

Hello,

Thanks for your interest in our Community Drop In! We took a break in August so apologies for the lag time in getting the information on July queries back to you. The next Community Drop In is **Tuesday October 1st** 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 – September 3 2019

1. Vancouver Street
2. Speed bumps on Moss St
3. Heritage homes and legal non-conformance
4. Affordable housing for young people
5. The Roundhouse
6. Crystal Pool
7. Airbnb
8. Mental health and addictions at Our Place
9. Finding a doctor
10. BC Hydro
11. 30 km/h on city streets
12. Youth issues
13. Fairfield issue
14. Dispensaries
15. Reconsideration of Rhodo Development
16. Ogden Point
17. Building at Blanshard and Fisgard
18. Earthquake preparedness
19. Street Art
20. Pedestrians at Crosswalks
21. Smoking in Centennial Square

Links discussed or requested at Drop In

[Regional Housing First Program](#)

[City of Victoria Housing Strategy](#)

[City of Victoria Strategic Plan](#)

[Mayor's Blog Post and Video on Rhodo Development](#)

[The Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America One Step at a Time](#)

Items I will follow up on:

For Engineering: Why was a speed bump put in on Linden Street (near May)? And why aren't there speed bumps on Moss Street? Can these be considered as people fly down the street.

For Engineering: What can be done to stop people walking when the hand sign is flashing? And/or do we need to move to a right turn signal on all downtown intersections to give pedestrians the ability to clear safely and then have cars go? Is this an easy thing to do? Could it be considered?

For Legislative Services: Can we release all the data we are able to release on Airbnb's so the public has access to the same information as city staff?

For Planning **or** Engineering (Climate Action): Are there incentives from BC Hydro or others for home builders to put electric charging stations in?

For Planning: What is the status of the Roundhouse development? What is required in terms of delivering the restored heritage building and vision for that site?

Items I have followed up on

Q. What is the status of the development at Cook Street and Pendergast (old PicAFlic site?)

A. The applicant is working on revisions to address Council's motion of December 13, 2018. Once staff receive a revised submission, it will be brought forward to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for Council's consideration. In the meantime, the owner is also working on some improvements to the existing building (fascia signs, entrance canopy, landscaping), which will be used as an office/sales centre.

Q. 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.

A. In addition to the public hearing notification which requires newspaper ads, the City is planning extra notification including sending a stakeholder email to those who have signed up to be kept updated (approximately 500 email addresses) and we will also ask the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association to share with their email list (approximately 1500 email addresses), as well as other groups, as the City did for previous engagement. We will also use social media.

Q. How many bylaw officers are dedicated to Airbnb enforcement.

A. There is one full time Bylaw Officer and one term temporary Bylaw Officer and a Bylaw Clerk being funded out of the STR Bylaw. STR files are important and one of our many priorities.

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

A: See attached.

Q. 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?

A. No, there are no proposed changes to the process for tax exemptions for places of worship at this time. The City's Permissive Tax Exemption Policy guides the granting of exemptions by Council and each organization has to apply for an exemption for Council's consideration. The City's website provides information on the application process and the policy - <https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/property-taxes/tax-exemptions.html>

Q. 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?

A. We don't have a portable water station but Atomique Productions and CRD do and we encourage organizers to use these resources.

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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