

# **Part A: City of Victoria Council Highlights** **– July 12, 2018**

*Council Highlights* provide a snapshot of the progress made on City programs, initiatives and on Council decision-making. For more information on each initiative, please visit the accompanying link where noted. We welcome anyone who would like to receive *Council Highlights* to email us at [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca).

## **PUBLIC HEARING: 3025 Douglas Street - Rezoning and Development Variance Permits and Associated Official Community Plan Amendments Applications**

Council approved applications to amend the Official Community Plan and rezone the land to allow for the conversion of the Douglas Street Motel at 3025 Douglas Street into 48 market rental units, while retaining the existing commercial storage space on the lower level. [View the development tracker for more information.](#)

## **PUBLIC HEARING: 3103 Washington Avenue – Rezoning Application**

Council approval of a rezoning application to construct four single family dwellings on an existing lot at 3103 Washington Avenue is pending the registration of a covenant to include in the landscape plans a fence and a hedge along the adjacent property, which are to be submitted to the City's Director of Planning for approval. [Learn more.](#)

## **PUBLIC HEARING: 224 Superior Street – Rezoning Permit and Heritage Alteration Permit with Variances Applications**

Council declined the rezoning application to convert the existing Bed and Breakfast at 224 Superior Street into four residential units, and to subdivide the property to create a new small lot to build a single family dwelling. [Learn more.](#)

## **502 Discovery Street - Rezoning/Heritage Alteration Permit and Designation Applications**

The applications for rezoning, heritage alteration and heritage designation for 502 Discovery Street will move forward and a public hearing date will be set. The applications are to allow the construction of additional floor area for office use in an existing building; use of the upper storey attic of the existing building for office space; the addition of a breezeway and a number of skylights; minor alterations to two entrances; and to designate the exterior of the building as heritage. [Learn more.](#)

## **727 Yates Street - Heritage Alteration Permit with Variances Application**

The application for a heritage alteration permit with variances for 727 Yates Street will move forward and a public hearing date will be set. The application is to allow for the conversion of an existing vacant heritage-designated commercial building to a mixed-use building with a two-and-a-half storey addition for residential rental suites and ground-floor retail use. [Learn more.](#)

## **Development Permits to be Issued for 1351 Vining and 1245 Oxford Streets**

Two development permit applications were presented to Council due to their technical requirements. Council approved the development permit applications to convert an existing studio into a garden suite at 1351 Vining Street, and to allow the construction of

a garden suite in the rear yard of 1245 Oxford Street. Changes in 2017 to the City's rezoning and rules for garden suites have resulted in 22 approved applications with another 17 in process since then, compared to a total of 18 approved garden suite applications over the 12 years prior. The change in process gave staff the authority to review and approve garden suite applications. [View the discussion here.](#)

### **Special Joint Committee of the Whole Meeting with the District of Saanich**

Council approved the following motion:

1. That Saanich and Victoria both place the following question on the October 20, 2018 municipal election ballot: *"Are you in favour of spending up to \$250,000 for establishing a Citizen's Assembly to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria?"*
2. Co-develop and disseminate educational information in advance of the election as an inclusive election expense.
3. Direct the Mayors to write to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing informing the Honorable Selena Robinson of the intention to pose a ballot question, sharing the wording of the question.

Preliminary estimates note that the process could cost up to \$750,000 and take two fiscal years to complete. Provincial government funding of up to \$60,000 may be available to each municipality per year towards the study, which could cover close to one-third of the estimated cost. [View the update report.](#)

### **Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan 2017/2018 Progress Report**

The first annual progress report was presented to Council on what has been completed and is currently underway towards implementing priority actions outlined in the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, the Urban Forest Master Plan, and the Growing in the City initiative. These documents provide focus to City staff when planning and managing parks. Of the 55 actions in the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, work has commenced on 40% of these actions within the first year of implementation. Of the 26 recommendations in the Urban Forest Master Plan, work is underway on eight. City staff are meeting with the Accessibility Working Group and Urban Food Table group to balance allergen accessibility considerations with pollinator habitat requirements as part of the Growing in the City initiative. Council directed staff to work with the Urban Food Table on identifying and tracking additional targets related to urban agriculture and food systems. To learn more, view the [report](#) and the [Parks and Open Spaces 2017/2018 Annual Report](#).

### **New Enclosed Topaz Dog Park or Another Park to be Named "PSD Chase Dog Park"**

As part of the new plan for Topaz Park, a new enclosed dog park will be added. Council approved a motion to name the dog park or another dog park the "PSD Chase Dog Park" in memory of the valuable service of PSD Chase, VicPD's four-year-old German Sheherd police service dog who died in the line of duty in September 1994. Council will

invite comment from the Hillside Quadra neighbourhood action committee on this concept. An interpretive plaque will be installed. [View the report.](#)

### **Supporting the Creation of More Childcare Spaces in Victoria West**

City Council approved the motion for staff to collaborate with the Victoria West Community Association to explore upgrades and City approval processes needed to increase the number of childcare spaces at the Victoria West Community Centre. [View the Council motion.](#)

## **City of Victoria Council Highlights** **– July 27, 2018**

### **PUBLIC HEARING: Rezoning Application and Development Permit Application for 2813-2887 Quadra Street, 2814-2890 Fifth Street, and 2780/82 Fifth Street**

Council approved an application for 34 new residential units to be located within three new buildings on the existing parking lot and adjacent lot. [Learn more.](#)

### **PUBLIC HEARING: Rezoning Application and Development Permit with Variances for 308 Menzies Street**

Council approved an application to permit retail and office uses in conjunction with a gas station. [Learn more.](#)

### **PUBLIC HEARING: Zoning Bylaw 2018 and Administrative Amendment to Zoning Regulation Bylaw**

Council approved the Zoning Bylaw 2018 which divides the City into zones and allows for the regulation and control of the use of land and buildings within those zones. Council also approved an amendment that identifies that the Zoning Regulation Bylaw does not apply within the parts of the City (downtown area) that are subject to the new Zoning Bylaw 2018. [Learn more.](#)

### **PUBLIC HEARING: Schedule C - Off Street Parking Regulations and Delegation of Minor Parking Variances**

Council approved a bylaw which includes new off-street parking regulations. [Learn more.](#)

### **Official Community Plan 5-Year Review**

A report providing information and recommendations regarding the results of the Official Community Plan (OCP) Annual Reviews for 2017 and 2016 was presented to Council. This is the fifth annual snapshot of progress towards achieving the OCP since its adoption in 2012. A 5-Year Review focused on growth and change in Victoria's population, housing, and employment, was included in this report to inform OCP monitoring, as well as, considerations for future City policies and priorities. [Learn more.](#)

### **Climate Leadership Plan and Climate Action Program Update**

The City's Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) was adopted by Council. The CLP is the City's action plan to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050 and transition to 100 percent renewable energy by mid-century. As next steps, the Climate Leadership Plan will be published and collaboration with community stakeholders will continue. [Learn more.](#)

### **Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project Update and Parking at Crystal Pool**

A Project Update was presented to Council, including the schedule, scope, budget and risk management details. Council directed staff to examine alternatives for providing parking for pool users, ensuring no net loss of park space. [Learn more.](#)

### **Overnight Sheltering and Supports Program**

Council was presented with an update on the cost projections for the Overnight Sheltering and Supports program. Additional funding of \$100,000 was approved for the support and clean-up associated with overnight sheltering in City parks. [Learn more.](#)

### **Sheltering Prohibition in Reeson Park and Quadra Park**

Council approved the following motions:

- a) To amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw to prohibit overnight sheltering in Reeson Park and Quadra Park

First readings of the amended bylaw are proposed for August 2 Council Meeting.

- b) To work with BC Housing to ensure that in the summer of 2019 there is no net loss of sheltering spaces even while the cold weather beds may need to close because of programming considerations of shelter operators. [Learn more.](#)

### **Accessibility at City Hall**

A motion was approved to direct staff to report back at the next quarterly update on the implications of taking steps to create an accessible meeting space at City Hall. [Learn more.](#)

### **Late Night Recommendations**

Council approved the following motions:

- a. That the Mayor write to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch to require Food Primary licensees who consistently serve significantly more alcohol than food to obtain a Liquor Primary or split liquor licence.
- b. That the Mayor write to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch requesting an increase in the number of liquor inspectors serving the Greater Victoria area.
- c. That Mayor and Council direct staff to report back at the next quarterly update on the resource implications to assess the opportunity for developing a municipal alcohol policy with the support of a BC Healthy Communities grant.
- d. That the City give consideration to a new sidewalk washroom in the 900 block of Douglas Street area in the 2019 budget.
- e. That the Mayor write a letter to the BC Transit Commission to support the request for extended late night service.
- f. That the Mailout Notice be forwarded to the Late Night Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations on wording to ensure that those most affected have the opportunity to express whether or not there are any concerns with the application.

[Learn more.](#)

### **Adoption of Canadian Code of Advertising Standards**

Council approved a motion to explore the implications of adopting the Canadian Code of Advertising for advertisements posted on City of Victoria infrastructure, including parking pay stations and bus shelters. [Learn more.](#)

### **Urban Food Table**

A motion was approved regarding funding and a revised Terms of Reference for the Urban Food Table. To effectively harness the continued and enhanced expertise of the Urban Food Table to advance the City's food security objectives, Council will refer a budget request in the amount of \$6,000 per year (2019-2021) to the 2019 budget process. [Learn more.](#)

### **Living Wage for Families**

A motion supporting a living wage policy, including a "Living Wage for Families" campaign was approved. [Learn more.](#)

### **Rezoning and DPV Application for 224 Superior Street**

Council passed a motion to reconsider the Rezoning and DPV Application for 224 Superior Street. A report will come back to Committee of the Whole. [Learn more.](#)

## **City of Victoria Council Highlights – September 6, 2018**

### **PUBLIC HEARING: 672 Niagara Street – Rezoning and Development Permit with Variances Application (James Bay)**

Council approved the development permit with variances for additions to an existing building to create four residential units. Final approval of the bylaw will be granted once confirmation of a statutory right-of-way over the Niagara Street frontage has been registered on the relevant property titles. [Learn more here.](#)

### **PUBLIC HEARING: 483/485 Garbally Road and 2960/2962 Bridge Street – Rezoning Application (Burnside)**

Council approved a rezoning application to allow for a tasting room and liquor retail sales area in a brewery. [Learn more here.](#)

### **PUBLIC HEARING: 1418 Lang Street – Rezoning and Development Permit with Variances and Development Variance Permit (Oaklands)**

Council approved the application to subdivide an existing lot to two small lots and construct a new single family residential home. [Learn more here.](#)

### **PUBLIC HEARING: 502 Discovery Street – Rezoning and Heritage Alteration Permit Application and Heritage Designation Application (Burnside)**

Council approved a heritage alteration permit and a rezoning to allow for an increase in floor area to the second storey for office use. Council also approved heritage designation for the building. [Learn more here.](#)

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: 727 Yates Street – Heritage Alteration Permit with Variances (Downtown)**

Council approved a heritage alteration permit to allow the vacant heritage-designated commercial building into a mixed-use building with a two-and-a-half story addition for residential rental suites and ground floor retail. Council also approved a variance to allow for a reduction of parking from 8 stalls to 0 and a reduced setback. [Learn more here.](#)

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: 727 and 733 Courtney Street – Development Permit with Variance Application (Downtown)**

Council approved a development permit with variances to construct a two-storey office building for vehicle rentals. [Learn more here.](#)

### **515 Chatham Street – Development Permit with Variance Application (Downtown)**

The application for a development permit with variance to construct a five storey mixed-use development with 88 residential units and ground floor commercial will move forward to an opportunity for public comment. [Learn more here.](#)

### **City of Victoria Second Quarter Update**

Council received a quarterly update and progress report from the City Manager regarding the City of Victoria activities and accomplishments contained in the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. Council also received a quarterly update from Victoria Police Department. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Vehicle Back-Up Beepers Downtown**

As part of the 2019 budget process, Council will consider allocating resources for staff to explore what other cities are doing to replace municipal fleet back up beepers with new technologies to reduce noise concerns. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Accessibility Working Group Recommendations**

Staff will bring forward a report as part of the 2019 budget process that will outline the financial implications of the recommendations from the Accessibility Working Group that are not already underway as part of the city's current and future work plans [Learn more here.](#) The City is currently completing an Accessibility Framework to guide governance and implementation of accessibility initiatives.

### **Consumption sites for Cannabis Use**

Council directed staff, as part of their 2019 work plan, to investigate regulations in other jurisdiction governing consumption sites for cannabis use and report back to Council on the advisability of initiating a pilot program or introducing regulations for consumption sites for cannabis use. [Learn more here.](#)

### **210 Gorge Road – Development Permit with Variances and Rezoning Application (Burnside)**

The application for the construction of a six storey rental and supportive housing building will move forward to an opportunity for public comment. [Learn more here.](#)

### **953 Balmoral Road – Rezoning Application and Development Permit with Variance (North Park)**

The application for the construction of an 11 unit rental building will move forward to an opportunity for public comment. [Learn more here.](#)

### **505, 517, 519/521 Quadra Street and 931 Convent Place – Rezoning and Development Permit Application (Fairfield)**

The application to build a six-storey rental apartment building and adjoining rental townhouses will move forward to an opportunity for public comment. [Learn more here.](#)

### **457 and 459 Kipling Street – Rezoning Application (Fairfield)**

The application for a rezoning to permit an existing non-conforming duplex will move forward to an opportunity for public comment. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project – Initial Parking Alternatives Review**

Earlier this year, Council committed to a no net loss of park space in Central Park and directed staff to explore alternatives for parking associated with the new recreation centre. Council approved funding to support further investigations for underground parking in Central Park and/or modular parking on the Save-on-Foods Memorial Area parking lot. In addition, staff will also consult with stakeholders and residents from the North Park neighbourhood on the neighbourhood street parking options associated with a distributed parking approach. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Proposed Inclusionary Housing and Density Bonus Policy**

Council approved an amended draft policy to encourage affordable rental housing in new strata housing development projects where bonus density is requested. Staff will conduct further consultation with stakeholders to inform further revisions to the policy. New affordable housing targets and levels of affordability based on most recent available information will be updated in the Victoria Housing Strategy. The draft policy will take effect no later than March 31, 2019. Staff will report back to Council within 12 months following adoption of the policy with information on impacts to new development, benefits the community has received, and recommendations for revisions to the policy. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Adoption of Bylaws:**

#### **Bylaw for Development Cost Charges**

Council adopted an amendment to the Development Cost Charges bylaw and directed staff to amend the 2018 Financial Plan, adding \$3 million for the Songhees Park expansion, adjacent to the Johnson Street Bridge, with funding from the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund and Development Cost Charges. [Learn more here.](#)

#### **Bylaw for Land Use Procedures**

Council adopted an amendment to the Land Use Procedures bylaw. [Learn more here.](#)

## **Part B: Items of interest**

### **Fall Applications Open for *My Great Neighbourhood Grants***

Have a great idea for a project or activity that would bring neighbours together and help create an inviting, vibrant place for people to connect? Submit a *My Great Neighbourhood Grant* application **before October 15**.

This fall \$63,000 of funding is available. *My Great Neighbourhood Grants* were developed to support strong, connected neighbourhoods through funding for projects and activities that would empower them to shape their local area.

The City provides up to \$5,000 for placemaking projects and up to \$1,000 for activities, matching equivalent contributions (including volunteer time and in-kind donations) from applicants.

Projects that have recently been funded include road murals, a children's garden and playspace, furniture for a community garden, emergency supply benches, pollinator gardens and historical plaques.

Since 2016, \$265,981 in *My Great Neighbourhood Grant* funding has been distributed to 79 community-based projects.

For more information and to apply, visit: [www.victoria.ca/neighbourhoodgrants](http://www.victoria.ca/neighbourhoodgrants)

#### **For More Information:**

Bill Eisenhauer  
Head of Engagement  
City of Victoria  
250.361.0210

#### **Backgrounder**

*Here is a list of the 2017 My Great Neighbourhood Grant Recipients for Placemaking:*

- Yate Street Community Garden – planters and furnishings
- Collinson Street Road Mural – for traffic calming
- Building Resilient Neighbourhoods – benches that hold emergency supplies
- Pocket Places – new benches and flowers for Little Libraries
- Butterfly Project – pollinator garden features in the Fernwood community garden
- Wark Street Commons revitalization– signage to encourage citizens to harvest from the commons
- Fisherman's Wharf Mural – a youth mural project



- Interactive Light Bloom Display – sculpture created out of decommissioned street lights
- Michigan Street Gathering Place – new seating and garden space
- Little Gardeners Playspace – new garden and play area at the James Bay Community Project
- Lewis Street Historical Plaques – describing when the houses were built and for whom
- Community mural – mural on a WIN store, developed by City Artist in Residence Luke Ramsay
- Zucchini Car Races – built a race track for annual zucchini races

The following project coordinators are available for interview. Project photos are available upon request.

- **Yates Street Community Garden – Downtown / Harris Green**
  - **Project:** This second phase included furnishings for a meeting area in the garden.
  - **Grant:** \$4,400
  - **Contact:** Janet Stauss, 250.294.2648
- **Collinson Street Road Mural – Fairfield Gonzales**
  - **Project:** A road mural designed to encourage drivers to slow down.
  - **Grant:** \$2,765
  - **Contact:** Michelle Mulder, 250.386.0468
- **Little Gardeners Playspace – James Bay**
  - **Project:** A children’s garden and playspace at the James Bay Community Project.
  - **Grant:** \$5,000
  - **Contact:** Nancy Smith, 250.388.7844

## City awarded \$1 Million Accessibility Grant for Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project

The City of Victoria has been awarded \$1 Million from the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities towards the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project.

As part of Jumpstart’s Play Finds A Way movement, a \$50-million fundraising commitment to removing accessibility barriers to sport and play, Jumpstart Accessibility Grants support capital costs of construction and renovations to improve physical accessibility to and inclusivity in recreation facilities. Eligible organizations include municipalities and public recreation centres and facilities, schools and community organizations with publically accessible facilities, and public recreation spaces owned and operated by private foundations.

“This is wonderful news as we are building the new facility to be truly inclusive and to increase access to recreation and wellness activities for residents of all abilities,” said Mayor Lisa Helps.

City Council approved \$69.4 million for the new facility, towards which the City has committed \$10 million. The project has also received \$6 million from the Federal Gas Tax Fund through the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

“This investment from Jumpstart will be applied to features such as lifts for pool tanks, fully accessible change areas, as well as adaptive sport and fitness equipment,” said Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

The new inclusive facility is projected to result in a 35 percent increase in visitation.

## Nomination Period Now Open for Candidates in 2018 Municipal Election

The nomination period for candidates wishing to run in the 2018 Municipal Election opened today at 9 a.m. and will close at 4 p.m. on Friday, September 14.

Prospective candidates can pick up a nomination package in person at the Legislative Services Office in City Hall, 1 Centennial Square or online at [www.victoria.ca/election](http://www.victoria.ca/election). Completed nomination packages can be filed at City Hall during the nomination period. Only eligible candidates who have filed their papers by the close of nomination will be included on the ballot.

General Voting Day will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All municipalities in BC will be holding municipal elections on the same day. Voters in Victoria will vote to elect:

- 1 Mayor
- 8 Councillors
- 9 School Trustees (School District 61)

A non-binding question will also appear on the ballot in Victoria with the question “Are you in favour of spending up to \$250,000 for establishing a Citizen's Assembly to explore the costs, benefits, and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria?”

The City has produced a *Candidate Information Guide* full of information for prospective candidates, which is available at [www.victoria.ca/election](http://www.victoria.ca/election).

## JSB Pedestrian-Only Walkway Open to the Public

The south side pedestrian-only walkway and bascule pier observation deck on the new Johnson Street Bridge are open for public use. In addition to the new walkway, the interim public plaza spaces and sidewalk connections on the east and west sides of the bridge will also open to the public.

The new bascule pier observation deck is a unique amenity of the new Johnson Street Bridge design. The platform allows pedestrians to walk under the bridge deck and view the internal machinery that raises and lowers the structure. This location also provides unique views of the upper and inner harbours. The new pedestrian walkway creates a new connection between Victoria West and downtown that will allow pedestrians quick and convenient access when travelling south to the Legislative District and James Bay.

This pathway is for pedestrians and those on wheelchairs or mobility devices and not open for cyclists, who are able to cross the water via the main vehicle deck and the multi-use pathway on the north side of the bridge. Cyclists wanting to access the bascule pier observation deck must dismount when on the pathway or park their bicycle on either end and walk in.

The plazas connecting the downtown and Victoria West to the JSB will continue to be enhanced in the coming months, and into 2020. The southeast plaza creates a new downtown space for people to enjoy views of the harbour. This plaza will be developed to connect Reeson Park to the JSB underpass, linking the David Foster Harbour Pathway north and south of the bridge. The new plaza on the southwest side of the bridge is another space for the public to enjoy views of downtown Victoria and connects the bridge to Victoria West, via the West Song Walkway and Harbour Road, and will form part of the future waterfront park.

For the latest information on the project or to view the webcam, visit [www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com](http://www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com)