

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007, 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Lowe in the Chair, Councillors Coleman, Fortin, Holland, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young.

On Leave: Councillor Chandler.

Absent: Councillor Hughes.

Staff Present: P. Ballantyne – City Manager; M. McCliggott – Assistant City Manager; R. Woodland - Corporate Administrator; C. Havelka - Recording Secretary.

Staff Present for a Portion of the Meeting: D. Day – Director of Planning & Development; P. Sparanese – Director of Engineering; D. Angrove – Fire Chief; T. Scott – Director of Human Resources; T. Galavan – Manager, Transportation; K. Josephson – Manager, Corporate Communications; J. Jenkyns – Acting General Manager, Conference Centre; K. Silvester – Acting Superintendent of Parks; M. Lam – Head, Urban Design; A. Hudson – Senior Planner; B. Sikstrom – Senior Planner; L. Baryluk – Planner; G. Price-Douglas – Community Development Planner; S. Stern – Land Development Technologist; T. Phillips – Revenue Manager; D. Peters – Office Coordinator, Parks.

1. 2008 BUDGET WORKSHOP – COMMITTEE ROOM # 1 – CONVENED AT 8:08 A.M.

1.1 2008 Budget Workshop

The City Manager outlined for Committee the challenges and opportunities related to the 2008 Budget and the preliminary guidance staff needs to proceed. The focus is on fiscal sustainability and the Director of Finance outlined for Committee the issues impacting the 2008 Budget.

Operating Budget Issues:

- Operating Expenditures continue to grow faster than inflation (i.e. Salaries, Materials etc.)
- Staffing levels have been increasing.
- Greater emphasis is being put on Social and Environmental Issues (i.e. Climate Change, Housing Initiatives etc.) – **Not in Budget**
- Surplus Parking Revenue being used to subsidize budgets rather than being put into parking initiatives.
- Forecast Property Tax Increases exceed inflation and are not acceptable to

- Council.
- Sewage treatment will have a huge impact on Property Taxes over the next few years.
 - We have little or no control on some of the major contributors to Property Tax Increases (i.e. Police, Library, Salary Increases etc.).

Capital Budget Issues:

- **Capital Expenditure Requirements Exceed Funding Available.**
- Many of Council's Capital Priorities are not included in the Capital Plan (i.e. Centennial Square, City Recreation Centre, Belleville Terminal, Housing Initiatives etc.).
- Need to focus more on Long Term Capital Planning.
- Increased Construction Activity and a Shortage of Construction Trades is causing costs to increase dramatically.
- Supply Agreements are increasing beyond inflation.
- Increasing pressure to borrow for Capital Projects but little appetite to increase Property Taxes.
- Need to Develop Funding Strategies or be more realistic with our Expenditure Programs.

Opportunities:

- Staff demographics will provide opportunities to re-organize, downsize or change service levels without the need to layoff.
- We can review all Fees and increase where appropriate.
- We should be conducting Program and Service Delivery Reviews throughout 2007 and 2008 to determine program changes, appropriate service levels, and cost savings.
- Capital Budget Reality Check.

Council Direction:

- Council to recommend an acceptable 2008 Property Tax Increase for City Operations.
- City Manager and Finance Director to establish 2008 Budget Guidelines to meet Target Property Tax Increase.
- Council Mandate for Senior Management Team to pursue Program and Service Delivery Review.

Committee members discussed issues related to the following:

- Unfunded initiatives in the Strategic Plan.
- A review of City services for cost savings.
- Business licence increase, though province is looking at standard fee.
- The possibility of creating a new municipal utility.
- The tax ratio for commercial properties and policies to encourage commercial construction.
- A bonus density policy that could benefit the community.
- Working on supportive strategies with respect to homeless/street issues,

rather than incurring increasing reactive costs.

A Committee member requested policing costs with respect to dealing with homeless/street issues. Staff advised those figures are forthcoming.

A Committee member requested information with respect to capital cities receiving a grant in lieu of taxes.

The general consensus among Committee members was that a tax rate above 4% is not acceptable and directed that staff's preliminary 2008 budget planning target 3.5% to 4% as an acceptable level.

2. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONVENED AT 9:32 A.M. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair outlined the following changes to the September 6, 2007, Committee of the Whole agenda:

- Item # 2, BC Transit – hand-outs for Council
- Item # 3, Bowker Creek – change in person presenting
- Item # 4, 834 Johnson Street – additional correspondence
- Item # 15A, Speaking Event – new report.

Councillor Sharing or Inquiry:

1. Councillor Coleman – two inquiries.

Action: Councillor Coleman moved that the Agenda of the September 6, 2007 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED 07/480

Councillor Fortin requested that the TILMA briefing be open to the public. The Corporate Administrator advised he would advise Committee on its ability to discuss the matter in an open meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 August 23, 2007 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held August 23, 2007 be adopted.

CARRIED 07/479

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 BC Transit Proposed Douglas Street Centre Busway - Project Update

Committee received a presentation from Mike Davis, Manager of Planning and Scheduling with BC Transit regarding the Douglas Street Centre Busway Project Update, including the following:

- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) uses buses that provide high capacity and high-speed rail-like service.
- BRT offers rapid transit service with more flexibility and lower costs than rail transit.
- Across North America now 32 projects totalling about \$4.9 billion.
- Designated Stations Integrated with Land Use.
- Service can use “open” architecture rather than “closed” like rail.
- BRT is successful:
 - BRT ridership responses are similar to what happens when new rail systems are introduced rather than what happens with relatively simple changes in local bus service.
 - The identity, information and amenity advantages of BRT in addition to improvements in span of service, frequency, routing and travel times are important in attracting riders.

Mr. Davis handed out a summary of the public meetings and advised there will be more block by block consultations with businesses. They are working with traffic engineers and the Ministry of Transportation to review the addition of traffic signals and adding u-turns at intersections to compensate for the lack of left turn opportunities. Planning is on-going for three legs of rapid transit network.

Committee members requested information on the following:

- HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) using the busways as well. This is not currently being proposed.
- Blanshard Street considered as the corridor for this service. Using Blanshard would require removing two lanes of traffic and Douglas Street has an advantage with number of people and employees.
- Timelines for continuation of this initiative. Alignment approval is planned for the Fall 2007 with the next block by block meetings proposed for November 2007.

Mr. Davis informed Committee that a video simulation of traffic movement will be available.

5.2 C.R.D. Bowker Creek Initiative

Committee received a presentation from Tanis Douglas, Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) Coordinator regarding the 2006 achievements of the BCI as detailed in the BCI 2006 Annual Report that was distributed to Mayor and Council.

The BCI is a broad coalition of community, government, business and institutions working together to protect and enhance the overall health of the Bowker Creek watershed. The BCI was established following the completion of the Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan (BCWMP) and its adoption by the member municipalities of Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay, and the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 2003.

Councillor Holland withdrew from Council Chambers at 10:04 a.m.

Throughout 2006, the BCI worked to implement the recommendations and actions identified in the BCWMP. One of the key objectives was to increase watershed awareness and education, which includes reporting back to each of the partner municipalities on an annual basis.

Councillor Holland returned to Council Chambers at 10:07 a.m.

There are four goals for the BCWMP as follows:

1. Responsibility.
2. Manage flows effectively (flooding).
3. Improve and expand public and natural areas and biodiversity.
4. Achieve and maintain acceptable water quality in watershed.

The next steps are to finish the master drainage plan, secure funding and begin the integrated storm water management plan; site specific opportunities to restore the creek and ongoing outreach. A Committee member recommended a 50 to 200 year incident cycle review for flooding. Also requested was a discussion regarding the lands from St. Patrick's Schools to Richmond Elementary School to define what development should be along that corridor.

6. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

6.1 Rezoning Application # 00138 for 834 Johnson Street

Committee received a report dated September 6, 2007 from Development Services regarding an application for a 93-unit residential building in Harris Green at 834 Johnson Street. This would include live-work townhouses at ground level and underground parking for 71 spaces. The applicant proposes a maximum building height of 40.7 m and 14 storeys. The applicant's letters of August 22 and 27, 2007 detailing this proposal were attached to this report.

The proposed density lift is consistent with the *Harris Green Neighbourhood Plan* which does not prescribe density limitations. However, the form of the proposed density is evaluated based on the Plan, together with the *Harris Green Design Charette* document, as well as the guidelines set forth within Development Permit Area 8. A more thorough review of architectural detailing is intended to follow during a subsequent Development Permit application process; however, the general form, massing and proximities are generally consistent with the neighbourhood plan and the City's *Interim Design Guidelines*. With respect to height, the Plan envisions development potential up to 37 m. As the applicant proposes an increase in height to 40.8 m, it is recommended that height impacts be reviewed by the Advisory Design Panel. The applicant also proposes that the

residential units have the option of being utilized for transient accommodation. The introduction of this use is not consistent with the intent of the *Harris Green Neighbourhood Plan* which envisions a residential neighbourhood with limited commercial use that serves residents.

This application was considered by the Downtown Residents' Association (DRA) at their meeting of June 14, 2007. Comments are appended to this report.

The following inquiries from Committee members were responded to by staff and the applicant, Mr. Chard:

- Transient accommodation could include a hotel or a Bed and Breakfast but is not a primary residence.
- The mid-block walkway, which is under the jurisdiction of the adjacent property, is not registered on title.
- The ten year term for rental units was requested because long term decisions regarding rental units should be for the strata council to make. No term was stated in the recommendations to allow for flexibility.
- The Master Housing Agreement is protected under legislation; however Council has amended these agreements in the past.
- The requested density is for 5.76:1. Though this property is on the Downtown zone border, it does fall under Harris Green.

A Committee member expressed concerns with respect to the extra storey proposed for this development.

Action:

Councillor Holland moved that:

1. The request to include transient accommodation as a permitted use be declined.
2. That the application (without transient accommodation) be forwarded for consideration at a Public Hearing and that the City's Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary Zoning Bylaw amendment, based on the draft Zone outline in Section 4.a.1 subject to:
 - a) Review by the Advisory Design Panel with special attention to:
 - i. consistency with the urban design sections of the *Harris Green Neighbourhood Plan* and *Harris Green Charette* documents;
 - ii. impact of proposed height including shadow impacts;
 - iii. review of the proposed landscaping; and
 - iv. liveability of the residential units including proximity of windows to side yards and size of balconies to provide useable outdoor private space.
 - b) Preparation of a Housing Agreement to secure adaptable units and rental options.
3. Submission of sanitary sewer impact information to the satisfaction of the Director of Engineering prior to Public Hearing.

4. Submission of an Arborist's report assessing the feasibility of preserving the boulevard Hornbeam trees along Johnson Street to the satisfaction of the Parks Division.

CARRIED 07/478

6.2 Development Permit # 000088 for 1620 Blanshard Street

Committee received a report dated September 6, 2007 from Development Services with respect to Development Permit application # 000088 for 1620 Blanshard Street. This is for a 15-storey office building with ground level retail and restaurant uses. There is a concurrent Rezoning application in process as the proposal requires an increase in density and height. The applicant's letters detailing this proposal was attached to the report.

The applicant has refined the design resulting in a building that appears more slender and elegant with an animated main entrance that better integrates with the public realm. The revised design is generally consistent with the *Advisory Design Guidelines for Buildings, Signs and Awnings*, the City's *Interim Building Height Policy* and *Interim Design Guidelines*. The Advisory Design Panel recommended that the revised design be approved.

The applicant proposes public art in the form of a green wall as a feature of this development. It is a fundamental component of both the Rezoning application (as justification for the bonus density) and the Development Permit application (as it forms part of the exterior building design). The Public Art Project Advisory Committee considered the green wall and provided comments indicating that the green wall is not considered public art, although is a positive aspect of the design. However, the City's approved *Art in Public Places: Percent for Public Art Policy* defines public art to include landscape features so the proposed green wall could be considered art. Council has directed that a review of the public art policy be undertaken which has not been completed, so no further policy guidance can be provided to address these questions. While discussion of this issue is ongoing, the applicant continues to propose the green wall as a public art amenity and, in addition, has provided a list of environmental benefits. As Council has referred the Rezoning application to a Public Hearing, the debate surrounding whether the green wall is public art, an amenity in the form of a sustainable building feature or simply part of the architectural composition, would be most appropriately aired during the Public Hearing.

Staff advised that mid-block walkway commitments will be secured through the Master Development Agreement. There will be a status report coming to Committee of the Whole when all conditions have been met before scheduling a Public Hearing.

Action:

Councillor Holland moved:

1. That the proposed resolution noted below be considered at the same public meeting for which a Public Hearing is held for the Zoning Bylaw Amendment for 1620 Blanshard Street, and subject to Council's adoption of the Zoning Bylaw Amendment.

2. That Council authorize the issuance of a Development Permit in accordance with:
 - a) Plans stamped Development Permit 000088", dated July 17, 2007.
 - b) Development meeting all Zoning Bylaw requirements.
 - c) Final plans to be in accordance with the plans identified above to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Development.

CARRIED 07/477

Mayor Lowe voted against this motion

Councillor Fortin withdrew from the Council Chambers at 10:46 a.m. as he is the Executive Director of the Burnside Gorge Community Association and has a direct pecuniary interest with the following item.

6.3 Development Permit # 000099 for 373 Tyee Road (Phase R3, Stage 2) – Building 6B

Committee received a report dated August 23, 2007 from Development Services with respect to Development Permit # 000099 for 373 Tyee Road. This application is for a Development Permit with a height variance to construct Building SB, a fourteen-storey 117-unit residential building at 373 Tyee Road on the Dockside Green Lands. The site is within Development Area DA - A, directly south of Building 6C (Phase R3, Stage 1) that has been forwarded to Council for consideration.

This proposed Building 6B is the second instalment of the Phase R3 residential development and represents the continuous but staged implementation of the overall Dockside Green development. While the building towers 6B and 6C are individually placed, the underground parkades are linked structurally and functionally.

The proposal is consistent with the overall objectives of the *Design Guidelines for the Dockside Area* with two specific improvements that result in the changes from the non-mandatory guidance in the Design Guidelines document. The changes include taller building towers as a result of the reduction in their number within the overall development of Phase R3. These changes were proposed to provide more generous areas between buildings resulting in wider open spaces and views, and in response to the applicants consultations with the *Victoria West Community Association Land Use Committee*. The benefits of those improvements outweigh the impact of the additional height for Building 6B (57.20m) when compared to the lower suggested height of 38.28m identified in the Design Guideline diagram. While the proposal complies with zoning, the additional height requires a variance of 12.07m over the current maximum allowable height of 45.13m geodetic.

As this Development Permit application includes a height variance, there is a requirement for notification, sign posting, and a hearing.

Action:

Councillor Holland moved that Council authorise the issuance of a Development Permit in accordance with:

1. Plans stamped "Development Permit #000099" dated July 20, 2007.
2. Development meeting all bylaw requirements except:
Section 12.9.8.3 - Maximum height relaxed from 45.13m to 57.20m
3. Final plans to be in accordance with plans identified above to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning & Development.

CARRIED 07/476

Councillor Fortin returned to Council Chambers at 10:47 a.m.

6.4 Rezoning Application # 00142 for 2604 Blackwood Street

Committee received a report dated September 6, 2007 from Development Services with respect to Rezoning Application # 00142 for 2604 Blackwood Street. This is an application to rezone and subdivide the property located at 2604 Blackwood Street from the R-2 Zone, Two Family Dwelling District, to the R1-S2, Restricted Small Lot (Two Storey) District. This rezoning will facilitate the construction of a new small lot single family dwelling on the newly created lot. It is required that both lots will be placed in the R1-S2 zone due to the proposed parcel size.

The following points were considered in reviewing this application:

- The application is consistent with the *Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Plan* that gives consideration for small lot rezoning based on the established guidelines.
- The application is generally consistent with the *Small Lot Rezoning Policy*. The variances requested are supportable.
- The applicant has undertaken the neighbourhood petition indicating full support.
- A meeting was hosted by the *Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group* on July 9, 2007. The comments from that meeting are provided.
- The property has been subject to the *Clean Hands Policy* for an illegal suite construction. The applicant has complied with this Policy.
- The new small lot will be included in the Intensive Residential Development Permit Area 26, regulating the exterior design, finish and landscaping.

Action:

Councillor Holland moved that:

1. That Council forward the application for consideration at a Public Hearing and that the proposed resolution noted below be considered at the same meeting for which a Public Hearing is held for the Zoning Bylaw Amendment for 2604 Blackwood Street.
2. Subject to adoption of that Zoning Bylaw amendment, that Council authorizes the issuance of the Development Permit to allow construction in accordance with the plans date stamped August 14, 2007 and with the following relaxations to the Zoning Bylaw, Section 8, Part 1.23 for the new lot:

- a) Front yard setback reduced from 6.0 m to 3.5 m;
- b) Rear yard setback reduced from 6.0 m to 4.99 m; and the following relaxations for the existing house:
- c) Rear yard setback reduced from 6.0 m to 3.08 m;
- d) Side yard setback reduced from 2.4 m (habitable room) to 2.28 m.

CARRIED 07/475

6.5 Alston, Tye Bay Land Use Policy Review – Consultant’s Financial Analysis Report (Study Case # 3 – 04)

Committee received a report dated September 6, 2007 from Development Services with respect to Alston, Tye Bay Land Use Policy Review, Consultant’s Financial Analysis Report. The purpose of the study is to examine the economics of development under the proposed floor space ratios (FSR) to establish what level of densities may be required to create viable development.

The consultants work included the preparation of hypothetical development pro formas for three sites within the area. For each site, a number of scenarios were developed based on the densities and uses proposed. Based on these scenarios pro formas were prepared and analysed and, where possible, a “break-even” density determined.

The consultant’s major findings are as follows:

1. 800 Tye Road - The hypothetical pro formas indicate that the proposed FSR of 1.2:1 would not facilitate viable redevelopment for live-work or high tech uses. A “break-even” FSR of 1.72:1 would be required for a strata live-work development;
2. 1035 Alston Street — The proposed FSR of 1.6:1 would not facilitate viable redevelopment for proposed new uses such as work-live and professional services. A strata live-work development, however, could be viable at this or an even lower “break-even” FSR. Note: This type of development is not proposed in this part of the Alston, Tye, Bay area because the Vision is for an enhanced light industrial future;
3. 280 Bay Street - The proposed FSR of 2:1 for new uses, including retail with residential above, is viable as a strata development at a FSR as low as 1.29:1. However, with a floor of offices as part of a mixed retail/residential development, the FSR for a viable development increases to 2.3:1.

Note: In the draft Report, it is recommended the existing M2-S (Songhees Light Industrial District) and M2-B (Bay Light Industrial District) zones be amended to permit the proposed new uses at the proposed FSRs. The report also recommends most of the existing uses and densities be retained. In the M2-S zone, where a combination of new and existing uses is proposed, the new use density may be topped up with the existing use density to a maximum FSR of 3:1. In the M2-B zone both the existing and proposed new uses would be permitted at a maximum FSR of 2:1.

Until the M2-S and M2-B zones are amended, the existing zoning regulations pertain to development applications for properties covered by these zones.

Staff conclusions are as follows:

- The consultant's report provides valuable information for consideration in further consultation with property owners, the community and other stakeholders.
- The key question raised in the draft *Alston, Tyee, Bay Land Use Policy Update Report* - A "Light Industrial/Service Commercial or a Residential Future?" is one for which the answer appears to differ between the current real estate market and the Vision formulated with stakeholder input in the draft Report.
- The consultant's observations on particular uses (such as "work-live") and findings on "break-even" densities for new uses are also very useful in considering the question of appropriate uses and densities for new uses and whether changes should be made in the draft Report.
- The consultant's findings warrant and will generate further discussion and debate as social and environmental factors are also weighed in considering appropriate densities and other zoning regulations for the area.

Councillor Fortin withdrew from Council Chambers at 10:59 a.m.

A staff member commented on the definition of 'work/live' areas of which there are none in Victoria. This is not the same as 'live/work'.

Action:

Councillor Holland moved:

1. That the "Financial Analysis for 1035 Alston Street, 800 Tyee Road and 280 Bay Street" report dated April, 2007 be received for information.
2. That the report be included in the information provided as part of further consultation with the Victoria West Community Association.

CARRIED 07/474

7. ENGINEERING

7.1 Tenant Plan Approval for Residential Duplex Strata Conversion of 905 – 907 Mary Street

Committee received a report dated August 29, 2007 from Engineering with respect to Tenant Plan Approval for Residential Duplex Strata Conversion of 905 - 907 Mary Street. The owner of 905 - 907 Mary Street, Mr. Raymond Biederman has applied for a strata conversion of an existing duplex building. The property is zoned R2 - Two Family Dwelling District and is located in the Victoria West Neighbourhood of the City.

Council approval is required for the strata conversion since the subject duplex property has tenants. As part of this approval, the applicant has submitted a

Tenant Plan with the application, including an offer of a fixed tenancy agreement and a commitment to maintain one half of the duplex as a rental property. The applicant has offered to secure this by restrictive covenant for a period of two years. (Attached to the report is the Tenant Plan and letters).

The City's Residential Strata Titling Policy requires that the Tenant Plan be submitted to Council for review at the preliminary application stage and that the owner/developer certifies that the Tenant Plan, as adopted by Council, has been carried out prior to final approval. The Tenant Plan shall be signed by all the tenants (attached to the report is the policy).

The Manager of Social Planning and Housing has reviewed the application and has no objection to the Tenant Plan as proposed by the applicant.

Staff recommends that the application for strata conversion of 905 - 907 Mary Street be accepted as submitted, subject to a restrictive covenant securing one rental unit for a period of two years and compliance with applicable Provincial Codes and Municipal Bylaws.

Action: Councillor Holland moved that Council approves the Tenant Plan as submitted allowing staff to proceed with the review and approval of the strata conversion application.

CARRIED 07/473

8. PARKS

8.1 100th Anniversary of Scouting - ScoutFest

Committee received a report dated August 28, 2007 from Parks with respect to the 100th Anniversary of Scouting – ScoutFest. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council the conditions by which to approve an event request for Beacon Hill Park.

The Scouts are celebrating their 100th Anniversary and have made application to host their event in Beacon Hill Park. Scouting has a historical connection to Beacon Hill Park as the founder Lord Baden-Powell planted a tree in Mayors' Grove and there is a Scout Camp Fire circle in the northwestern portion of the Park.

ScoutFest is intended to showcase Scouting and Scout activities with the main activities (crafts and skill building) taking place near the Cameron Bandshell. Other activities (relay races obstacle course orienteering) will be located throughout the park. The Organizer has made arrangement to rent Cameron Bandshell for entertainment and announcements. The Scouts will be filling a canoe with non-perishable food items to be donated to a local charity. The Organizers are requesting approval to have food and drink and accept donations for said items. They have been granted a VIHA catering permit. This aspect of their permit is in contravention of Parks Bylaw 91-19. At the end of the event, Scouts Canada has requested to use the Scout Camp Fire circle and will be making application to the Victoria Fire Department for a fire permit.

Scouts Canada is seeking Committee's approval for the Vancouver Island Model Engineers to place a temporary, 120 foot model scale train track near the Cameron Bandshell. This apparatus allows for 4 children and two adults to ride the train at one time. Parks staff is not recommending this component of the application as it is not directly related to Scouting activities. If the Committee approves this installation of the model scale train track, it should be contingent on the appropriate insurance requirements being met.

Staff has completed the Appropriate Activity Assessment Framework for this event. Parks' Staff is recommending support for this request with certain conditions. Scouts Canada has a historical connection to Beacon Hill Park and hosting the 100th Anniversary of Scouting would continue this tradition. ScoutFest is a family orientated event designed to engage people of all ages.

- Action:** Councillor Madoff moved that City Council approves the event scheduled for Beacon Hill Park with the following conditions:
1. Approval given for this event only and not to be taken as approval for future requests.
 2. Applicant to obtain all necessary permits and to abide by all rules and regulations.
 3. Permission for use of the Scout Camp Fire circle providing the Victoria Fire Department issues the Organizer a permit.
 4. Permission to accept donations for food and drink within the Park boundaries.

CARRIED 07/472

Councillor Fortin returned to Council Chambers at 11:05 a.m.

8.2 SARSCENE 2007 Demonstrations & Games

Committee received a report dated August 28, 2007 from Parks with respect to SARSCENE 2007 Demonstrations & Games. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council the conditions by which to approve an event request for Beacon Hill Park and Holland Point.

The National Search and Rescue Secretariat has made application to use Beacon Hill Park and Holland Point as sites for their SARSCENE 2007 games on October 17th and 20th, 2007 respectfully. The games are one component of their annual conference that will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre. National Search and Rescue Secretariat is organizing the event and it is co-hosted with BC Provincial Emergency Program and the BC Search and Rescue Volunteer Association.

SARSCENE will be using several areas as stations throughout Beacon Hill Park and as there is a low number of participants (approximately 60) distributed throughout the stations, the impact to Park Users will be minimal. The event at Holland Point will require set up on the grassy portion of the Park for an announcers booth and radio station van and portable toilets. The area will be controlled by personnel from the various host organizations.

Staff has completed the Appropriate Activity Assessment Framework for this event and is recommending support for this request with certain conditions. The Fire Department has given its approval for the participants of the Survival Skills to build small fires within fireproof containers. These games highlight the services these paid workers and volunteers provide for the public.

A Committee member expressed concerns about the type of event and its proximity to the park. An applicant spoke to Committee regarding the games that need to occur close to the venues.

A Committee member was advised that the areas in the park where dogs are not permitted will be respected.

- Action:** Councillor Madoff moved that Council approves the event scheduled for Beacon Hill Park with the following conditions:
1. Approval given for this event only and not to be taken as approval for future requests.
 2. Applicant to obtain all necessary permits and to abide by all rules and regulations.
 3. SARSCENE vehicles are allowed to exceed the existing time limits for parking within the Park boundaries and to be allowed to park on non-designated parking areas.
 4. Permission for the participants in the Survival Skills to build controlled fires.

CARRIED 07/471

Councillors Fortin and Madoff voted against this motion

9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Community Arts Grants

Committee received a report dated August 29, 2007 from Community Development regarding Community Arts Grants. The purpose of this report is to make recommendations for the Community Arts Grants for 2007 - 2008, as well as to providing an update on the grants from last year for the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) and the Community Public Art (CPA) Program. The total annual operating budget for these grants for this year is \$15,000.

These grants originated as a legacy from the Cultural Capitals of Canada program to enrich the arts and cultural experiences within City neighbourhoods. They are to encourage creative collaboration between artists and the broader community that will create a legacy of permanent artworks, increase citizen participation in artistic processes and activities, and increase public appreciation of the value of art in the cultural, social, educational and economic life of the community.

The Community Development Division received three applications for the Community Arts Grants for this year; two for artist-in-residence and one for community public art.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that Council approve the Community Art grants for \$15,000 for the organizations identified in Appendix 1 for the 2007-2008 year.

1. Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee, "Scarecrow" Garden Sculpture.
2. Victoria West Community Association, "Cob Bench Project"

CARRIED 07/470

10. FINANCE

10.1 Permissive Property Tax Exemptions - 2008

Committee received a report dated August 23, 2007 from Finance with respect to Permissive Property Tax Exemptions for 2008. The Community Charter requires that Council must pass a bylaw before October 31st specifying which properties they wish to exempt from property taxes for the following year.

The applications were reviewed by Finance Committee on August 16, 2007 with the following recommendations for approval.

A Committee member expressed concerns with respect to using tax exemptions as policy tools and suggested that Committee distinguish between the programs that address long term needs as opposed to short term needs in respect to fundamental social issues.

Other Committee members commented on the need to sustain important social programs and disapproved of a withdrawal of support through changes to the permissive tax exemption policy.

Action: Councillor Young requested that # 2 of the recommendations be considered separately.

CARRIED 07/469

Action: Councillor Young moved:

1. That Council approve the applications in the attached schedule, pages 1 through 7.
2. That Council approve the following changes to exemptions:

a) Victoria Women in Need Society	810-812 Cormorant	100%
b) Clover Point Anglers Association	Clover Point Park	100%
c) James Bay Anglers Association	187 Dallas	100%
d) Go Rowing & Paddling Association	Docks/2940 Jutland	100%
3. That Council direct staff to prepare a permissive tax exemption bylaw for 2008 incorporating the exemptions recommended in the attached schedule.

CARRIED 07/468

Councillor Young voted against this motion

Councillor Young withdrew from Council Chambers at 11:29 a.m. due to an indirect conflict of interest with the following item arising from his spouse's employment with Beacon Community Services.

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that:

1. That Council approve the following new applicants for exemption:

a) BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty	3150 Napier	100%
b) Beacon Community Services	2717 Quadra	50%
c) Island Corridor Foundation	9 properties listed	100%
d) Victoria Native Friendship Centre	1250 Balmoral	100%

CARRIED 07/467

Councillor Young returned to Council Chambers at 11:30 a.m.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11.1 Disposition of Communications dated August 30 & 31, 2007

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that the Disposition of Communications dated August 30 & 31 from the Manager, Administration, be received for information and filed.

CARRIED 07/466

11.2 Proclamations – “Learn @ Work Week” September 24th to 28th, 2007

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that September 24th to 28th, 2007 be proclaimed as “*Learn @ Work Week*”, in the City of Victoria, Capital City of the Province of British Columbia.

CARRIED 07/465

11.3 Proclamations – “Times Colonist Raise a Reader Day” October 3rd, 2007

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that October 3rd, 2007 be proclaimed as “*Times Colonist Raise a Reader Day*”, in the City of Victoria, Capital City of the Province of British Columbia.

CARRIED 07/464

11.4 Proclamations – “National Family Dinner Night” – September 20, 2007

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that September 20, 2007 be proclaimed as “*National Family Dinner Night*”, in the City of Victoria, Capital City of the Province of British Columbia.

11.5 Proclamations – “Mahatma Gandhi Day” October 2nd, 2007

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that October 2nd, 2007 be proclaimed as “*Mahatma Gandhi Day*”, in the City of Victoria, Capital City of the Province of British Columbia.

CARRIED 07/462

11.6 Speaking Event – Sponsorship Request

Committee received a report dated September 4, 2007 from the Mayor’s Executive Assistant with respect to former Vice-President Al Gore speaking in Victoria on September 29, 2007. This event would allow the City to profile its own sustainability work and offers unique sponsorship opportunities for the City.

Committee members questioned the procedure for grants with respect to the Victoria Conference Centre and the late notification of this request. Staff advised that this is an ‘in-kind’ contribution with the City gaining recognition as a sponsor.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that Council approve an in-kind contribution of up to \$15,000 with a guarantee of two designated tables and public sponsor recognition at the event and on all ancillary advertising and marketing materials.

CARRIED 07/461

12. COUNCILLOR SHARING AND INQUIRIES

12.1 Councillor Coleman – Arterial Lanes during Peak Hours

Councillor Coleman inquired regarding parking along arterial routes, which is not permitted during peak hours. This creates safety issues particularly in respect to school zones and problems school buses face due to cars illegally parked. He asked that the Police increase monitoring of these areas.

12.2 Councillor Coleman – Board of Variance Assessment

Councillor Coleman inquired as to the monitoring of decisions made by the Board of Variance with respect to builders not complying to authorized variances. The Director of Legislative and Regulatory Services asked that specific properties be identified for review.

13. CLOSED MEETING at 11:46 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Lowe in the Chair, Councillors Coleman, Fortin, Holland, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young.

On Leave: Councillor Chandler.

Absent: Councillor Hughes.

Staff Present: P. Ballantyne – City Manager; M. McCliggott, Assistant City Manager; R. Woodland – Corporate Administrator; C. Havelka - Recording Secretary.

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that Committee of the Whole convene a Closed meeting that excludes the public under Section 11(6) of the Council Bylaw for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Section 11(3) and/or (4) of the Council Bylaw.

CARRIED 07/460

13.1 Minutes of the Closed Portion of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held August 23, 2007

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that the Closed Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting held August 23, 2007 be adopted.

CARRIED 07/459

Councillor Coleman withdrew from Council Chambers at 11:46 a.m.

Councillor Coleman returned to Council Chambers at 11:47 a.m.

13.2 Land Disposition

Committee received a report dated August 20, 2007 from the Director of Legislative and Regulatory Services with respect to the transfer of interest in GVPL Main Branch to Town of View Royal. The purpose of this report is to request approval to complete the purchase approved in 2001 when participating members in the GVPL system could purchase an interest in the Central Branch.

In order to complete the purchase each municipal owner must give notice of its intention to dispose of its interest in property in accordance with the Community Charter. Each respective Council must also adopt a resolution authorizing the disposition of the strata interest. To start this process Council is requested to adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Victoria to sell an interest in the strata property to the Town of View Royal.

Action: Councillor Holland moved that Victoria City Council approve the sale of a 4.85% interest in Strata Lot 1 of Lots 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 90, 91, 92, Victoria City, Strata Plan V1S45I6 together with an interest in the Common Property in proportion to the unit entitlement shown on Form 1 (PID 024-029-505) to the Town of View Royal for the price of \$301,000 (2002 dollars), and that the Mayor and Corporate Administrator be authorized to do all things necessary to complete the sale.

13.3 Legal - Housing Agreement

The Director of Legislative and Regulatory Services provided Committee with an update with respect to a change in the terms of the mortgage for a Housing Agreement.

Councillor Holland withdrew from the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Committee recessed for lunch at 11:49 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

13.4 TILMA Briefing – Provincial Government

Committee received information from R. Musgrave, Director, Trade Initiatives and G. Gensey, Senior Trade Policy Advisory and D. Greer, Communications with respect to the British Columbia-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

This discussion was recorded and kept confidential.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 6, 2007 be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

CARRIED 07/457

Mayor Lowe, Chair