

Questions

1. Capital Plan

The Capital Plan approved by this Council will, if completed, spend \$702 million in the next three years. Over half of this amount, \$391 million, will be borrowed. The City intends to borrow \$141 million under its existing borrowing authority and then ask voters to approve the borrowing of an additional \$181 million.

The Capital Plan calls for a variety of improvements, including \$39 million on parks and \$79 million on community facilities. A closer examination reveals that, of that \$79 million, only \$17 million will go to recreation facilities and that no new community centres will be completed from those funds.

If elected, how do you intend to provide for the additional community facilities needed as the City continues to increase its density and experiences additional demand for such facilities?

How do you intend to ensure that the existing community centres are maintained and replaced in a timely manner?

Would you support the replacement of more than one community centre in 2015-2017, or is Marpole the only one to be replaced in that period?

Will you vote to increase the City's debt load in 2014? If so, how much are you prepared to borrow?

2. Laneway Housing

In spite of environmental concerns about single unit housing, one of the first EcoDensity initiatives was to zone for another single unit house on virtually every single family residence lot in the city. Many homeowners adjacent to or across from these structures are upset, and others fear that there is no planning in place to deal with the increased demands on infrastructure or existing community facilities that come with zoning for three families on one lot (main house, suite and laneway house). Some builders of laneway housing have been testing novel legal instruments to allow those building and occupying the housing to have an ownership interest in the unit, supporting the observation by some that this is de facto subdivision.

If elected, will you continue to support the uptake of this land use in its current form?

Would you expand it to other areas?

Would you increase the size of the footprint of these houses?

Would you change anything about the current rules?

3. UBC Development

UBC has for some time been aggressively developing the campus to include more residential units. It recently amended its Community Plan to provide for even greater density, planning for a total campus year-round population of 35,000, with additional residents during term-time. The recently released plan for the south campus area calls for 15 towers of up to 22 storeys on south campus, of which 9 will define the westerly edge of Pacific Spirit Park.

During the amendment process to the Community Plan, concerns were raised by the adjacent communities of Dunbar and West Point Grey, as well as by those living at UBC itself. Those concerns relate to the impact of the enormous increase in population at UBC and include traffic congestion, parking by staff and students who use those neighbourhoods as what are in effect “park and ride” areas, pressure on daycare, recreational facilities, schools, and the Park. The City of Vancouver nonetheless supported the amendments to the OCP with little debate in Council.

If elected, do you intend to continue to support without reservation the build-out on UBC lands?

If elected, what position will you take with respect to the request of those living on campus for elected democratic representation?

4. Council Hearings and Public Consultation

Rumours abound that the majority on this and the previous Council met before public hearings in order to decide the result before the hearing. The voting record would certainly substantiate those rumours. The result is that the public hearing process would seem to be a waste of citizens’ time and effort.

If elected, what would you do to restore faith in the public hearing process?

If elected, will you vote as a block with your fellow party members?

5. New Residence at 16th and Dunbar

The new 51-unit supportive housing project at 16th and Dunbar is ready for occupancy now. An operational management plan was created with community input as a condition of the development permit. Recent remarks on the part of one councillor and the mayor have suggested that those terms may come under the direct control of Council.

What is your position on honouring this community agreement and what do you feel that such comments imply for the value of citizens giving time and effort to help ensure that such a project is a successful venture?

If elected, will you support taking control over the placement of tenants in supportive housing units by Council?