

From: ["Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)
To: ["FRED MAH" <fredmah@shaw.ca>](mailto:fredmah@shaw.ca)
Date: 6/14/2021 4:21:28 PM
Subject: [North East False Creek Chinatown Community Working Group Position Paper](#)
Attachments: 2021-06-14 Response to NEFC Chinatown Community Working Group.pdf

Dear Mr Mah,

Attached please find a comprehensive set of responses to the positions/requests sent to us on behalf of the Northeast False Creek Chinatown Community Working Group on April 15, 2021.

My sincere apologies for the delay in getting this response to you. We very much appreciate the many hours of work you and your colleagues have invested in this, and appreciate how important this project is for Chinatown.

We trust our responses will be satisfactory, and look forward to continuing this discussion with you and your community as the NEFC work progresses.

All the best,

Karen Levitt

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish and səliwətaʔ/Tsleil-Waututh nations

From: FRED MAH <fredmah@shaw.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:59 PM
To: Levitt, Karen <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>; Francie Connel <francie.connel@vancouver.ca>; LaClaire, Lon <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>; Mulji, Karima <karima.mulji@vancouver.ca>; Rosa, Donnie <Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca>; Impey, Patrice <Patrice.Impey@vancouver.ca>; Singh, Sandra <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>; O'Donnell, Theresa <Theresa.O'Donnell@vancouver.ca>; McNaney, Kevin <kevin.mcnaney@vancouver.ca>; Kassam, Nick <Nick.Kassam@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Kennedy <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>; Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>; Bligh, Rebecca <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>; Boyle, Christine <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>; Carr, Adriane <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>; De Genova, Melissa <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>; Dominato, Lisa <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>; Hardwick, Colleen <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>; Kirby-Yung, Sarah <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>; Swanson, Jean <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>; Wiebe, Michael <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
Subject: [EXT] North East False Creek Chinatown Community Working Group Position Paper

Dear North East False Creek Steering Committee Members:

Attached are the following for your attention: 1) North East False Creek Chinatown Community Working Group Position Paper dated April 9, 2021, 2) A Chronology of

Chinatown Participation in the North East False Creek Planning Process dated April 15, 2021, 3) Chinese Benevolent Association Letter to Mayor and Council dated December 13, 2019

The North East False Creek (NEFC) Chinatown Community Working Group consists of 20 Chinatown community people working with COV staff on the NEFC plan. Our group consists of people from all walks of life. They include representatives from major organizations, property owners, residents, merchants, and individuals. We are all committed to the future of Chinatown.

North East False Creek planning will be a long drawn out process. Many of us have already been involved for more than 10 years. During this time we have seen COV general managers come and go. City Mayor and Councillors have changed. We developed our position paper to remind COV staff, managers and Council about Chinatown's consistent concerns and what has always been the conditions for Chinatown's support in the dismantling of the viaducts.

In the last 10 years we have met with COV staff numerous times (see chronology) and willingly contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time. To date we have seen little or no progress in meeting any of our conditions. Since many of the general managers are new to the job we will be requesting a meeting with them individually to express our concerns and to find ways to work together on NEFC issues.

Thank-you for your attention and co-operation.

Fred Mah, Convenor for NEFC Chinatown Community Working Group

June 14, 2021

Members of the NEFC Chinatown Community Working Group
Attention: Fred Mah, Convenor

Dear Mr. Mah and members of the Working Group.

**Re: North East False Creek Chinatown Community Working Group Position Paper
and associated documents**

Thank you for your email with the attached position paper and documents, dated April 15th, 2021 addressed to Mayor and Council, City Manager, General Managers and staff. The General Managers and staff are very appreciative of the time and effort the working group members have devoted to the work of preparing the comprehensive position paper and chronology of events document. Your clarity about your perspectives will help our future discussions as we seek to develop a better understanding on the way forward, and to assist with implementation of the NEFC Plan.

Below we provide responses to the positions you've expressed (copied below in bold). In our responses, we've indicated which of your positions are already contained in the NEFC Plan and can be achieved, which need further clarification, which will be difficult to achieve, and, those where different ideas or options could be considered through further dialogue.

1. Restoration of urban fabric

In acknowledgement of the loss that Chinatown suffered and in compliance with the NEFC Plan's commitment to redress and reconciliation, appropriate City policy must:

- a. **Reconnect the viaduct lands, bounded by Quebec, Union, Gore and Prior, with Chinatown: On Main Street, for instance, new development should reflect the original commercial development; small 25' to 50' retail frontages of varied heights producing the saw tooth building pattern which is still retained in present-day Chinatown.**

City Response: Yes. This development and urban design concept is included in the policies of the NEFC Plan and will be reflected in the future built form, particularly along Main Street. As development plans for the area begin, staff would like to have the

opportunity to take the Working Group through these provisions and future conceptual images.

- b. Designate the land as HA-1A: The Historic Area Zoning provides guidance on both urban design and land use that will help ensure that future development on the viaduct lands is compatible with present-day Chinatown.**

City Response: The Plan policies require that future development is compatible with the adjacent neighbourhoods, and meet the cultural, programmatic and housing needs of the area. Further discussion is recommended to consider the opportunities offered by different zoning options to confirm that HA-1A best achieves the Chinatown community's desired outcomes, or whether alternative approaches better address the community's needs.

- c. Continue to recognize the blocks' historic inclusion in Chinatown: Replace the "Welcome to Chinatown" signage on the Georgia Viaduct overpass with a new gateway at Main and Prior and create a similar sign at the new intersection of Quebec and the proposed Expo [Pacific] Boulevard. These two gateways could be real or symbolic. They need to commemorate the history of the viaducts, the expropriation of the viaduct lands and the reconstruction of Chinatown south. Signage should be in Chinese and English.**

City Response: Yes. This proposal is contained in the Plan at a conceptual level. Staff recommend there be further discussions with the working group and the community about the details of the proposed gateways, and how the history and all those affected can be commemorated appropriately.

- d. Recognize the history of the dislocation of property and business owners and tenants in the viaduct lands: Complete the research currently under way to identify and memorialize those affected by the construction of the viaducts in a way that acknowledges all dislocated populations and places of cultural significance.**

City Response: Yes, the research project is important and supported. The Working Group will be aware that commitments have also been made to the Black and Africa diaspora communities in the NEFC Plan, and we would encourage dialogues between these communities, as well as with the Indigenous and other communities with histories in the area. More discussion is needed to explore appropriate arrangements to identify and memorialize all those affected by past planning decisions.

- e. **Include market and non-market housing for Chinese seniors in the redevelopment: The viaduct expropriations destroyed many rooming houses and multigenerational “single” family homes that housed Chinese seniors and their families.**

City Response: Yes. This is a policy in the NEFC Plan with the intention that Chinese Seniors and other seniors could be welcome and included in planning for housing in this area.

2. Traffic and connectivity

The transportation plan must address how connectivity will be optimized through considering how to:

- a. **Keep Carrall Street as an important entry into Chinatown and its cultural hub anchored by the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens and the Chinese Cultural Centre.**

City Response: Staff would welcome further opportunity to have an in-depth discussion about options that reinforce Carrall Street’s role as an important entry into Chinatown. The design of the Carrall Street entry is entwined with the NEFC parks design and the new Pacific Boulevard design. This requires further discussion and needs to be linked to park design.

- b. **Allow for entry into Chinatown from the new Expo Boulevard to Quebec Street, Main Street and Gore Avenue.**

City Response: Yes. The NEFC Plan allows for entry to Chinatown from the new Pacific (Expo) Boulevard route at Quebec Street, Main Street and Gore Avenue.

- c. **Allow for future improvements to Gore Avenue, Union Street and Georgia Street.**

City Response: There are anticipated improvements to Gore Avenue and Union Street through the construction of the new NEFC street network and the new intersections required for St. Paul’s Hospital. Staff agree that Georgia Street has the potential to be a strong connection from Chinatown into the park, however, it is not currently part of the plan. The future improvements referred to by the Working Group need discussion and clarification in order to better assess feasibility.

- d. **Allow for future transit connections such as streetcars from the St Paul’s precinct and Terminal Avenue Skytrain Station through Chinatown to Downtown.**

City Response: Yes. This concept is supported and will be recommended as part of the forthcoming Translink Transportation Plan.

3. Park Design

The Park design must consider that:

- a. The Quebec Street and Keefer Street aspects of the park need to celebrate and connect to the Chinatown cultural assets in the area, the adjacent Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park and Garden, Chinese Cultural Centre, Chinese Canadian Military Museum and Chinatown Memorial Square.**

City Response: Yes, this is supported and understood. Staff look forward to further discussion on these proposals.

- b. Enough space and park furniture needs to be dedicated to a local Chinatown park to allow for a variety of large and small, programmed events and spontaneous local cultural outdoor activities.**

City Response: Yes. Draft concepts have been prepared to discuss further with the Working Group, showing areas that can host a variety of large and small events and everyday cultural activities. Clarification is required through further discussion about the design of Andy Livingstone Park to address the community's needs.

- c. Pavilions need to be constructed to support these events. Utility hook ups be provided for events such as night market, farmers market, New Year Parade performances and other cultural events. These structures should be accessible, durable and easily maintained so that they can be used every day for programmed and unscheduled activities.**

City Response: Yes. Utility hook-ups can be included in the future detailed design for Andy Livingstone and Creekside Parks. Draft concepts include a park pavilion that will have outdoor covered spaces, public washrooms, storage and a park ranger station. Staff look forward to further discussion with the Working Group.

- d. Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to and from Chinatown needs to be enhanced. Structures such as pedestrian overpasses should not be built. Wayfinding and lighting must be designed to enhance connectivity.**

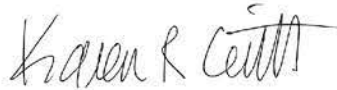
City Response: Yes. Wayfinding and lighting will be included. The pedestrian overpass needs clarification and further discussion with the Working Group.

e. Andy Livingston Park needs to be re-named to be more sensitive to this local park's context.

City Response: Yes. This can be proposed through the park naming process, involving community consultation, for consideration by the Park Board.

Thank you again for your detailed position paper and the documented clarity on your priorities and interests. We look forward to an opportunity to resume discussions with the Working Group on the position paper and responses. If acceptable, staff will contact you to make arrangements for the next meeting.

Sincerely,



Karen Levitt
Deputy City Manager

cc:

Mayor and all members of and Council
Paul Mochrie, City Manger
Francie Connell, Director, Legal Services
Patrice Impey, GM, Finance, Risk & Supply Chain Management
Nick Kassam, GM, Real Estate and Facilities Management
Lon LaClaire, Engineering Services
Theresa O'Donnell, GM, Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability
Donnie Rosa, GM, Board of Parks and Recreation
Sandra Singh, GM, Arts, Culture and Community Services

Grace Cheng, Director, Long-term Financial Strategy & Planning
Susan Haid, Deputy Director, PDS, Long Range and Strategic Planning
Neil Hrushowy, Assistant Director, Community Planning
Dave Hutch, Director, Planning and Park Development
Kevin McNaney, Project Director, PDS, NEFC Project Team
Karima Mulji, Director, Engineering Projects & Development Services
Ben Pollard, Associate Director, Business Planning and Project Support
Paul Storer, Director of Transportation, Engineering Services
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy & Projects Division