

TEAM POLICY - MAY 1978

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION SUB COMMITTEE

I. FINANCING URBAN LIVABILITY

ISSUE: Vancouver's growing livability problems are the problems of an increasingly urbanized Canada and should be met by appropriately related financial policies.

OBJECTIVES:

- I.1 To enable local and regional government agencies to provide those services to their communities which are most effectively delivered at their respective levels; and
- I.2 To ensure access to adequate funds for delivery of such services.

II. CHANGING LAND VALUES

ISSUE: Administrative procedures should be adjusted to keep pace with, and actively encourage, the implementation of previously agreed development policies.

OBJECTIVES:

- II.1 To create within our economic system a workable and equitable method of making land available for the implementation of accepted development policies; and
- II.2 To review the process of writing down market values as a basis for dealing with non-profit users of city-owned land.

Issues & objectives continued

III PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING

ISSUE: A method should be developed for a continuous process of planning and implementation which would avoid the fickleness of 5-year plan referenda, as well as the burden of pay-as-you-go levies.

OBJECTIVES:

III.1 To develop a system of priorities in civic expenditure which would take into account the need for a long-term, open-ended policy plan, a medium-term development program, and a sequence of short-term budgets for their implementation.

IV TAXATION

ISSUE: An adequate and equitable tax base, together with imaginative tax incentives, is essential for achieving agreed community objectives.

OBJECTIVES:

IV.1 To ensure the fairest way of levying the taxes required to provide the desired services within a simplified tax procedure; and

IV.2 To encourage the highest standard of maintenance to private property and public amenity, without encouraging premature development.

V CIVIC MAGISTRATE

ISSUE: City By-laws are often flouted because of laxity in their enforcement.

OBJECTIVES:

V.1 To speed up enforcement of City By-laws.

Issues & objectives continued

VI CO-ORDINATED STRUCTURE FOR CIVIC BODIES

ISSUE: City Council, Parks Board and School Board derive their funds from the same source: the local taxpayer. The organizational and management structure of all civic bodies should encourage the closest possible co-ordination of their work for the common good.

OBJECTIVES:

VI.1 To co-ordinate the planning, programming, and budgeting operations of all public bodies serving Vancouver's citizens, to obtain the most effective service for the least cost to the taxpayer.

VII IMPLEMENTING TEAM POLICIES

ISSUE: The question of carrying out TEAM policies should be examined, so as to reinforce the basic reason for TEAM's existence, i.e. to act on policies established by the membership, yet to leave the elected representatives enough scope for creative contribution to the decision making process.

OBJECTIVES:

VII.1 To establish guidelines for implementing TEAM policies by TEAM members in elected office.

POLICY PROPOSALS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

I FINANCING URBAN LIVABILITY

- I.1.(a) A continuing process be established between Provincial, Regional, and City governments for making tax funds available to the junior levels to help them meet the capital and operating costs of projects or services under their respective jurisdiction.
- I.1.(b) As a first step toward a more effective process for raising funds to meet the cost of local or regional projects or services, the senior governments be persuaded to share, preferably on a per capita basis, a regular, substantial portion of their proceeds from personal and corporation taxes.
- I.1.(c) Regular meetings be requested between all levels of government to keep under active review those urban problems which would most effectively be solved at the City and Regional levels, but whose solution is beyond the financial resources of the junior governments.

II CHANGING LAND VALUES

- II.1.(a) The City share in gains and losses resulting from public actions affecting the value of private property, including zoning.
- II.2.(a) The process of writing-down of market values of city owned land be reviewed, where such land is to be used

Policy proposals continued

II.2.(a) continued.....

for non-profit development, in order to achieve a better use of property which by statute may not be sold on the open market.

III.1.(a)

III PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING

III.1.(a) The cost-benefits of an on-going planning, programming, budgeting process for Vancouver's overall civic development be established as a basis for subsequent policies, so that a successor to the risky 5-year plan referenda may be introduced as soon as possible.

IV TAXATION

IV.1.(a) The effectiveness of current assessment methods be periodically reviewed, so that improvements may be suggested in future policy resolutions.

IV.1.(b) The City make a thorough study and report on the principle of increasing the weight of taxation on land and decreasing it on residential improvements.

IV.2.(a) Taxes due on improvements to existing private property be deferred for at least two years.

IV.2.(b) A tax moratorium be established in respect of public amenities voluntarily started and adequately maintained on private property.

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Policy proposals continued....

V CIVIC MAGISTRATE

- V.1.(a) A magistrate be assigned to enforcement of City  
by-laws and that such magistrate work out of City Hall.

VI CO-ORDINATED STRUCTURE FOR CIVIC BODIES

- VI.1.(a) There be a more effective co-ordination established  
between the budgets of Vancouver's civic departments  
and those of the Parks and School Boards.
- VI.1.(b) Such co-ordination begin at the overall planning and  
programming stages of the respective civic bodies.

VII IMPLEMENTING TEAM POLICIES

- VII.1.(a) Candidates running in an election under the TEAM  
banner be in general agreement with the spirit of the  
resolutions adopted at the most recent TEAM Policy  
Convention.
- VII.1.(b) When potentially controversial issues arise which  
have not be resolved by a Policy Convention, elected  
TEAM members take every opportunity to discuss these  
with TEAM's appropriate policy committees, so as to  
assess in good time the implications of possible  
options.
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