

Hello,

Thanks for your interest in our Community Drop In! We will be taking a break for August. The next Community Drop In is **Tuesday September 3rd** from **11:30-1:00pm** in my office at City Hall. The schedule for the year is here: www.victoria.ca/dropin

Below is a list of topics that members of the public who dropped in requested we discuss. There are also other items of interest that were shared or requested by participants at the Drop In in the “Links” section Please also see actions that I’ll follow up on and responses from staff on previous requests.

Thanks for participating in our community,

Lisa

Agenda - Community Drop In – July 23rd 2019

1. Proposed development at Cook and Pendergast
2. Walking in Victoria
3. AirBnb
4. Homelessness crisis
5. Bus service to airport
6. Community Future and Cannabis
7. Water at public events
8. Nurse practitioner
9. Permissive tax exemptions
10. Fairfield plan
11. Harassment of people sleeping in public spaces
12. Garden suites
13. Plastic bags

Links discussed at Drop In

[City of Victoria Climate Leadership Plan](#)

[City of Victoria Housing Strategy](#)

[Connect Victoria App](#) – to report bylaw infractions and lots more!

[Walk On Victoria](#) – Pedestrian advocacy group.

[Weight of Cities Report](#) – UN Report on sustainable materials and circular economy

Items I will follow up on:

NB *The answers to these questions will be sent along as part of the September 3rd Community Drop In Report Out given that we have no Drop Ins in August.*

For Planning: What is the status of the development at Cook Street and Pendergast (old PicAFlic site?)

For Leg Services or Bylaw: Is there a bylaw that outlaws trees and shrubs from hanging over public spaces. How is the bylaw enforced? What should people do if they see such an infraction?

For Planning: Can we do a bit more outreach than usual to advertise the Fairfield Community Plan hearing. Eg posters and also using the email lists of people who have been involved in the process to alert them.

For Bylaw: How many bylaw officers are dedicated to Airbnb enforcement.

For Engagement: Can you send the press release and detailed information as to the effects of the City's initial enforcement efforts?

For Finance: Are there any proposed changes to tax exemptions for churches, mosques and synagogues? What is the current process for religious institutions to receive tax exemptions?

For Arts, Culture and Events: Can we ask event organizers to have water available at events that is not in plastic bottles? Eg the CRD water truck. Does the city have a water truck?

For Mayor (for Transit Commission): Could we consider extending bus 72 route so it goes right to the airport? What would it take to achieve this?

For Mayor: Connect with Mayor Staples in Duncan re: is Community Futures funding craft cannabis businesses and cannabis farms?

Items I have followed up on:

Thanks to staff for their detailed and thoughtful responses!

Q: An issue came up where the plans submitted to BC Assessment for a house were original plans and not what was actually built by the homeowner. BC Assessment assessed the house based on the plans the city submitted rather than what was actually constructed. What role does the City play in ensuring that what is permitted for occupancy is what actually makes it to BC Assessment for their records?

A: BC Assessment is sent a copy of plans associated with each issued building permit. These plans are used by BC Assessment for their purposes. If there is a known discrepancy, it could be due to a number of factors, but most likely because the applicant did not complete the permitting process. Permit Service Representatives can provide more information if the question relates to a specific address.

Q: Do we have a committee that meets regularly about the harbour? The Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society would like to be involved.

A: The Victoria Harbour has the VHMERC which is acronym for the "Victoria Harbour Marine Emergency Coordination Centre"; these meetings are scheduled through the Transport Canada; and the responsibility of the Harbour Master. I do not see what role the VEHS at this meeting as it is dedicated to coordination of "emergency responders" including RCMP, Vic Fire, Coast Guard, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue and Joint Rescue Coordination Centre and again, overseen through the office of the Harbour Master. Additionally, Victoria Fire has recently been invited to attend the monthly Air Carriers meeting which discuss issues related to the air traffic, airport and sometimes emergency response which, has provided greater insight on the operations of the harbour and increased focus on emergency response. We have been dealing with Transport Canada in Ottawa with relation to increased measures surrounding the operations of the water airport and, are hopeful that the new regulations will address issues of firefighting, rescue and emergency response in a more robust and inclusive manner. Again, it would be through contact with the Harbour Master, that VEHS would solicit an invite to either of these meetings.

Q: For Engineering and Public Engagement – Consider making a video about traffic safety for all modes – pedestrians, people on bikes, drivers. Make it engaging and funny.

A: The City has been developing more specific road user education programs – but the idea of a general road safety video covering courtesy in a fun and engaging way may be a suitable project idea for the City to pitch to the CRD Traffic Safety Commission. Thank you for the suggestion.

Q: For Engineering – Consider this good idea! Is there a way we could have sensors in the road at high-volume stop signs. The sensors would determine whether cars come to a full stop. A digital display board would show what percentage of drivers have actually stopped at the stop sign on any given day. This was an idea generated in conversation at the Community Drop In and is a good way to raise awareness not only at intersections where it is implemented, but will carry over to better behaviour at all intersections.

A: This suggestion has been shared with Transportation Engineering staff for consideration.

Q: As requested, a google map of the intersection at St Lawrence and Erie Streets. There is a ramp on both sides of St Lawrence. So it would be very beneficial to have the white stripes as shown. I think it would be calming to both pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

A: Crosswalk improvements are one of the most common requests we receive in the City's Transportation Engineering Section. Mayor and Council have also heard there's a strong desire in our community to improve pedestrian safety through investments into pedestrian infrastructure. In this year's budget process, City council approved additional resources directed toward improving our crosswalk program. In order to serve all our residents in an equitable and transparent way, staff will be developing a new process to receive, prioritize and respond to crosswalk improvement requests throughout the City. As part of this program development, staff will be focusing their resources on developing program criteria and collecting data around the City in order to respond to the crossings with the highest needs.

Q. I know we have had answers back on this before, but there are a number of seniors who cannot get easily and safely to the Beacon Hill Park at Battery Street and Douglas. Do you have any ideas to make it easier? Previous responses back include needing to change the configuration of the Dallas and Douglas intersection? The seniors would like to know what plans we have to make it safe for them to cross the road easily without having to walk down the street to a faraway crosswalk (from the perspective of someone with a walker.)

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Q. As a follow up from my meetings with South Park PAC – has the school zone on Douglas been extended to Toronto Street (and along the length of the school playing field?)

A. Yes – the school zone has been extended to Toronto.

Q. Where is the light synchronization study at and when will we see changes to the timing of downtown lights as a result of the study?

A. The Traffic signal study is complete. One of the recommendations in the study is to install new clocks into the traffic signal controller as we're having issues with signals getting out of synch with each other. It is anticipated the hardware will be purchased, and new signal timings implemented, early in 2020.

Q. People are riding their bikes across the pedestrian only bridge and also along the Songhees walkway. Can we do targeted enforcement and/or an education campaign.

A. Bylaw services has been alerted to this issue and are conducting spot checks and enforcement activities on the Johnson Street Bridge throughout the summer. Later this fall the City will be refreshing the regulatory signs and paint markings on the West Song Way to reinforce the pedestrian-only nature of this pathway. There are no plans for a dedicated educational campaign, but messages can be integrated with other efforts around following the rules of the road and staying off pedestrian walkways and sidewalks.

Q: Can we get the data on bike lane usage for Fort Street and Pandora Street for the last year?

A: Here are the bike lane counts over the past year for both corridors – June 2018 to June 2019.

PANDORA	
MONTH	MONTHLY TOTAL VOLUME
Jun-18	40,966
Jul-18	45,891
Aug-18	40,297
Sep-18	35,494
Oct-18	32,592
Nov-18	28,304
Dec-18	20,377
Jan-19	26,076
Feb-19	16,039
Mar-19	32,952
Apr-19	30,507
May-19	44,628
Jun-19	46,710

Overall trips to date (May 2017 – June 2019): 899,518

FORT	
MONTH	MONTHLY TOTAL VOLUME 2xWAY
Jun-18	22,509
Jul-18	25,523
Aug-18	22,296
Sep-18	16,991
Oct-18	15,938
Nov-18	13,278
Dec-18	10,125
Jan-19	12,350
Feb-19	8334
Mar-19	17,723
Apr-19	18,171
May-19	26,558
Jun-19	27,653

Overall trips to date (May 2018 – June 2019): 243,970

Information sent by drop In participant as follow up information:

two items:

1. drop-in yesterday - Rental Housing - Business License links
2. drop-in 2 weeks ago - ArcGIS Urban (conference keynote 5 minutes) from Monday and update for Urban Engineer related to Greater Victoria (very interesting, and timely)

I was at the Mayor's lunchtime drop-in yesterday and spoke to Rental Home Business Licenses.

I mentioned that I could send links and the Mayor said yes please.

Here is the link to my info. On page 5 is my info on Rental Housing Business Licenses. The two of most interest are London Ontario at the top of page and City of Vancouver part way down. As mentioned with shift to corporate "single family housing" ownership; changes to FOI it is becoming more challenging to contact property owners; as well rental of a house can bring in \$40k-\$60k or more and deserves licensing and appropriate controls for life-safety, etc. Licenses can be \$0, \$10 or a few hundred \$\$\$. Inspections can be by "licensed" home inspectors or self-inspection. Low-income folks should not have to live in unlicensed/unmanaged single family houses, and properties should be managed respectfully.

Here is link <http://ics2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Respectful-Densification-2.pdf>. Page 1 is my agenda from when I first met back in February with our MLA Mitzi Dean who was quite interested. Pg 5 is Business License - links are active

3. BUSINESS LICENSES FOR RENTAL HOUSING

- Consideration for update to Residential Tenancy Act, Municipal Charter and Local Government Act aligned to support business licenses for rental housing (like Vancouver & London Ontario).

Attachments

1. London Ontario - Rental Business [license](#)
 - ...
 - ...
2. Port Moody Secondary Suites
 - Procedures
 - Illegal suites approach
 - Business License
3. Vancouver - Long Term Rental [license](#)
 - ...
 - ...
4. Nanaimo Secondary suites [Guide](#)
5. [Macleans article - Horror stories](#) - Students, Landlords, Neighbours



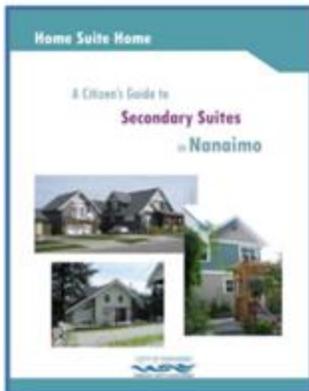
London
 The City of London has a [residential rental licensing by-law](#) currently in effect requiring any rental property of four units or less to be licensed. To obtain a license, property owners must fill out a self-certification checklist, pay a \$165 rental license fee and \$171 fire inspection fee. A renewal fee of \$55 is also charged and licenses are issued upon inspection from the Fire Department.

<in progress>

If my suite was created without a permit, what should I do?

Staff will work with you to obtain a permit, in order to ensure that the minimum life safety requirements are in place. These requirements are in place to ensure the safety of your suite occupants, as well as your family.

Parking - One additional off-street parking space for the secondary suite must be provided in addition to the spaces required for the main house. The extra space for the suite must be contained on the property and not encroach on a public right-of-way or street. The extra space must also be independently accessible.



Also, at the last bi-weekly I mentioned Esri ArcGIS Urban which I am following up on with the SI Prosperity Project. Esri has their annual GIS conference underway with 19000 attendees. UVic (Geography, Public Admin, OCUE) could also be involved.

Here is a quick update from one of the Zurich ArcGIS Urban staff which relates to ArcGIS Urban that the Mayor was following up on with staff.

* Esri Keynote: City of Pasadena 3D visualizing/updating 6 major areas of city concurrently https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=588&v=Gd_kB5TxEb8 (7 minutes)



Bruce Cuthbert 2 days ago

I am interested in getting our local municipalities to use [#arcgisurban](#) for city, neighbourhood [#communityplanning](#) to show a variety of alternatives to add ore density such as to multi-family (eg. redevelopment of older apartments) and single-family zones (eg. adding 1-2 bedroom secondary suites).

Based on videos of ArcGISUrban, it looks like interactive scenarios could show how various alternatives would impact **population, housing, jobs, "parking"** in our municipalities, neighbourhoods, streets. This is very important across the regional planning as well as to each local council, businesses, investors, developers, property owners and renters.

With so much density needing to be added in already densified areas, getting this in front of residents, businesses and community groups could really help to more respectfully manage change and increase to density, population, vehicles, traffic, etc.

As well if gamercoders get involved they could potentially add game technology ([#xbox](#), [#xr](#), VR, AR, etc.) to allow viewing scenarios for neighbourhoods / development in new ways and could get more young people and all ages involved together in discussion on the future of our/their streets, neighbourhoods, communities, cities. Imagine holding up your iPad or put on AR glasses and seeing the various options for your neighbourhood streets.

Like (0) · Reply



Dominik Allemann  (to Bruce Cuthbert) 20 hours ago

Hi Bruce,
Thanks a lot for your valuable feedback.

This is exactly what ArcGIS Urban v.1.0.0 is about (among other capabilities): you can **elaborate different design scenarios** for specific areas by proposing for example new zoning regulations or editing parcels, you can **analyze the impact** of different plan alternatives in terms of additionally created housing space (households and population) and jobs, and you can **share plan scenarios** in order to get all relevant stakeholders on the same page.

What, from an urban design perspective, might be interesting to know is that with the latest version of CityEngine you can **load a specific development project from ArcGIS Urban directly into CityEngine**. There you can refine designs and either push them back to ArcGIS Urban or **export** them to Unreal Engine (a game engine) in order to get **3d-realtime renderings** of your project. This allows you for example to explore your scenarios with VR-glasses from a pedestrians perspective.

Best,
Dominik

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“Grown-up politics means accepting the tensions and complexities of our lives together without pretending there are easy solutions, universal rules ... That means relearning the habits of complexity against the siren calls of a soundbite, quick-fix culture.” - Jonathan Sacks