

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

The Vancouver City Planning Commission is an Advisory Body appointed by Vancouver City Council to assist City Council in an advisory capacity by considering and submitting reports on matters relating to planning and development of the City. Other Commission tasks include: representing ideas and opinions about the future of the City of Vancouver; submitting an annual budget proposal to Council; and considering a report to Council on any proposal likely to have a significant effect on the future of the City. The following represents the views of the Vancouver City Planning Commission. The Vancouver City Planning Commission is not expressing views on behalf of the City of Vancouver.

July 5, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Vancouver Plan Feedback

At its meeting on June 1, 2022, the Vancouver City Planning Commission passed the following motion: THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission approve in principle a memorandum to Mayor and Council, containing Commission comments and recommendations regarding the Vancouver Plan.

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) advises City Council on long-range planning and development issues in the City, including on issues relevant to the future of the city. It is within this context that the VCPC wishes to take this opportunity to provide input and comment regarding the Vancouver Plan.

VCPC was consulted by the Vancouver Plan team from very early days, receiving briefings on the proposed structure, timelines, and content of the public engagement. VCPC organised the logistics for and held, with the support of City staff, one of the first working sessions with other Advisory Groups and community members. At this event, attendees were presented with the early directions of the Vancouver Plan and brainstormed challenges and opportunities of living in Vancouver. Commissioners have continued to engage at each step of the Plan as individuals, professionals, and as members of VCPC.

We would first like to recognize the work that has gone into this plan - a years-long process that was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We greatly appreciate the work that has gone into getting the Plan to this point.

We recognize that this is both a milestone in Vancouver planning, while also one of many steps before the full implementation of the Plan. As such, we call on Councillors and City staff to

embed the following recommendations into the development of the implementation strategies for the Plan, which are consistent with the vision and values of VCPC:

1. **Justice** - VCPC recommends that staff go further than the brief mentions of justice within the Plan and embed principles of disability justice and climate justice into the principles and implementation. These principles should have actionable impacts and be measurable in their success. They should be developed in concert with people with lived experience, including disabled people, poor people, racialized people, and other equity-denied groups.
2. **Decolonization** - Reconciliation is one of the Foundational Principles within the Plan. However, a decolonized approach must also be woven throughout the process of implementing the plan. VCPC again recommends ensuring the implementation of this work is actionable and measurable beyond broad goals. This includes significantly re-examining how planning and decision-making are done moving forward and a complete assessment of public engagement practices.
3. **Definitions** - Principles such as diversity, inclusiveness, and accessibility should be as easily defined and measured as density and zoning areas. Those definitions, currently missing from the Plan's glossary, must be clearly articulated and understood by Council, staff, and the public.

We appreciate the Plan before you is a massive undertaking and that it lays out the future of Vancouver for the next 30 years. As you make your deliberations and amendments, we encourage you to keep these principles, as well as the Foundational Principles, in mind, so that the future of Vancouver is a more just and equitable one.

Sincerely,

Vancouver City Planning Commission

Copies to: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Teresa Jong, Executive Assistant to the City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability
Karis Hiebert, Manager, Vancouver Plan
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies