

MEMORANDUM

March 28, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk

FROM: Vancouver City Planning Commission

SUBJECT: 2017 Report of Activities

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Vancouver City Planning Commission for 2017.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (the Commission) was established by Council under [By-Law No. 5064](#) to assist Council in an advisory capacity by considering and submitting reports to City Council on matters relating to the planning and development of the City, including:

- (a) representing ideas and opinions about the future of the city, as citizens of the City of Vancouver, and
- (b) considering and reporting to Council on any proposal likely to have a significant effect on the future of the City.

SUMMARY

During 2017, the Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) carried out its work plan convening dialogues and public events on themes relevant to the future of the city, and engaged on selected current planning topics and initiatives.

Under part A of our mandate, the VCPC hosted (or co-hosted) public events on milestones in Vancouver's planning and development (Chronology Project), citizen advisory bodies and urban policy (Rethinking the Region V), and shaping resiliency in Vancouver. The VCPC also hosted a series of informational roundtables with other Vancouver civic agencies, boards, and

committees, as well as subject specific advisory body roundtables on housing and parking issues.

Under part B of our mandate, the VCPC provided input to Council on current planning initiatives, and gave consideration to other current planning initiatives, with particular attention focused on the Arbutus Greenway, Chinatown's economic revitalization and development, and Millennium Line Broadway Extension planning.¹

EVENTS, DIALOGUES AND PROJECTS

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) worked with a number of community partners on several events and projects designed to foster informed dialogue on themes important to the future of the city.

A. Chronology of Vancouver Planning and Development Milestones

The VCPC convened [Milestones 2016](#), our second annual 'year-in-review' forum on January 30, 2017 in the Town Hall meeting room at Vancouver City Hall. Panel members were former Vancouver mayor Michael Harcourt, demographer Andy Yan, developer Carla Guerrero and journalist Jen St Denis. The list of potential 2016 milestones² was previously reviewed at a workshop on January 16, 2017 attended by leading architects, urban planners, developers, city historians, journalists and academics.

Following the panel, the Chronology Committee identified a list of eight emerging milestones of 2016 based on the perspectives shared in the survey, the workshop and during the panel. Reflecting a more aggressive outreach program this year, the public profile of the online chronology has increased. The [2016 emerging milestones](#) have been reposted on blog posts and sparked a number of tweets, and written up in [Spacing Vancouver](#), an online urban magazine.

B. Rethinking the Region V: A Forum on Citizen Advisory Bodies and Urban Policy

[Rethinking the Region](#) is an annual day-long conference organized by SFU's Urban Studies Program. It provides an opportunity for dialogue, reflection and learning about the past, present and future of the Metro Vancouver region. In 2017, the Vancouver City Planning Commission co-hosted the conference. The topic was the role of citizen advisory bodies in shaping urban policy in Metro Vancouver and the Seattle region. This conference was directly related to the VCPC's focusing on 'engagement for real' and our exploration of ways to improve the quality of public consultation, civic engagement, and community communication in order to enhance participatory and responsive planning within the City of Vancouver.

Together with citizen advisory body representatives from cities from across Metro Vancouver region and Seattle we reflected on big picture principles regarding how citizens can or should engage on policy issues with local governments. The day also provided opportunities to learn about specific examples of how local citizen advisory bodies have influenced urban policy in Vancouver and other municipalities. The conference featured a [keynote presentation](#) by Dr. Tina Nabatchi is an associate professor of public administration and international affairs at the Maxwell School of

¹ A complete list of VCPC memoranda to Mayor and Council can be found on the [VCPC website](#).

² A list of the potential 2016 planning and development milestones can be found on the [Chronology website](#).

Citizenship and Public Affairs, and the author of the book *Public Participation for 21st Century Democracy*.

C. Shaping Resiliency Summit

On October 24 and 25, 2017, the Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC), in collaboration with the City of Vancouver, 100 Resilient Cities, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation (100RC), and Simon Fraser University's Public Square, hosted two events on resiliency and Vancouver's future. The events included a community dialogue, and an invitational summit on the topic of resiliency and Vancouver's future.

The October 24, 2017 "[Sharing our Stories – Building Community Resilience in Vancouver](#)" community dialogue was co-hosted with SFU Public Square and the City of Vancouver Chief Resilience Officer. It was aimed at elevating and learning from stories of resilience from within our own community. The public was invited to attend to listen to stories of resilience from the community, and to contribute their knowledge and ideas to a vision for a resilient future. The event attracted over 150 participants, including many youth and community leaders. Highpoints and posters from the event were brought forward to the next day's summit.

The October 25, 2017 summit, co-hosted with SFU Public Square and 100 Resilient Cities was entitled "[Shaping Resiliency: A Summit on Resilience and Vancouver's Future](#)." This invitational event encouraged dialogue among thought leaders, experts and influencers from the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors. It was attended by 140+ participants, of whom 60% were women. Attendees represented a wide range of interests with urbanists, planners, service providers and advocates heavily represented. The day concluded with presentations to elected officials and general managers from the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Park and Recreation.

Both sessions were an opportunity to inform Vancouver's Preliminary Resilience Assessment and set the foundation for its' ensuing strategy. Both events were oversubscribed, reflecting strong interest among Vancouverites.

CURRENT INITIATIVES AND TOPICS

In addition to considering items on Council's agenda and current planning initiatives, Commissioners also participated actively in discussion of urban issues relevant to the future of the city.

A. Research and Comment

i. Arbutus Corridor and Millennium Line Extension Planning

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to Mayor and Council regarding the confluence of the planning for the [Arbutus Corridor and Millennium Line Broadway Extension](#) (MLBE). The memo strongly encourages Mayor and Council to give direction for the early inclusion and integration of comprehensive land-use and urban design planning processes for both the Arbutus and Broadway corridors to take place in conjunction with the specific planning for the Arbutus Greenway project and the Millennium Line SkyTrain extension. It further encouraged the City to regularly

undertake such a coordinated and comprehensive planning approach to future major infrastructure projects in Vancouver.

ii. Chinatown Economic Revitalization and Development Policies Review

The VCPC submitted a memorandum to Mayor and Council regarding the [Chinatown Economic Revitalization and Development Policies Review](#). The memorandum recommended that the City of Vancouver develop a more expansive public dialogue about incentives for retention of cultural and social heritage assets and changes to design guidelines. It also recommended that the City develop methodology for a social heritage inventory centered on the leadership and experiences of different communities affected by development in Vancouver's Chinatown.

iii. Millennium Line Broadway Extension Planning

Further to our earlier memorandum on the Arbutus Corridor and Millennium Line Extension Planning, the VCPC submitted another memorandum to provide additional input on the [planning for the Millennium Line Broadway Extension \(MLBE\) rapid transit expansion project](#). This memorandum recommended a number of broader key planning issues and principles for the City of Vancouver to address as work on the MLBE moves forward. These recommendations included ensuring that existing local planning initiatives are incorporated into a broader comprehensive planning for the Broadway Corridor and adjacent neighbourhoods; implementing proactive, collaborative and creative approaches to construction mitigation; and, ensuring that MLBE planning, design, and construction actively anticipates future extension of the Millennium Line beyond Arbutus to UBC.

B. Engagement in City Processes

i. Other Advisory Bodies

VCPC representatives participated in the following on-going processes: the Urban Design Panel; the Heritage Action Plan Advisory Committee; and the Transportation 2040 Stakeholders Advisory Group. The perspective of the VCPC were communicated by the Commissioners and relevant new concerns and issues brought back from the advisory committees.

ii. Staff Consultations

The VCPC received presentations and provided feedback to staff on the following current planning initiatives as part of staff's consultations with the public, stakeholders and advisory groups:

- Northeast False Creek Emerging Directions
- Heritage Action Plan
- Millennium Line Broadway Extension Project
- Chinatown, DTES and Gastown Historic Areas Update

iii. Engagement Topics

The VCPC also considered other issues with long-term implications for the City's future in discussion with liaison Commissioners from Council, Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Park Board, including:

- 100 Resilient Cities
- Affordable housing
- CACs and DCLs, including reduction of DCL's to the Park Board from the City
- Cambie Corridor Phase 3*
- Character Homes Retention Incentives,
- East Fraser Lands ODP Review*
- False Creek Flats
- False Creek South consulting with community
- Heather Lands
- Ongoing engagement between the VCPC and the City of Vancouver's department of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
- Parking issues
- Participatory and responsive planning
- Pearson Dogwood planning
- Places for People Downtown – current and future phases
- “Publicness” of the city
- Resilient neighbourhood pilot project
- Sign By-law update
- United Nations' New Urban Agenda
- Vancouver Housing Strategy
- VanPlay and VanSplash

* Presentations received from speakers.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Planning Commissioners attended numerous external conferences, panel discussions and other events on planning and development issues relevant to the City's future. Sharing knowledge and experience from these events formed a part of the VCPC's meeting agendas. In 2017, these events included:

- Vancouver Awards of Excellence (February 28, 2017)
- 9th annual UBC SCARP Symposium – Audacity (March 3, 2017)
- Metro Vancouver Sustainability Community Breakfasts: Providing Regional Leadership, (March 24, 2017)
- “The Real Estate Crisis in Vancouver: Why it's happening, who's winning, and how it can be fixed,” Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (April 11, 2017)
- Vancouver Heritage Awards (April 24, 2017)
- Metro Vancouver Sustainability Community Breakfasts: Waste Water, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens (May 4, 2017)
- Jane's Walk (May 5-7, 2017)
- “Wellbeing in the City: The Impact of Culture, Heritage and Community on healthy Cities” (May 8, 2017)
- “Financing Urban Growth: The Use of Development Cost Charges and Community

- Amenity Contributions” SFU Continuing Studies course (May 12, 2017)
- Vancouver Design Week events, including “The Value of Design: 10 Perspectives from 10 Designers” (May 12-14, 2017)
- “Can Development Cost Charges and Community Amenity Contributions Make Everyone Happy with Residential Development?”, UBC Sauder, June 22, 2017
- The Drum is Calling Festival (July 22-30, 2017)
- Council of Councils (October 12, 2017)

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER CIVIC BODIES

The VCPC has appointments on the following City of Vancouver civic bodies:

A. Urban Design Panel

A Commissioner served on the Urban Design Panel, as prescribed by Council By-law No. 4722. The VCPC appointed Neal LaMontagne to this role. Upon Commissioner LaMontagne’s resignation in September 2017, Leslie Shieh was appointed to this role.

B. Heritage Action Plan Advisory Committee

The VCPC continued to participate in the Heritage Action Plan Advisory Committee in 2015. The Commission appointed Robert Matas to this role.

C. Transportation 2040 Stakeholder Advisory Group

Commissioners participated as a member of the City of Vancouver’s Transportation 2040 Advisory Group in 2017. The VCPC appointed Anthony Perl and Daniella Fergusson to this role.

COMMISSIONERS DURING 2017

This report covers the work carried out during the year by the following Commissioners:

- | | |
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| • Nola-Kate Seymoar [Chair] | • Karenn Krangle |
| • Jennifer Marshall [Vice Chair] | • Neal LaMontagne (Resigned September) |
| • Janice Abbott | • Robert Matas |
| • David Crossley [Secretary/Treasurer] | • Melanie Matining (Resigned August) |
| • Daniella Fergusson [VCPC appointee] | • Anthony Perl [VCPC appointee] |
| • Amelia Huang | • Leslie Shieh |
| • Tł’akwasikàn Khelsilem (Resigned August) | |

The following Commissioners served as non-voting members, providing liaison with their elected bodies:

- Councillors Adriane Carr and Andrea Reimer, Vancouver City Council
- Commissioner Casey Crawford, Vancouver Park Board
- Chris Robertson, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability staff
- The liaison position for the Vancouver School Board was vacant

Vancouver

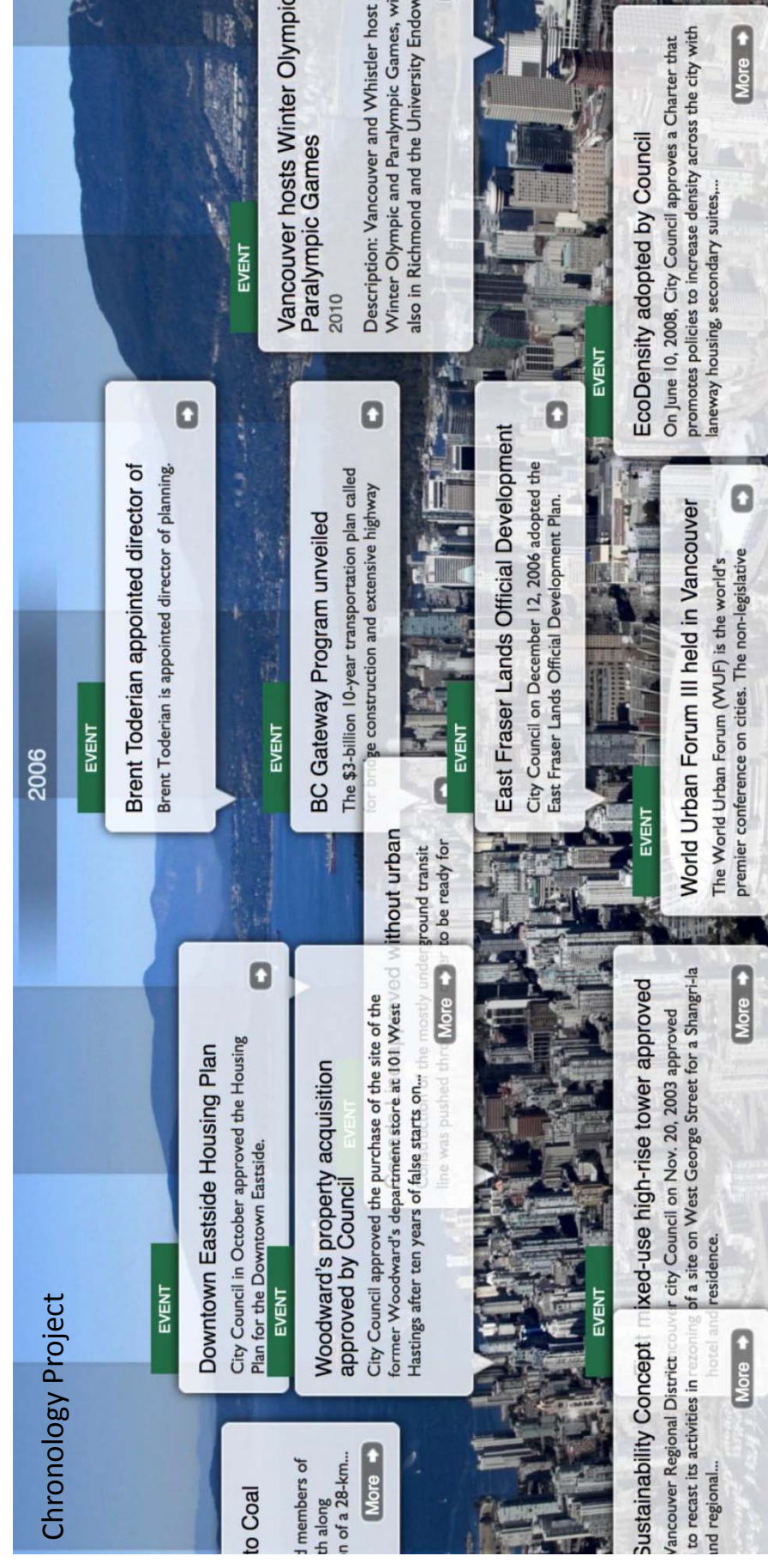
City Planning

Commission

2017-2018 Objectives

Expand working networks and formalize relationships with volunteers.

Work with community partners, advisors and volunteers who have collaborated on the *Chronology of Vancouver's Planning and Development Milestones* to enrich the content and expand the information in the outline timeline.



Examine current planning initiatives and engage around issues relating to the long-term future of the City. Commissioners will continue to participate in the Heritage Action Plan Advisory Committee, the Urban Design Panel, and the Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Key topics of focus: resilient and adaptive city; sustainable communities; publicness of the city; inclusive community; and participatory and responsive planning.

Accomplishments

Adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the Quito Ecuador for Habitat III—the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. The NUA lays out a framework for resilient and sustainable development and will guide our work for the next 5 years and beyond.

Chronology Program: Hosted a second Year-in-Review event which identified emerging events from 2016. Working with community partners to consider planning and development milestones the Chronology Program has become a valuable way to bring together citizens and professionals with a strong interest in planning of the City.



Rethinking the Region V: Co-hosted a regional conference with SFU's Urban Studies Program on the role of citizen advisory bodies in shaping urban policy. Participants from Metro Vancouver and a delegation from Seattle's Planning Commission provided case examples and furthered VCPC's dialogue about "engagement for real".

Building Bridges with other advisory bodies: Convened two roundtables with other advisory bodies to get to know one another's mandates, members and concerns.

Resilience and Vancouver's Future: In October 2017, VCPC in collaboration with the City, 100 Resilient Cities and SFU Public Square will host a summit on resilience and the future of our city.

Future Goals

Challenge of a Resilient and Adaptive City: How can we strengthen Vancouver's resilience, our shared capacity to survive, adapt and grow?

Engagement for real: Explore ways to improve the quality of civic engagement to enhance participatory and responsive planning.

City for All: Address the issues of inclusion, reconciliation and diversity.

Reconsider how the public good, including investments in infrastructure and public spaces are financed in the City.

Strengthen the development of complete, sustainable communities and our understanding of their evolution in light of mobility corridors and affordability.