking and running surfaces.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS:

1. Cement city sidewalks are not well suited to long walks nor to running;
2. Alternate surfaces (manufactured or natural) can be placed on urban trails to make them better for walkers and runners; and
3. A system of urban trails is likely to get widespread use by and support from citizens of the City of Vancouver;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. This Council hereby endorses the concept of an urban trail system;
2. Staff is requested to work with the Vancouver Park Board, the Community Centre Associations and other interested parties to develop a plan for an urban trail system in Vancouver;
3. The plan be ready in advance of the consultations around the 2012 - 2014 capital plan; and
4. A pilot project connecting Langara Golf Course and Queen Elizabeth Park be commenced in advance of the 2012 - 2014 capital plan if possible.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the motion be amended by striking Resolves 2 and 4, and substituting 2 with:

Council would welcome a proposal from the Park Board in consultation with the City Manager and School Board, regarding a plan for a safe trail system including a potential pilot trail, including full costing; and

carried

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT by Councillor Anton

THAT the amendment be amended by adding:

4. A pilot project connecting Langara Golf Course and Queen Elizabeth Park be commenced in advance of the 2012 - 2014 capital plan if possible.

LOST

(Councillor Cadman, Chow, Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs and Woodsworth, and the Mayor opposed)
(Councillor Stevenson absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having LOST, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY; Councillor Stevenson absent for the vote.

The amendment having carried, the main motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY; Councillor Stevenson absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS:

1. Cement city sidewalks are not well suited to long walks nor to running;
2. Alternate surfaces (manufactured or natural) can be placed on urban trails to make them better for walkers and runners; and
3. A system of urban trails is likely to get widespread use by and support from citizens of the City of Vancouver;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. This Council hereby endorses the concept of an urban trail system, and
2. Council would welcome a proposal from the Park Board in consultation with the City Manager and School Board, regarding a plan for a safe trail system including a potential pilot trail, including full costing; and
3. The plan be ready in advance of the consultations around the 2012 - 2014 capital plan.

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee postpone Item 2 to deal with Item 3 while Housing Policy staff are available.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Stevenson absent for the vote)

3. City of Vancouver's Interim Housing Solutions Strategy

At its meeting on April 21, 2009, Vancouver City Council referred this item to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on April 23, 2009, in order to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from one speaker who spoke in support of the motion.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS there are hundreds of homeless people sleeping on Vancouver city streets every night;

WHEREAS the seriousness and scope of homelessness requires solutions and collaboration that crosses beyond party lines;

WHEREAS the successful HEAT shelters only have funding secured until the end of June 2009;

WHEREAS the majority of new housing, including the 14 sites of social housing in Vancouver, will not be completed until 2011 at the earliest;

WHEREAS the city has seen tangible gains in reducing street disorder, mental health calls, and connecting homeless people with support services, simply by providing shelter and food through the HEAT facilities;

WHEREAS the City is prepared to provide \$13 million in capital and lease costs, to complement provincial and private sector funding, to create 550 units of interim housing solutions;

AND WHEREAS the City's new Interim Housing Solutions Strategy addresses the gap Vancouver is facing between people living on the street and new housing being constructed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT Vancouver City Council call on all Provincial political parties to:

- 1) Publicly support the City's Interim Housing Solutions Strategy, and make a clear, public commitment to providing \$27.5 million in funding over five years to immediately implement the plan;

2) Publicly commit to providing longer term funding to Vancouver HEAT shelters to ensure they can service the critical needs of the homeless.

B. THAT Vancouver City Council ask the Mayor to write a letter to all Party Leaders in this election asking for their public commitment of the above.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Increase Minimum Wage to \$10 Per Hour

At its meeting on April 21, 2009, Vancouver City Council referred this item to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on April 23, 2009, in order to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from four speakers who spoke in favour of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS approximately 63,000 British Columbians earn minimum wage and another 293,000 earn under \$10 per hour; and

WHEREAS it now costs a full time worker just over \$10 per hour just to live above the poverty line in Vancouver; and

WHEREAS there has been no increase to the minimum wage since 2001;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the City of Vancouver endorses the \$10 NOW campaign to increase the minimum wage to \$10 per hour, abolish the \$6 training wage and index the minimum wage to inflation.

CARRIED

(Councillor Anton opposed)

The Committee adjourned at 4:20 pm.

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

APRIL 23, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 4:21 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: James Ridge, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Robertson in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Report of Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
April 23, 2009**

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment. Its items of business included:

1. Urban Trail System
2. Increase Minimum Wage to \$10 Per Hour
3. City of Vancouver's Interim Housing Solutions Strategy
4. Bottled Water in Civic Facilities

Items 1 - 4

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of April 23, 2009, as contained in items 1 - 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

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