

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

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CITY PLANNING

STORY No. 2

Planning goes on in city affairs all the time.

The following Departments, Boards and Commissions have City Planning functions:

Works Department
Police Department
Parks Department
City Architect's Department
Property Department
Assessment Department
Board of Education.

Board of Harbour Commissioners.
Toronto Transportation Commission.
Hydro-Electric Commission.
Street Cleaning Department
Separate School Board

while all other departments such as the Treasury Department and the Health Department are closely related in various phases of their work to City Planning.

The Bureau Annual Meeting will be held on April 25th, 1928 at 4 p.m. in the Board Room of the Board of Trade, Royal Bank Building.

The Works Department plans viaducts, bridges, pavements, sidewalks, curbs, street widenings and extensions, sewers, disposal works, etc. The Parks Department plans for parks, playgrounds, boulevards, etc. The Architect's Department controls the quality of building construction and administers the building code. The Property Department has administrative duties with regard to residential and other restriction bylaws as to the use of land, etc. The Assessment Department, through the City Surveyor, supervises the street layout in the five mile ring around the city, and supervises the subdivision and redivision of all vacant lands whether inside or outside the city; and in addition makes arrangements for buying and selling land for the city, and supplies the foundation information for local improvement rates. The Police Department administers the functions of traffic control, which is becoming more and more a matter of city planning.

The Board of Harbour Commissioners develops the harbour and industrial areas and lays out and administers recreation areas.

The Board of Education and Separate School Board locate schools, determine the size of school playgrounds, etc.

The Transportation Commission plans the layout of tracks, lays tracks, locates car barns and administration buildings.

The Hydro-Electric Commission locates administration buildings, transformer stations, electric light poles, strings wires, and lays conduits, etc.

The Street Cleaning Department advises as to location of destructors, incinerators, divisional yards and is greatly affected in its work by the layout of streets, the location of hydrants, the character of pavements, etc.

The work of the Health Department is more or less conditioned by the quality of buildings and the administration of the building code, etc.

The work of the Treasury Department is made easier or heavier by the planning carried on by the other civic departments and "outside" Boards and Commissions.

From "Twelve Years of Community Service"
(Bureau of Municipal Research, 1926)

Matters of urgent importance to the citizens and taxpayers

1. The planning of civic improvements on the basis of community needs. This involves the appointment of an advisory town-planning committee, the drawing up of a city-wide key-plan of proposed improvements, the zoning of the city according to the use made of buildings, and the abolition of the ward system or the lessening of its weight in the City Council.
2. The budgeting of capital expenditures out of borrowed funds ten years in advance, subject to annual revision by the City Council in order that the City may really know where it is going in debt increases. This involves a thorough study by a special committee of all the proposals now in the air involving capital expenditures, in order to determine the order in which improvements shall be considered, their relative importance and whether any, and if so which, should be eliminated from the programme.

TOWN PLANNING IN VANCOUVER

(Extract from British Columbia Financial Times, April 7th, 1928)

The Town Planning Commission is busily engaged in the matter of planning proposed zoning regulations for the Greater Vancouver area. The zoning plan will involve the division of the city into districts for heavy manufacturing industries, light manufacturing industries, retail shopping districts, wholesale and warehouse districts and residential and apartment house areas. In two particular points, publicity has been given to proposed regulations. One is that of the limitation of the height of buildings, wherein the limit is set not to exceed 120 feet. This, it strikes us, is eminently wise. The Lower Mainland, which will compose the amalgamated city, has sufficient area so that the heavy congestion of older cities not so fortunately situated may not occur in the future building of this city. For all practical purposes, this height has been found satisfactory where the opportunity to spread is permitted.

The second proposed regulation, which has met some opposition, lies in the area of a plot of ground upon which an apartment house can be erected. The commission is seeing to it that future apartments are built with adequate clearances, enabling all the suites of an apartment house to receive necessary light and air. We think the commission might go a little further and limit the area, in residential districts, that a house may occupy on a lot. In view of the number of apartments that have been erected almost on the entire area of a lot, it would appear to be a hardship that those engaged in this class of business should be compelled to restrict the size of future buildings, but this will quickly wear off when it is found inescapable and will apply universally.

It is a pleasure to note the wholehearted co-operation existing between the Town Planning Commission and the various engineering staffs of the three municipalities which will compose the amalgamated city. All are apparently working in the utmost harmony and unity with only one object in view, the future welfare of the city.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Bureau of Municipal Research will be held in the Board Room of the Board of Trade on Wednesday, April Twenty-fifth, 1928, at 4 p.m. You are cordially invited to be present.

WALTER J. BARR, President.