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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
Date: 3/25/2021 11:37:00 AM
Subject: City Daily Media Summary
Attachments: Daily media summary - March 24.eml

Dear Mayor & Council,

Beginning today, you will receive a late-afternoon email called the "Daily Media Summary". This email is sent Monday through Friday and summarizes all closed City and Park Board responses to media inquiries from the day. Find attached to this message a sample of yesterday's Daily Media Summary.

Communications also offers via email daily morning and afternoon headlines, and a daily social media scan. Should you wish to receive any or all of these materials and are not yet subscribed, please email maria.pontikis@vancouver.ca.

All the best,
Karen

City of Vancouver Deputy City Manager
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

From: [Zen, Lillienne](#)
Subject: Daily media summary - March 24
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:36:38 PM

Closed calls

Ted Chernecki - Global News - E Scooters on seawall

Ted would like background information on whether electric scooters (the push kind with motor) are allowed on the seawall? He's wondering in relation to the new pilot that's been announced. Deadline is 5pm today.

Staff provided the following information: We are currently looking at developing regulations which may include amending a by-law to permit e-scooters to operate where non-powered scooters are permitted. This would allow them to be used on the City's part of the seawall. We will provide further details at a later date. Please check with the Park Board on regulations within park boundaries.

Licia Corbella - Calgary Herald - Dunbar character retention

Reporter writing a column on a new planning document in Calgary. Keen to highlight how Dunbar has retained its character despite residential zoning allowing for more units per site than previous years.

The infill houses built on the 33-ft lots on the street I grew up on blend in nicely. My understanding is that each house in the area is allowed to have a basement suite and a laneway house – so three separate homes at the home. Is that correct, or are four homes allowed at the one address? Also, how tall are buildings on Dunbar allowed to be? Is it four storeys or six?

Almost all of the lots in Dunbar are residentially zoned, which allow for a total of three units on each site: a house, with a suite and an additional laneway house. The suite and laneway house are considered the secondary units. An alternative option approved in 2018, was to allow a duplex on each lot and permit a secondary suite with each half duplex, totalling four units on a lot.

There are three commercial zones along Dunbar (16th to 19th, King Edward to 30th and 39th to 41st Avenue). In these areas, buildings can be up to four storeys high and must include a ground floor for commercial use. The four storey buildings that you see along Dunbar today are mostly strata housing above the ground floor commercial space. In line with a rental rezoning policy that covers many commercial zones across the city, six storey mixed use buildings are permitted if the building is designated as secured rental housing.

Though there are now options for homeowners to add suites and laneway houses, Dunbar hasn't undergone much change in the last twenty years and there has been no population growth.

As part of the [Vancouver Plan](#), the City will be looking at the long term vision for Vancouver and establishing a plan for growth that meets 10 goals established through in depth engagement so far. One of the key goals of [Vancouver Plan](#) is to work towards making all neighbourhoods more complete and connected. In order to meet the City's ambitious goals for more inclusive, diverse neighbourhoods that allow all residents to be within walking distance of their daily needs, many neighbourhoods will be anticipated to undergo change in more significant ways.

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Michael Bernard - Vancouver Sun - Increase in Purpose Built Rental

Reporter interviewed Dan Garrison on growth of purpose built rental in the last 3-5 years. Dan followed up with data below:

This is a link to our Creating New Rental website. I thought you might be interested in a number of documents here. The specific documents I thought would be useful are the staff and consultant reports related to our Rental Incentive Review.

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/creating-new-market-rental-housing.aspx>

This is the 2020 Annual Progress Report (which reports on project and programs in 2019) - <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/housing-vancouver-report-2020.pdf>

This dashboard shows progress to Q3 2020 - <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/2020-housing-vancouver-dashboard.pdf>

We are currently running the data on our 2020 year end numbers and will be releasing our full 2021 Progress Report (for the 2020 calendar year) in April.

Charlie Smith - Georgia Straight - SOFI and VPD

Reporter asked if any senior VPD officers (chief, deputy chiefs) accepted a 10 percent pay cut in 2020 like all the managers at Vancouver City Hall.

Staff referred reporter to VPD.

Mike Howell - Glacier Media/BIV - SOFI compensation listings

In reviewing the Statement of Financial Information for 2020, there is a P. Kelley who earned \$280,733 in 2020, but no G. Kelley listed as in Gil Kelley. Is that a typo?

Staff confirmed Gil Kelley's legal/formal name is Peter Kelley thus P. Kelley.

Brendan K - VanIsAwesome - SOFI and cash holdings

Reporter noted in the Auditor's report they state the City has cash and cash equivalents of \$1,141,886. That's a lot more than the previous amount of \$385,645 in 2019. Asked for clarification on the number and the difference between 2019 and 2020.

Staff clarified the main difference is timing, primarily due to the fact that the provincial government delayed the payment date for remittance of the school tax that the City collects on its behalf from August 2020 to January 2021, and that accounts for approximately \$500M of the difference. The City also received federal grant funding under the Reaching Home initiative in 2020, which is also earmarked to be spent in 2021. There is also a backing out of about -\$200M of cash back into temporary investments which means the year over year change is about \$560M not \$756M.

Frances Bula - Globe & Mail - Skeena Terrace

Reporter requested interview on Skeena Terrace - particularly, how different this process will be versus Little Mountain.

Dan Garrison and Yardley McNeill did interview.

Alissa Thibault - CTV - Mayor interview re. SOFI

I'm wondering if the Mayor is available for a quick Zoom this afternoon about the release of the City's financial information?

Staff referred reporter to MO.

Rafferty Baker - CBC - Mayor on safe supply

Friday story: One year on from mayor announcing feds greenlit safer supply, want to take stock. How is the mayor feeling, what issues have come to light, etc. Would be for TV/radio/web. Looking for in-person interview outdoors, or can do Google meet.

Referred to Mayor's Office.

John Mackie - Vancouver Sun/Province - Columbus Statue

A statue of Christopher Columbus that was located at the Italian Gardens in Hastings Park has been removed - but nobody knows who took it. The theory is either the city or park board, because an anti-colonialist group was threatening to behead it. Can I talk to somebody about it?

Thank you for contacting us about the statue of Christopher Columbus. In recent years, the statue has been the target of several protest actions.

As an interim measure, the City has removed the statue from the Italian Gardens at Hastings Park and placed it in secure storage. The PNE Board of Directors, The Italian Cultural Centre, and the Confratellanza Italo-Canadese have been informed of the removal. The act of removal is not a statement on the future of the statue but simply ensures its preservation while its future is considered.

Alissa Thibault - CTV News - SOFI

Requested Zoom interview with Mayor Stewart regarding the SOFI report.
Interview request withdrawn.

Yvette Brend - CBC Vancouver - Homeless Count

Where can I get the most up to date estimates of unsheltered people in BC -- Vancouver? Is there anywhere that's measuring what's happened during the pandemic?

Every year, the City conducts a Homeless Count to provide critical information on the number and circumstances of people experiencing homelessness, and to see how this population is changing over time. The latest data the City has on people experiencing homelessness in Vancouver is available on our webpage [here](#) - these are the results of the 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver which took place in March 2020. Data for Metro Vancouver is available [here](#).

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to minimize any risk of transmission, the 2021 Homeless Count is not possible. While the City is not moving forward with the Point-in-Time count this month, understanding the current state of homelessness is particularly important in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Staff are exploring using alternative data sources to provide an insight into the state of homelessness in 2021 and will be reporting results to Council in the fall. The data sources include:

1. Collecting shelter occupancy data from shelters and No Fixed Address (NFA) data from VPD and health authorities in Vancouver in a similar manner to the Homeless Count methodology;
2. Collecting NFA income assistance data from the Ministry of Social Development and Income Assistance. This will show how many people receiving income assistance are listed as currently experiencing homelessness;
3. Conducting an online survey with outreach service providers for an update on street homelessness;
4. Conducting an intersectional analysis of the 2020 Homeless Count data, particularly creating profiles to better understand the experiences of equity-deserving groups, such as the significantly overrepresented Indigenous and Black people;
5. Synthesizing and analyzing available data that is captured by different City, Provincial and community sources related to homelessness.

**Various media - SOFI & Councillor salaries
Cheryl Chan - Vancouver Sun/Province**

Mike Howell - Glacier Media/BIV

Reporters asked for explanation in the differences between Councillor salaries reported for 2020 as per the SOFI report. One reporter also asked for clarification on a note referencing overpayment of Councillors in 2020.

Staff responded that Councillors who perform additional duties such as Duty Councillor and Deputy Mayor receive additional pay, and this can vary depending on the duties they perform and for how long. Staff explained the small overpayment in 2020 was a minor accounting error and would be reversed in 2021.

Sena Law - Student Journalist - BioPlastics (from Tue)

Request information and interview about how bioplastics impact the City's compost and landfill operations.

Staff provided the journalist with the following details:

Plastic that is labeled or described as compostable, degradable (example: biodegradable, oxodegradable, photodegradable), bioplastic, or made from plants or other biological materials:

- Is not accepted in the [City Green Bin organics program](#)
- Contaminates existing composting and recycling streams
- Is not approved for composting under provincial regulation
- Is not designed to biodegrade if littered in the natural environment

Plastic that is labeled or described as compostable or degradable is also not accepted in [Recycle BC's residential recycling program](#). As contaminants, plastics that are labeled or described as compostable, degradable, or made from plants are most likely to be removed from composting and recycling streams and then disposed to landfill or incinerator. The City encourages food vendors and residents to choose reusable alternatives wherever possible. Otherwise, the City suggests alternatives made from materials that are accepted for composting in the City's Green Bin program or for recycling in the Recycle BC residential recycling program (links above).

UPDATED: Dan Fumano - Vancouver Sun/Province - Beedie v. Vancouver litigation (from March 15)

Reporter asking questions around Beedie v. Vancouver litigation, specifically around timing of the judicial review, rationale for the City hiring an external firm, and the cost to date to the City.

Staff advised the petitioners have filed an appeal of the BC Supreme Court's procedural ruling, which is scheduled to be argued before the BC Court of Appeal on March 16 and 17 in Vancouver. The timing of the judicial review depends on the outcome of the appeal. The City's costs or expenses related to any particular lawsuit are subject to solicitor client privilege, and therefore cannot be shared. The City does not comment on why it retains particular counsel.

Reporter checking in to confirm nothing has changed in the last 10 days since he was last in touch and seeking spokesperson for attribution.

Staff advised nothing had changed and suggested he cite city spokesperson.

Robyn Crawford - CKNW - Gil Kelley departure (from March 15)

Reporter seeking confirmation / statement on departure of Gil Kelley

Staff sent following statement: [Gil Kelley will be leaving his role as the City of Vancouver's General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability to pursue other endeavours. We want to recognize and thank Gil for his hard work and many important contributions as a member of the City Leadership Team since joining the City in 2016. Theresa O'Donnell has been appointed by Council to serve as the Director of Planning and GM on an interim basis. Theresa will be taking on this](#)

responsibility effective immediately and will be working with Gil over the coming days to manage the transition.

Mike Howell - Glacier Media - FOI data (from March 12)

Reporter seeking data on how many FOI requests the City received between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2020. Want to know the nature of the requests (a range of topics, if possible) and average time in responding to the requests.

Staff sent reporter a link to the FOI Annual Report

Park Board

Sonya Hartwig - CBC Early Edition - Strathcona Park Program Planning (from Tue)

Requested live phone interview about the planning going into the future of Strathcona park.

Staff declined the interview, but let the reporter know that Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff have started a series of conversations in the Strathcona neighbourhood to learn how activations, stewardship and planning can support welcoming people back to the park, healing and reimagining this place. The Park Board recognizes that Strathcona Park requires remediation, and are in the processes of safely returning green space to the neighbourhood. Developing an early vision that includes community values will inform not only short-term park activations, but can also support potential future planning processes.

Various media - Portland Loo in Coopers' Park (from Tue)

Katie DeRosa - Postmedia

Yvette Brend- CBC

Kenneth Chan - Daily Hive

Bhinder Sajan - CTV

Grace Ke - Global News

Lisa Yuzda - News1130

Washrooms are an essential public service and everyone is entitled to safe, clean and accessible facilities. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation [Washroom Strategy](#)—approved on November 2, 2020— recommends piloting the Portland Loo in three locations including at Coopers' Park. This site was selected because it is expected to serve an estimated 30,000 users, given its proximity to the Seawall and a dense downtown neighbourhood.

The Washroom Strategy investigated a range of washroom options, but landed on Portland Loo (a prefabricated washroom) because it proved to have several advantages:

- Durable design, resistant to graffiti and vandalism
- ADA/Universally accessible
- Exterior hand-washing stations
- Anti-graffiti exterior
- A bicycle or stroller easily fits inside
- Discourages lingering and crime inside

The design uses slatted panels to provide privacy to the user, and airflow, but also allows people outside to see the floor of the stall. This provides added safety if someone inside needs assistance, and allows medical emergencies to be attended to by first responders.

While the cost of the Portland Loo (approximately \$150,000 - \$185,000 per unit) is generally consistent, the sites selected for installation can often have the greatest impact on overall costs. Some of these considerations include:

- Design consultant fees including, civil, mechanical, electrical and structural engineering
- Environmental soils assessment
- Trenching and installation of sewer, water and electrical services
- Site preparation, reinforced concrete pad, electrical panels, and frost-protected water and sanitary connections
- Assembly, installation, and commissioning of the unit
- Building permit and inspection work
- Project management fees
- Contingencies and escalation

The City and Park Board were recently successful in applying for a \$645,000 grant for the full costs to purchase and install the Portland Loo in Coopers' Park through the [British Columbia Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program \[news.gov.bc.ca\]](#) (CERIP). This application was based on a cost estimate, and the actual amount will depend on design and implementation. Portland Loos are designed for minimal operating and maintenance costs due to their stainless steel materials and construction, and are able to be cleaned by pressure washing.

The Portland Loo at Coopers' Park will be installed by the end of 2021. If this initial pilot project is successful, staff can apply these learnings to any potential future locations.

Greg Rasmussen - CBC - Herring at Harbour Green Park

Reporter wants to talk to someone about the herring spawn program in Coal Harbour.

[Environmental Stewardship Coordinator Dana McDonald to do interview today.](#)

Krycia Collyer - Global News - Gazebo booking at Trout Lake

The producer with Global News is interviewing someone about Vancouver's first Black school board trustee and is hoping to do the interview in the gazebo at Trout Lake on Friday, March 26, 9 - 11:30 am.

[Staff booked facility and approved request.](#)

Gordon McIntyre - Post Media - Tree that fell on car

Reporter asked for details about a rotten elm (Tree-ID 121363) that fell on March 7 at 4 a.m., crushing a woman's vehicle on the 2000-block York Avenue in Kits. The victim claims the strata building beside her complained to the city about the tree before it fell. Reporter wanted to know if these reports were received.

[Staff told reporter that all service requests received for this particular tree were for pruning, including building clearance Integrated Pest Management related issues. None of the service requests reported to us were related to concerns of an entire tree being at risk of failing or toppling. The last site visit by one of our staff was on 10/26/2020 - their comments regarding a service request related to a branch hitting the building suggested that the branch was in fact 6 to 8 feet away from roof line. The work was rated as routine, which means it would have been](#)

taken care of during maintenance planned for that tree. The tree broke apart after a wind event, clean-up and removal completed on 03/07/2021.

Chad Pawson - CBC - Coyotes in Stanley Park update

Reporter asked for an update on the coyote situation in Stanley Park 1/How many coyote encounters have been reported to the Park Board since 1 Jan. 2021? 2/Can you provide dates for these encounter reports? 3/What action is the Park Board taking if aggressive coyotes are still a threat to human users of the park? 4/If aggressive coyotes are still a threat to human users of the park, what will it take to resolve the issue? ie more culling, fewer humans feeding the animals, warmer weather?

Staff told reporter that most of his questions can be answered by the BC Conservation Officer Service and provided a contact email. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation generally seeks co-existence with urban wildlife in our parks, and try to focus on the contributing factors such as feeding coyotes, and indirectly their prey. Park Rangers closed trails after people were bitten, although they are open now. Conservation officers are proactively patrolling the park, responding as necessary to any conflict reports and working with Park Rangers with public education and reducing human-wildlife conflicts. Coexisting with Coyotes (education and sightings monitoring) is one of the three core programs that we contract to the Stanley Park Ecology Society. SPES and the Park Board have recently increased the Do Not Feed messaging with on site signage. We ask visitors to Stanley Park to avoid areas of the park where coyotes have been seen, take precautions and be aware of the existence of coyotes in the park. People need to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all time, whether they are walking or jogging. The public is reminded not to feed wildlife and, if confronted by a coyote, to stand tall and yell. Additional safety tips can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/staying-safe-around-wildlife/wolves-coyotes>. People are asked to report encounters and any information regarding feeding coyotes to the RAPP line at [1-877-952-7277](tel:1-877-952-7277).

Various media - Coopers' Park dog off-leash area

Jordan Armstrong - Global TV

Jawn Jang - CKNW

Reporters wanted to interview someone re: plans for a renewed dog off-leash area in Coopers' Park.

Director of Park Planning and Development Dave Hutch to do interview tomorrow with CKNW, but was unable to meet today's deadline at Global TV.