



March 2019 Update

Burnside Gorge

In Your Neighbourhood

Cherry Blossoms Special

Council has formally recognized the historic importance and symbolic significance of [cherry blossom trees](#). Staff has been directed to include the historic importance and symbolic significance of cherry blossom trees when considering what trees to plant and to report back with options for maintaining an ongoing presence of cherry trees as part of a regular update on the implementation of the City's Urban Forest Master Plan.

Neighbourhood Grants

The Spring 2019 intake period for [Great Neighbourhood grants](#) is now open and will close on April 15. Now is the time to consider what you or your organization would like to do towards improving your neighbourhood!

Bicycle Master Plan Implementation

On February 21, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) providing an overview of the Bicycle Master Plan Program and presenting options to increase the probability of completing the remaining All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network by the end of 2022. It is believed that completion of the network would otherwise take until 2023 or 2024. Council approved streamlined project processes and activities to be achieved through a condensed engagement process, bundled procurement, and reduced design timelines. Additional temporary staff positions were also approved.

CALUC Update

On February 21, after considering a [staff report](#) Council directed staff to continue to explore process improvements with the Community Association Land Use Committees including improvements to CALUC membership, notification and advertisement. The draft Strategic Plan identifies continued development of the CALUC terms of reference as an objective. In response to a related [report](#), Council directed staff to create a process for securing facilitators to facilitate a CALUC meeting, if requested by either the CALUC or the development proponent.

City Strategic Plan and Budget

On March 14, after a series of Council meetings, a community workshop and a public survey, Council will approve their four year [Strategic Plan](#).

In their February 28 amendments to the budget, Council directed staff to increase funding for the three seniors centres by allocating a one-time expenditure of \$63,900 from surplus and ask for information from these centres regarding the additional services that are provided with the new funding, in time for the 2020 budget. Council also directed staff to include allocation of base funding to all seniors centres and community centres of \$75,000 funded from new assessed revenue in the 2020 draft financial plan, with indexation to inflation in future years.



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Citizens Assembly

Council has approved the nomination of Councillor Isitt, Councillor Young and Councillor Loveday to form this [Citizen's Assembly Council Committee](#). The mandate of the Committee is to work with Victoria Council and with the joint (Saanich) council committee to develop terms of reference for a Citizens Assembly and related processes such as a technical assessment. The Committee is a recommending body to Council and has no decision-making authority. The Committee will meet with the Saanich Council Citizens Assembly Committee as needed and will report back to Council within two weeks of any meeting with Saanich's Committee.

Inclusionary Housing Policy

At their February 14 meeting, Council received a [staff report](#) providing an update on the initiative and asking for Council direction on options for moving forward. These included exploring policy solutions that include cash in lieu contributions and continuing to advance the policy that focuses on the provision of on-site affordable housing units. Council directed staff to report back with an Inclusionary Housing Policy by the end of March 2019, including any recommended amendments for the draft policy that will most quickly result in the creation of the most truly affordable housing units.

Climate Action

On January 31, Council received a [staff report](#) providing an update on the City's Climate Action Program including financial and staffing considerations related to two options for the program, depending on the urgency. Council opted for an enhanced option for achieving action plan goals, including an allocation of \$369,700 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund and the expenditure of \$223,000 for two new positions outlined in the report to be funded from tax revenue from new development. Several other new measures were also introduced to advance climate action.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on March 28 at 9am. Council meets on March 28 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#). Note that the Minutes of Council meetings (which include Council's resolutions) are now being posted to the City's website.