



## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Childcare Action Plan

On Thursday October 1, Council received a staff report regarding steps to improve the state of childcare in Victoria in the areas of process, policy, partnerships, advocacy, and education and training. The [full report](#) from the Working Group was prepared for this presentation. Council will consider approval of staff recommendations at their October 8 Council meeting that follows the Committee meeting.

### Business in Public Space

Last spring, Council approved a plan to make public spaces available in order to help them meet COVID 19 risk management requirements. The program has been very popular (over 100 approved installations) and beneficial in meeting its objectives. On September 17, Council resolved to “...endorse in principal the extension of the Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces expanded and expedited patio initiative pending receipt of a report from City Staff detailing feedback from businesses and residents.” At approximately the same time, the province approved continuation of a complementary program allowing for the extension of liquor licensed seating into patio areas.

At their October 8 meeting, Council will consider a [staff report](#) outlining conditions (e.g. accessibility, winterization) for formal endorsement of the extension. The report includes a [summary of feedback](#) from participating businesses.

### Accessibility Framework

Council endorsed the Accessibility Framework in August. This [staff report](#) for Thursday October 4 responds to further direction from Council related to the establishment of an interim advisory committee, revised policy, adjustments to the short term action plan, status of seven priority issues raised by the Accessibility Working Group, and a proposed future approach for development of decision making tools for Council. Council will consider approval of staff recommendations at their October 8 Council meeting that follows the Committee meeting.

### Participatory Budgeting

We’ve received a record number of proposals in this year’s Participatory Budgeting initiative and now it’s the community’s turn to weigh in and help decide which projects receive funding.

The theme this year is helping new immigrants and refugees and there is \$50,000 in funding available. To vote and view all 26 projects, go to [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca) and cast your ballot before November 6. This [video](#) helps explain the voting process. Please spread the word by sharing this information with your networks.





## By-election

Council has endorsed the tentative scheduling of a by-election on December 12, 2020. This October 1, Council approved a [staff report](#) requesting assignment of electoral officers, approval to request a by-election from the province and allocation of \$350,000 in funding.

## Direction for Strategic Plan Grants

At their October 1 meeting, Council will receive a [staff report](#) providing changes to the program requested by Council, and a request provide direction for a focus for the 2021 Strategic Plan grants that will help inform applications for funding.

## Youth Poet Laureate - Call for Nominations

The City of Victoria, in partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library, is seeking nominations for next year's Youth Poet Laureate. The Youth Poet Laureate will reach out to vulnerable youth populations, develop a community youth poetry event and encourage peer-to-peer education through new works.

Applicants must be 14 to 24 years of age, reside in the CRD and demonstrate an ability to engage the community and have clear and innovative ideas for the vision of their role. It's a one-year term with a \$1,750 honorarium and \$2,000 of project funding. Applications are accepted until Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 4 p.m. For more information, please visit: [www.victoria.ca/youthpoetlaureate](http://www.victoria.ca/youthpoetlaureate).

## Villages and Corridors Planning

Council received and update and request for direction at their October 1 meeting. Council received the Early Engagement Summary Report and their recommendations directed staff to adhere to specific community engagement requirements, to develop policy recommendations for the Official Community Plan, and to refer the recommendations to external governing authorities.

Design charrettes were held for North Park and Fernwood neighbourhoods last week to support the [Villages and Corridors Planning](#) project. The first night was dedicated to geographically identifying issues and interests and the second night involved discussions of the ideas and sketches presented in response by the Planning team. A final session of this series will be held for workshop participants and members of the community Working Group this Wednesday (October 7) from 5-7pm. This will include a presentation of preliminary results (key principles, concepts, opportunities and options) based on what was heard on Day 2 in preparation for broader consultation this fall.

## Sheltering

In response to a motion presented by Councillors Loveday and Potts, Council requested that the Mayor write to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and BC Housing, advocating for the Extreme Weather Response to be expanded to open shelters and provide other necessary services during non-winter extreme weather events including when poor air quality presents a health risk.



## Get Growing, Victoria

At their October 1 meeting, Council approved Councillors Loveday and Isitt's [recommendations](#) to continue with the Get Growing Victoria program, which was initiated in response to COVID 19. Specifically, the resolved to:

- Endorse in principle the continuation of Get Growing, Victoria as an annual program
- Direct staff to report back on the results of the 2020 Get Growing, Victoria program and on the implications of continuing the program annually in 2021 and future years
- Invite input from the Urban Food Table and other stakeholders on the continuation of Get Growing, Victoria.

## City Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on October [1](#), [8](#), 15 and 22 at 9:00am. Council meets on October [8](#) and 22 beginning at 6:30pm. There is also an additional [Council meeting](#) immediately following the October 1 COTW meeting. You can also watch the meetings live through a link on the agendas.

If you have comments that you would like to express regarding any of the upcoming agenda items, contact your [Mayor and Council](#).