

**MINUTES**  
**DOWNTOWN NANAIMO PARTNERSHIP**  
**TUESDAY, 2006-JUN-06, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

---

**Present:** Merv Unger, Acting Chair  
Blake McGuffie  
Bruce Barnard  
Dee Klein  
Nancy Mitchell

Joy Cameron  
Doug Backhouse  
Rick Hyne  
Camela Tang  
John Horn

**Staff:** George Hanson, Partnership Managing Director  
Andrew Tucker, Acting Director, Planning and Development  
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Bill Bestwick  
Eileen Harakas

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Signage at Pearson Park
- Correspondence from Crankshaw Holdings Ltd.
- Downtown Design Guidelines Contract
- Two Liquor License Amendments

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by N. Mitchell that the Minutes from 2006-May-02 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. DELEGATION

Nicole Langlois and Joanne Hogan of the Nanaimo Francophone Society gave a presentation on the proposed 2010 Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Erable. The following are some of the points made:

- Is an opportunity for the world to share in the traditions of Canada's Francophone and Aboriginal communities by offering a unique cultural window to the events surrounding the Olympic Games in 2010
- Would position Nanaimo's Francophone community and The Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Erable on the local, provincial and national arenas
- Would invite participation from Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories
- Would be a key part of the VANOC Canadian Cultural Olympiads that will take place from 2008 - 2010
- Are investigating the feasibility of moving the Festival to the Downtown Harbour
- Some potential new attractions are:
  - A Culture Route
  - Culture Passport and Prizes
  - Aboriginal Village and Culture
  - Harbour Site and Transportation
  - Multi-location Gala

- Francophone and Media-friendly Events
- Concurrent Olympic Live Site / Convention
- The base budget has been proven for the Maple Sugar Festival. Future budget increases will respond to:
  - Moving the Festival Downtown
  - Adding a First Nation component
  - Sponsoring a National Event in 2010

A brief discussion followed.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. Barnard to receive the delegation. CARRIED.

Mmes. Langlois and Hogan were thanked for their presentation and they left the meeting.

(The following motion was passed later in the meeting. When the motion was being considered and voted upon, D. Backhouse left the room because of a possible conflict of interest.)

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by N. Mitchell that the DNP provide a letter of support to the Nanaimo Francophone Society advising of their approval in principle of the proposed 2010 Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Erable. CARRIED.

#### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter dated 2006-Jun-04 from Crankshaw Holdings Ltd. regarding their concern that cruise ship visitors to Nanaimo are being advised not to go to the Victoria Crescent area.

G. Hanson advised that he had responded to the letter, advising that the DNP is not directing people away from any area downtown. The DNP is, however, unable to account for every action of DNP and Tourism volunteers.

R. Hyne suggested having more ambassadors near that end of the block, and D. Klein stated that a map indicating what businesses are located there would be helpful.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by N. Mitchell that the correspondence be received. CARRIED.

#### 6. PARTNER REPORTS

- a) OCQA - Minutes from 2006-Mar-15 and 2006-Apr-19 were considered.

MOVED by D. Klein, SECONDED by N. Mitchell that the Minutes be received. CARRIED.

- b) NCCA – Minutes from 2006-Apr-24 and 2006-May-15 were considered. D. Backhouse noted that security was the major topic of those meetings.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the Minutes be received. CARRIED.

- c) City - M. Unger advised that a meeting has been scheduled for June 12th for Council, senior staff, and major stakeholders to discuss downtown safety.

G. Hanson also noted that at their last meeting Council introduced a bylaw to deal with aggressive panhandling, plans to re-engineer the intersection of Comox Road and Terminal Ave., and considered the consultant's report regarding zoning for social services.

## 7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Arts, Culture & Entertainment – Meeting Notes from 2006-May-18. were considered. C. Tang noted that the sub-committee had requested that their suggestion that a committee be formed to look at the Harbourfront Plaza “Warm of the Plaza” project be revisited.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by N. Mitchell to receive the Meeting Notes.  
CARRIED.

- b) Business Development – Meeting Notes from 2006-May-18 were considered. N. Mitchell noted that security was the major topic at this meeting as well.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by N. Mitchell to receive the Meeting Notes.  
CARRIED.

- c) Housing, Design & Development – Draft Minutes from 2006-May-17 were considered.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the Minutes be received.  
CARRIED.

- d) Promotions – A Report for March to May, 2006 was considered.

MOVED by D. Klein, SECONDED by B. Barnard to receive the Report. CARRIED.

- e) Personnel – G. Hanson reported that the Partnership office had acquired another Katimavik volunteer for the summer, as well as two summer co-op students who will assist with marketing and in the information centre. He also advised that after seeking HRDSC funding for the past four years without success in an attempt to develop a ‘mobile ambassador’ service, a volunteer co-op student expands the summer staff capacity this year, allowing the DNP to have an ‘information ambassador’ out and about 3-4 hours each day during the summer months.

- f) Financial – Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Revenue as at 2006-May-31 were considered.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by D. Backhouse that the Financial Reports be received. CARRIED.

## 8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- a) Safety and Security - G. Hanson advised that the DNP has been invited to participate at the upcoming meeting on June 12, and presented a draft paper on the DNP's position on these matters.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by D. Backhouse that G. Hanson and B. Moss represent the DNP at the June 12th safety and security meeting. CARRIED.

J. Horn expressed his concern that the draft paper did not include collaboration with the social sector. M. Unger advised that the social sector will also be represented at the June 12th meeting as one of the key stakeholders.

J. Cameron noted that it is important for City staff to peruse position papers from committees of Council to ensure that recommended actions are within the City's mandate and allowable through the *Community Charter*.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by J. Horn that the DNP Position Paper regarding Downtown Safety and Security dated 2006-Jun-02 be received. CARRIED.

- b) Victoria Crescent Street Lights - A report from A. Tucker dated 2006-Jun-06 regarding the Victoria Crescent Lighting Project was considered. G. Hanson explained the options and displayed the area involved on a plan. He clarified the DNP's mandate regarding a higher level of service; i.e. work the City would not normally do, or expediting work the City has planned for the future.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard to approve implementation of Option #3 from A. Tucker's report, focusing on the areas recommended by G. Hanson to the extent possible within the DNP capital budget for the project. CARRIED.

- c) Grants to Non-Heritage Businesses - A report from A. Tucker dated 2006-Jun-06 on this matter was considered.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by D. Klein to receive the report. CARRIED.

- d) Capital Budget - A spreadsheet showing DNP Capital Funding as at 2006-Jun-02, based on an 2006-Apr-30 accounting report provided by the City, was considered. G. Hanson explained the contents of the spreadsheet, and noted that each proposed expenditure would still require Council's approval before it could proceed.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the Capital Budget be approved with the amendment of reallocating \$4,682.08 remaining from completed projects, to the Victoria Crescent area lighting project. CARRIED.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by D. Backhouse that the DNP recommend the City approve an additional \$21,682.08 (including the \$4,682.08 from completed projects) be added to the existing and approved Victoria Crescent Area Street Light Capital Budget of \$184,000 for a total project budget of \$205,682.08. CARRIED

D. Klein left the meeting.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by D. Backhouse to recommend that Council approve the expenditure of \$25,000 in order for a feasibility study for a performing arts centre to be done. CARRIED.

MOVED by N. Mitchell, SECONDED by B. McGuffie to recommend that the 2006 façade improvement grant budget be increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000. CARRIED.

G. Hanson will provide information at the next meeting on the budget required for the Harbourfront Plaza project.

- e) Staff Benefits - G. Hanson reported that J. Whiteaker had provided a report on a private health services plan for staff of the Partnership office. The plan would be self-managed and would provide a pool of resources that staff could draw from when necessary. A line item would need to be added to the DNP budget.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by J. Horn that the Partnership office proceed with a self-managed health services plan for their eligible employees. CARRIED.

- f) DNP Organizational Structure - A meeting has been arranged between the DNP sub-committee and City staff on June 29 to discuss the most recent draft of the proposed constitution and bylaws for the DNP.
- g) BIABC Conference - G. Hanson advised he had received many kudos on the quality of all aspects of the recent conference hosted by the DNP. The Committee congratulated George and his staff on a job well done!
- h) Pearson Park Signage - A. Tucker reported that the Ministry of Highways will soon be installing a directional sign to the 'City Centre' and therefore the "vehicle directional" sign identified in the Signage Plan was deemed to be no longer required. The new highway sign is due to be installed by the end of the month. N. Mitchell asked what the status of the map was that was indicated in the Signage Plan. There was considerable discussion of the need for or desirability of putting a map in Pearson Park. N. Mitchell reiterated that the Signage Committee and subsequent Plan had recommended this as an ideal site for a directional map similar to the one located at MacGregor Park.

MOVED by N. Mitchell, SECONDED by J. Horn that the City Parks Dept. be requested to install a downtown directional map in Pearson Park. CARRIED.

The Committee suggested that G. Hanson work with the Parks Dept. and that he approve the map/sign prior to its installation.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) BIABC Terminal Avenue Design Charette - Deferred to next meeting.
- b) Liquor License Applications - G. Hanson advised that the City is requesting the DNP's comments on the following two liquor license amendment applications:
- Fraternal Order of Eagles - to relocate their meeting hall from 535 Franklyn Street to 245 Fraser Street.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by J. Horn that the DNP advise that they have no objection to the liquor license amendment application by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. CARRIED.

- Press Room, 150 Skinner Street - to change their hours of operation from 7 p.m. - 2 a.m., to 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., in order to accommodate their plans to change the nightclub into a pub and restaurant.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the DNP support the liquor license amendment application from the Press Room. CARRIED.

- c) Downtown Design Guidelines - G. Hanson advised that the City has awarded the Downtown Design Guideline contract to D'Ambrosia Architecture and Urbanism.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a) J. Horn advised that the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness will be presenting at the United Nations World Forum on how the business community and non-profit sector work together in Nanaimo.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2006-Aug-01 at 5:15 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall. **(NO MEETING IN JULY)**

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

g:\commplan\dt\dnp\min\_agen06\min\_jun06