



**VANCOUVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**April 17, 2013**

A meeting of the Vancouver City Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at 12: 20 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Peter Greenwell, Chair  
Rafael Aquino  
Danielle Bauer  
Matthew Carter  
Caitriona Feeney  
Michael Henderson  
Am Johal  
Karenn Krangle, Vice-Chair  
Phil Mondor  
John Weldon

**ABSENT:** Louise Blight  
Marian Brown (Leave of Absence)  
Canisius Chan (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Elizabeth Ballantyne, VCPC Manager  
Trustee Mike Lombardi, Vancouver School Board  
Councillor Tony Tang, City of Vancouver

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

**1. ADMINISTRATION**

**a) Attendance**

MOVED by Commissioner Johal  
SECONDED by Commissioner Bauer

THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission approve leaves of absence for Commissioners Brown and Chan for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**b) Minutes**

MOVED by Commissioner Krangle  
SECONDED by Commissioner Weldon

THAT the Minutes of the March 20, 2013, meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair advised that due to a lack of quorum on April 3, 2013, there were no minutes to approve for that meeting.

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**VARY THE AGENDA**

MOVED by Commissioner Weldon  
SECONDED by Commissioner Henderson

*THAT the Commission vary the agenda to deal with Item 2(a) prior to reports in order to hear from guest presenters first.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Commissioner Johal  
SECONDED by Commissioner Mondor

*THAT the Commission postpone Item 1(e) until after New Business.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.*

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**c) Notice of VCPC Meetings**

The Vice-Chair noted the next two Regular Meetings:

May 1, 2013 - in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall  
May 15, 2013 - in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall

**d) Manager's Report**

The Commission Manager reported on the City's Heritage Awards event to be held on May 27, 2013. Five Commissioners indicated an interest in attending.

She also noted that the annual Conference of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) will take place on July 6 - 9, 2013, in Vancouver.

### e) Urban Design Panel Report

Commissioner Mondor reported on the Urban Design Panel (UDP) meetings on March 27 and April 10, 2013, and gave a brief overview of the meeting to be held on April 24, 2013.

Along with various project proposals, he also noted the UDP discussed the Sign By-law Review.

Agendas and Minutes for the Urban Design Panel are available at:  
<http://vancouver.ca/your-government/urban-design-panel.aspx>

### f) Reports from Liaison Members

Trustee Lombardi reported on:

- number of VSB schools on the Provincial list for planned seismic upgrades
- enrolment tracking, exist survey for those leave school district, and focus groups with pre-school and kindergarten parents
- status of the budget process and shortfall.

Councillor Tang reported:

- the celebration of former Mayor Art Phillips' life will be on April 26, 2013
- the recent Homeless Count is down
- nominations for the Mayor's Art Award are open
- Little Mountain social housing project ground-breaking ceremony was held
- updates regarding the rezoning application for 2220 Kingsway and the Norquay Village neighbourhood centre plan
- the digital strategy for the City was approved by Council.

The Commission briefly discussed the film industry and viaducts.

### g) Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Mondor reported on the Open House held regarding the West End's draft Plan directions and the Urban Design Institute for the West End planners.

Commissioner Greenwell reported on the presentation by Andy Yan on April 3, 2013, to an informal assembly of Commissioners on the topic of foreign investment in Vancouver real estate.

## 2. BUSINESS MEETING

### a) Presentation: Sign By-Law Review

Holly Foxcroft, IBI Group/Consultant, presented an overview of the City's Sign By-law Review Project and, along with Cameron Owen, IBI, and Ian Cooper, Senior Rezoning Planner, Development Services, responded to questions. She noted they are currently in Phase 1 (of 3) of the project and requested the Commission's feedback regarding:

- i.* the most common issues with existing Sign By-law
- ii.* principles which should shape the development of a new Sign By-law
- iii.* thoughts on having a digital sign district
- iv.* whether the Sign By-law should regulate public art
- v.* whether the City's Naming Policy is achieving its objective on naming civic buildings.

Discussion included:

- the process, timing and opportunity of presenting signage plan(s) in advance and for approval with development applications
- Review Project consultation taking place
- revenue generation, third party advertising and billboards
- best practices and urban design principles
- balance of information, commercialization, public space, civil rights, neighbourhood, livability, vs distraction and clutter
- whether city-wide
- innovation and technology (e.g. solar powered, video, digital, phone ads)
- variance for situations, at what stage and what size, noise, light and illumination levels, and for renovated buildings
- street signage for the visually impaired
- the phrase “unique” sign district rather than “digital”
- public art which has longevity, as separate from signage and the Signage By-law.

The CoV Naming Policy and the Park Board and Vancouver Public Library recognition and naming policies were briefly discussed.

**b) Committee Reports**

*i. Transportation Planning Committee -*

Following from the minutes of the March 6, 2013, Commission meeting, VCPC Manager circulated the Committee's report dated February 25, 2013 (*on file*) and page 23 of the CoV *Transportation 2040 Directions*. As no Committee members were present, consideration of the item was postponed to a later meeting.

**c) 2013 Commission Work Plan**

Commissioners Greenwell and Bauer reported on the following from the VCPC Work Planning session held on March 8, 2013:

- The next Planning retreat (Part 2) draft objectives and agenda (*distributed - on file*)
- Regional Context Statement going to Council in the near future
- Recommendation to and benefit of Commissioners attending Council meetings regarding issues.

VCPC Manager circulated a sign-up sheet for Commissioners to select which Regular Council and Standing Committees meetings they would attend such that each meeting in 2013 would be covered.

Commissioner Krangle gave a brief overview of the Regional Growth Strategy as background for review of the Regional Context Statement. The VCPC Manager has printed copies of the Growth Strategy available and will forward the link.

The Commission agreed to have the next Planning Retreat on April 30, 2013, at 5:00 pm in the City Hall Business Centre.

The Commission adjourned at 2:15 pm.

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