

April 17, 2009

Mayor and Council  
City of Victoria

**Beagle Pub located in the Cook Street Village**

Under current city regulations there is no requirement for anyone seeking a variance to contact or meet with the local neighbourhood land use committee. The only people they are required to contact are the immediate adjoining neighbours. With that said, the proponent for the Beagle Pub located in the Cook Street Village did arrange to meet with the Fairfield Gonzales Planning and Zoning Committee to discuss their request for a variance. As the chair of the committee I was contacted by phone on several occasions prior to the subsequent meeting for advice on how they should proceed. I have to say that the proponent was very open from the beginning that the granting of the parking variance was the only way in which they could increase the number of patrons they are legally permitted to have in the Beagle Pub at one time. He disclosed the current allowable and how much they would like to increase that number by. I was told if granted the variance that the current seating, which has been in place for several years would accommodate the increase numbers without the need for any additional seating or physicals changes to the premises.

My advice to the proponent was to be as open and transparent to the neighbours as possible. To make the increase in capacity the number one topic and the parking variance just the means to achieve that and whatever steps they take to consult the neighbours to do it more than once. It was suggested that they try and get the city to do a mail out to all neighbours within a 100 meters and that the association would be happy to host and facilitate said meeting.

The proponent did meet with our committee and with great detail and openness explained the history of the pub and the current situation, which brought him before the Planning and Zoning Committee. It was the consensus of the committee members that the people whose opinions on this topic counted the most, were the ones who will be directly impacted by the outcome and any comment either for or against from committee members would dilute the importance of the response from neighbours. The committee reiterated the importance of the proponent going out of his way to inform as many neighbours as possible by whatever means they have available. To be clear to the neighbours that it is the desire of the Beagle Pub to increase the number of patrons they are legally permitted to have in the pub at one time and that this could be achieved if the city would approve a reduction the number of parking space they currently require.

As always, we want people to be knowledgeable enough to response to the proposal rather than distort the issue and so just react negatively to the process. I hope this clarifies the Fairfield Gonzales Planning and Zoning Committee's knowledge and position on the issue.

We would like to take this time to ask council to consider putting a mechanism in place that would permit the city's planning department to do neighbourhood meeting mail out for a variances application, should the parties involved deem it would be in everybody's best interest to do so. As in this case, it may be hard for the proponent to verify the extent and content of the public consultation that has taken place.

Wayne Hollohan  
Chair, Fairfield Gonzales  
Planning and Zoning Committee