



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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To: City of Victoria Mayor and Council
Cc: Jonathan Tinney, and Jocelyn Jenkins

From: FGCA Board

Date: January 12, 2018

RE: Local Area Plan: Fairfield

At the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) Board meeting on Monday January 8th, 2017 a motion was passed. This motion recommends strongly that the deadline for the Draft Local Area Plan (LAP): Fairfield be extended by three months to allow for meaningful community input.

Factors that led to the acceptance of the motion are:

- The short time span between the first Draft Plan open house in September, 2017 and the last one in late November which solicited input prior to the January 15th, 2018 meeting at the FGCA centre.
- a) The holiday season between late November and early in the New Year did not allow full consideration of the Draft plan by the widest community; b) the holiday closure of the FGCA centre for approximately two weeks meant no community access and limited business by the Board and its Committees.
- Personnel changes in the City Planning Department resulted in a time lag for presentation and consultation during the LAP planning process.
- Working groups may have been hampered by lengthy absences of members.
- Low numbers of Survey results seem to demonstrate a poor understanding of the engagement process and a lack of the full extent of proposed significant changes to the Local Area(s) within the community.
- Neighbourhood groups have questioned the lack of clarity and transparency of intended impacts of suggested changes—which were not apparent until the late November open house. This is particularly the case to sub areas 2, 3 and 4.

The extension would allow the City Planning Department to engage fully with the Fairfield communities and provide clarity and a greater understanding of the proposed changes to the LAP and any and all benefits that would accrue as a result of the changes proposed. This could be accomplished through working with the Board and its Committees to hold more and smaller meetings in areas specific to sub areas 2, 3 and 4. This would be beneficial.

Sincerely,

Don Monsour, President



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