

Hello,

Thanks for your interest in our Community Drop In! We will be taking a break for December. The next Community Drop In is **Tuesday January 7th** from **11:30-1:00pm** in my office at City Hall. The Community Drop In schedule and notes from past Drop-Ins 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 - November 19th 2019

1. Rooming House Definition
2. Detox Accessibility
3. Cycling Safety
4. Timeline to end homelessness
5. Missing middle housing
6. Ride share
7. Densification
8. Haultain Street
9. Renters Advisory Committee
10. Crystal Pool
11. Tourist Attractions – ideas
12. Neighbourhood and Social Enterprise Roundtable follow up
13. Conflict of interest for Arts Commission
14. Dignity towards disenfranchised people

Items Mayor Will Follow Up On:

Q: For Planning: If someone wants to buy a house with lots of rooms and have more than four people who are non-related living together (in a communal way) what does Planning recommend? It is accurate to say that the current bylaw does not allow for more than four un-related people to live together?

Q: For Planning: Has the Renters Advisory Committee been meeting regularly?

Q: For Our Place: Is the Therapeutic Recovery Community Full? How can people make referrals or self-refer to that program?

Q: For Engineering: 1336 and 1338 are still shaking when large vehicles go by. The residents believe that the street was improperly repaired some years ago. Can someone from Engineering please go and re-assess and talk with the residents. Thank you.

Q: For Engineering: Is the proposal for Haultain bikeway to move the buses to Bay Street?

Q: For Parks: How many days out of the year is the Royal Athletic Park used? Are there any plans to increase usage or public access?

Q: For Parks (or Legislative Services): Can you send the last Crystal Pool update report presented to Council as well as the presentation from the consultant updated with the direction Council gave that day.

Q: For Legislative Services: Does the City have the ability and authority to gather data from ride-hailing, electric scooter companies and others using the public rights of way for commercial purposes?

Q: For CRD Arts: Would a member of the Board of Directors from one of the larger clients of CRD Arts be allowed to fill an appointed role on the Arts Commission?

Items Mayor Has Followed Up On:

Q: Is it possible to put a crosswalk at St. Lawrence and Erie Street as per attached photo?

A: In 2018, in consultation with the James Bay Neighbourhood Association (JBNA), the City evaluated crosswalk opportunities along Fisherman's Wharf Park frontage. The JBNA favored a midblock crosswalk on Erie so we installed one in that location. This year, we also marked crosswalks on St Lawrence at Superior. The City refers to the Transportation Associations of Canada's *Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide* for guidance on crosswalk installations. The manual recommends against installing a crosswalk within close proximity as this can lead to "improper driver decisions which, in turn, may lead to collisions with pedestrians or other road users". The intersection is a legal crossing for pedestrians and there are marked crosswalks within 100m in either direction. The most important factor in pedestrian safety is pedestrian awareness. A safe crossing requires an exchange of information between the pedestrian and driver through body language and eye contact. While the City of Victoria continues to provide significant enhancements to crosswalks throughout Victoria, pedestrians that wait for an appropriate crossing opportunity and make eye contact with motorists provide the greatest benefit to their own safety.

Q: Can you send crosswalk prioritization matrix adopted by Council a few years ago or a link to it if it is on the City's website somewhere.

A: <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=da8ae77b-320a-4369-86d0-817d6f2a76ce&Agenda=Merged&lang=English>

Q: Good suggestion to have a sign on the westside of the bridge indicating for cyclists to stay left (rather than crossing the footbridge) for a bike way into town. Tourists were observed this summer biking over the footbridge and then riding on the pedestrian only walkway into town.

A: The Transportation Section is developing a new signage plan for the Westsong walkway and its interface with the Johnson Street Bridge. In the interim, the pedestrian only path has existing, clear signage at each entrance to the walkway, notifying cyclists of their requirement to dismount while on the pedestrian only bridge. Our enforcement groups (VicPD and Victoria's Bylaws Dept) are aware of the issue.

Q: Re bike lane etiquette. Can we install signs along the route in high-traffic areas that remind people it's a pathway shared by people of all ages and abilities. High speeds and aggressive behaviour have been observed.

A: There are shared pathway signs at all entrances to the multi-use path now. While signs are good at conveying regulatory information (stop, yield, etc), signs are not particularly effective in changing individual's behaviour or decisions. Staff will continue to monitor the multi-use path for reports of conflicts or collisions between users. For those who are not comfortable mingling with varying speed traffic on the multi-use bridge, the sidewalk on the south side is reserved for pedestrian use only (cyclists can dismount and cross).

Q: Given that bikes don't have insurance, who is liable if there is a crash between cyclists and damage incurred on the bike lanes?

A: The simple answer is that absence of insurance does not affect liability – i.e., a person at fault is responsible for the damage caused by their fault. Insurance is just the means to pay for it. Whether a person is considered to be at fault will depend on the particular circumstances, primarily whether or not their conduct fell below the level of what would be expected of a reasonable person in their position. What is "reasonable" is difficult to answer in general terms as it is determined by things such as established practice, applicable laws (e.g., Motor Vehicle Act), etc. Sufficient to say that a pedestrian or cyclist who fails to take reasonable actions to avoid accident could be legally liable (at least in part) whether or not they have insurance.

It is also worth noting that it may not be entirely accurate to say that pedestrians or cyclists don't have insurance. Many homeowner as well as tenant insurance policies include third party liability coverage that is not limited just to injuries on the insured premises but "follows" the policy holder. So, cyclists may have some insurance coverage even without specifically insuring their bikes the way cars are insured. Of course, whether that is the case depends on the specific language of the insurance policy and, of course, whether the person even has insurance policy (most

homeowners are required by the terms of their mortgage to have insurance, but some tenants have no insurance).

This is a general answer that is not intended as legal advice in relation to any specific incidents or persons. You should seek your own legal advice rather than rely on this general answer if you were involved in any incident that may give rise to a claim.

Q: Can we have an update on where the project at Cook and Pendergast is at?

A: The applicant recently submitted revised plans on October 9, 2019. This was in response to Council's motion from December 13, 2018 requesting that staff work with the applicant to remove three parking stalls on Pendergast in exchange for additional green boulevard space, provide an updated Tenant Assistance Plan, and consider rental housing affordability with BC Housing. Staff are reviewing the updated plans and will bring the application forward for Council's consideration at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Q: Could we put Crystal Pool back in the proposed location in Central Park and create useable green space on top of it! See Adelaide Australia Capital Building. Then it would be no net loss and in fact addition of green space.

A: The Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project has been a priority focus of the City of Victoria, with a goal of ensuring that this infrastructure meets the community's social, health and wellness, and environmental objectives over the long term.

Following a workshop in October regarding project direction, the team has been focused on the development of a workplan for the next phase of the project. One of the immediate next steps is a plan for the new "project advisory group" which will help to guide key tasks such as the proposed amenities, siting considerations, and programs for the new facility. Staff will present the project team's recommended approach to developing this new advisory group and its terms of reference in December to Council. We anticipate initiating the call for "expressions of interest" to populate this group in early 2020.

In June 2019 Council directed staff to develop a plan to revisit the objectives, scope and schedule of activities for the new facility, and to apply a new set of principles that focus on equity and affordability. As we continue to develop this plan we will invite partners and neighbourhood representatives to collaborate with the project team on the priorities for the new facility.

Please click [here](#) to see the report, motions, correspondence and presentation regarding this discussion that took place on June 13 in Committee of the Whole. Proceedings of that meeting can be found [here](#) and you can watch and listen to the discussion at the time of 5:53:50 (5 hours and 53 minutes into the meeting).

To learn more, visit our [project website](#).

Information and links shared at Drop In:

Coalition to End Homelessness [Community Plan to End Homelessness](#)

The Rise and Fall of the American SRO – [City Lab Article](#) (Really great visual essay!)

Missing Middle Housing – [Report from City Staff](#) (See Item F1)

[The Dock – Centre for Social Impact](#)

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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