

COMMITTEE CHAIR MEMORANDUM

Date: 2021-03-23

To: Mayor and Council

From: Graeme Dempster, Chair, APC

CC: Bill Brown, Tricia deMacedo

File no. 0540-20 - Advisory Planning

Subject: **APC Chair Memo – Notes from 2020**

Dear Mayor Desjardins, and Council,

As requested, I have documented my notes and comments I made on behalf of the APC during the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 8, 2021.

General Comments:

- The APC met 8 times and reviewed 26 applications in 2020
- I will be stepping down in June, having served my allowable three, two-year terms. No one else is approaching end of term.
- We have a good cross-section of members, variety of political leanings, perspectives, opinions, experience, ownership types (big houses, small houses, big lots, small lots, condos) and we're fairly evenly scattered around the township too. I would encourage Council to keep this in mind when selecting my replacement.

Meeting procedures:

- Obviously some big changes this year. After a bumpy first couple of meetings, we've all settled into the swing of things with 1/2 in person, 1/2 on the phone.
- It would be nice for the remote people to be able to see presentations live, but I understand there are IT complications with this, so I'm just lending the support of the APC to this issue.

- Once we're back to full in-person meetings however, it would be good to still retain the option for remote members to join. This gives the opportunity to members who are travelling, sick at home, sudden childcare loss, etc... avoids risk of not having quorum.
- Keeping applicant presentations to <10min is better: shorter meetings, more concise, force them to the salient points. Particularly when done remotely, it is easier too when kept as brief as possible.
- No objection from any member to the webcasting.

Specific Comments / Suggestions:

- Parking bylaw: this issue comes up almost every meeting! Although we on the APC have a variety of opinions on what should constitute a good parking bylaw, we ALL agree the current one is outdated.
- The sign bylaw has come up several times also in the last months, it could also benefit from a review/update.
- Some members would like to see more consideration given to lot consolidation / land assembly in key areas over immediate (but smaller scale) re-development.

Q&A from Mayor and Council:

I was asked about reliability of the members:

- APC is made of up of an outstanding group of people, reliability is never an issue.
- With the limitations to travel for the past year, achieving quorum hasn't been an issue, but has occasionally been an issue pre-Covid due to vacations/travels/etc. Thus I refer to my earlier recommendation that even after we are all able to gather in person, the option for "call-in" for any member who is away be maintained.

I was asked about the term limits:

- I am grateful for my privilege and opportunity to serve my community in this way, and I have very much enjoyed it – so in spite of my personal desire to continue on in my role, I don't object to the limit of 3X 2 years: I need to share this role with others in the community who also would appreciate the opportunity and bring their experience to the table.
- 6 years seems reasonable, although I could equally agree that 8 years would be appropriate also, but some limit around that is necessary. Naturally this is subjective, so this really is just an opinion without any substantiative facts to support my "feelings".
- I do say however that having continuity within the APC group of members is valuable to maintain continuity and cohesiveness with the group as a whole. Regardless of the term limits, I would strongly recommend that Council try to keep the turnover on a rolling basis as much as possible. Naturally there will be

times when members move, leave for other reasons, etc., so that may not be always possible, but keeping a core group together for 1-2 years on a rolling basis will facilitate keeping the meetings effective (both practically and in terms of the recommendations/discussions that is our primary output to council).

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding support we've received during our meetings from staff: Bill and Pearl in particular – we couldn't do it without you!

It is an honor to live, work, and volunteer in Esquimalt, we really do have a great community! I say a hearty "bravo and thank you" to all of you, to staff, to my fellow members, and the many volunteers and community members who make it so!

Graeme Dempster, Chair, APC.