

MINUTES
DOWNTOWN NANAIMO PARTNERSHIP
THURSDAY, 2006-APR-06, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

Present: Bill Bestwick, Chair
Doug Backhouse
John Horn
Nancy Mitchell
Blake McGuffie
Rick Hyne
Camela Tang

Staff: George Hanson, Partnership Managing Director
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Dee Klein
Eileen Harakas
Bruce Barnard
Andrew Tucker

Others: Richard Powell, Island Christian Care Society
Melanie Morton, Island Christian Care Society

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:23 p.m.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by N. Mitchell that B. Bestwick be nominated as Chair. Bill accepted the nomination. CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Delegation from Island Christian Care Society
- Review of revised Operating Budget

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the Minutes from 2006-Mar-09 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. DELEGATION

J. Horn introduced Richard Powell and Melanie Morton from the Island Christian Care Society (ICCS) who have operated a temporary Living Room at 135 Nicol Street since October 2005. (A Living Room provides street people with a place to go during the day, and will be part of the Salvation Army's New Hope Shelter when completed.) In the interim, ICCS are using the funding that VIHA had budgeted for this service until the Shelter opens. Ownership of 135 Nicol Street recently changed and ICCS must now find a new location for their temporary Living Room. They asked the DNP for support and any leads they might have on suitable locations. It was also noted that the amount that VIHA allocated for this service would be adequate for the Salvation Army as they own their own building, but is inadequate for an organization trying to rent in the commercial sector, and may require some financial leverage.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by J. Horn to receive the delegation. CARRIED.

The Committee will further discuss this item under 'New Business'.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated 2006-Mar-06 from Dr. James Lunney, M.P. to the Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Committees regarding funding for the New Nanaimo Centre project.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by C. Tang to receive the correspondence.
CARRIED.

6. PARTNER REPORTS

a) OCQA - No report.

b) NCCA – No report.

c) City - No report.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Arts, Culture & Entertainment – C. Tang advised:

- is presently recruiting members for ACE to include reps. from arts groups, First Nations and Francophones, and will bring the proposed membership to DNP for ratification
- would still like to pursue acquisition of the Caprice Theatre, as it is the only small performing space that exists in the Downtown
- development of arts venues in Nanaimo has fallen behind compared to those for recreation
- the Provincial Govt. have recognized the arts as a huge industry and are working on an official arts policy for the province. The City of Vancouver has also recognized this and are putting \$5 million towards the development of a new cultural precinct in Vancouver, with matching funds from the Province
- concerned that no movement has been made on acquisition of the Live Site screen and that the second projected start date will be missed - this needs to be finalized in order to get programming lined up
- very important to get redevelopment of the Harbourfront Plaza back on track
- calls for proposals have gone out for developing a public art piece on the waterfront to be funded from CAPE Development's community contribution
- the Spring Break Festival was a success with 980 hours of instruction and 65 participants

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

G. Hanson noted that Parks & Recreation have \$100,000 set aside for public art in the Plaza, and the DNP has \$40,000 for public art and Plaza warm-up. The matter was previously put on hold until design of the New Nanaimo Centre was known in order to tie the two together. The ACE Committee is not convinced that a water feature, as proposed by the City, is the best plan for the Plaza.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the Live Site and the importance of expediting acquisition of the screen as a catalyst to have a signature place beyond the waterfront.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by D. Backhouse that City staff provide a report on the status of the Live Site installation in the Harbourfront Plaza. CARRIED.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that DNP staff contact City staff and request the formation of a committee consisting of reps. from the DNP, City and stakeholders to look at commencement of the "Warm up the Plaza Project". CARRIED.

b) Business Development – No report.

c) Housing, Design & Development – Draft Minutes from 2006-Mar-15 were considered. D. Backhouse noted the sub-committee's discussion regarding Victoria Crescent lighting. As there is a need for improved lighting in this area and throughout downtown, and the DNP is unable to fund the entire project as proposed, he questioned how to proceed. Some of the discussion that followed was:

- heritage style lights were chosen to enhance the architectural style in the Downtown, and to retain a consistency with those to be used with the New Nanaimo Centre
- the DNP dedication of \$184,000 was never intended as a 'budget' for the project. It is simply the amount of money that could be justified within the context of many other capital opportunities
- what can be done for \$184,000 to address the immediate problems on that street?
- perhaps the Director of Public Works should be asked what plans the City has for street light maintenance and replacement in the Downtown

The Committee asked G. Hanson to review the CPTED Report to determine what the current levels of lighting are on Victoria Crescent, and what levels are needed to bring the lighting up to the required standards outlined in the Report; to discuss this with City staff; then to report back to the DNP.

D. Backhouse also noted the Housing Sub-committee's discussion regarding Heritage Façade grants.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by B. McGuffie to grant a Heritage Façade Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to Zorkin Investments for the building located at 411 Fitzwilliam Street, and \$10,000 to Gurdev Holdings for the building located at 489 Wallace Street, subject to the DNP allocating a further \$13,000 from their Capital Budget to the Heritage Façade Grant Program. CARRIED.

d) Promotions – Minutes from 2006-Feb-15 were considered.

MOVED by N. Mitchell, SECONDED by J. Horn that the Promotion Minutes be received. CARRIED.

e) Personnel – No report.

f) Financial – Balance Sheet as at 2006-Mar-31; Revenue; and Income Statement 2006-Mar-01 to 2006-Mar-31 were considered.

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

8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

a) Appointment of DNP Chair and Treasurer

(B. Bestwick was appointed Chair at the beginning of the meeting.)
MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by N. Mitchell that B. McGuffie be appointed DNP Treasurer. Blake accepted the nomination. CARRIED.

- b) DNP Structure - G. Hanson advised that a business case has been prepared to support the retention of three councillors on the DNP in response to the Mayor's expressed willingness at the DNP meeting held 2006-Feb-07 to reconsider his decision to appoint only one councillor if a compelling business case in support of that was presented to him. B. Bestwick requested an executive summary of the business case for Council in order to capstate the DNP's interests. It was decided that a letter would be sent to the Mayor with a copy to the City Manager, from the NCCA and OCQA, advising of the business case to retain three councillors on the DNP.

D. Backhouse advised that the DNP Structure Sub-committee is awaiting a draft constitution and bylaws for their new proposed structure from the City solicitor.

- c) Security Committee - Councillor Bestwick reported that there are plans to involve numerous agencies in this committee, and will ask A. Tucker when the information will be available for circulation to the DNP.

G. Hanson advised that he has submitted a funding request, under the auspices of the NCCA, to the Federal Govt. in order to hire four summer students to act as Downtown ambassadors from May to October. Whether or not this program will be possible and to what extent will be contingent on the funding available.

- d) Recognition of Former DNP Members - G. Hanson advised that the former members will be honoured at the next meeting.
- e) Capital Budget - The Capital Plan (revised 2006-Apr-04) was reviewed. G. Hanson noted there is approximately \$450,000 that is presently uncommitted and unallocated through 2009 that is theoretically available to be assigned to priority projects. When asked about the Arts Centre Contingency Fund, C. Tang advised that retaining \$8,000 of the \$35,000 would be sufficient.

R. Hyne asked about the 'CPTED Incentive Grant Program' that was on the list of possible areas for capital investment. G. Hanson explained that under the new Municipal Charter, the City has the legal ability to develop grant programs other than heritage. The CPTED grant would assist people with security measures, e.g. 50% of the cost of installing unbreakable glass in shop windows.

The following motion will be considered at the next meeting: "To recommend that the City develop a bylaw to enable them to offer a grant program to non-heritage properties to assist with CPTED implementation."

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by D. Backhouse to receive the Capital Plan and defer it to the next meeting. CARRIED.

- f) Staff Benefits - Deferred to the next meeting.

- g) BIABC Conference - A list was circulated of Nanaimo attendees registered for the conference through DNP sponsorship and corporate sponsorship. G. Hanson noted that the conference has now reached \$17,500 in corporate sponsorships.
- h) Annual Planning - A synopsis of the top actions suggested at the recent DNP Planning Session was considered. N. Mitchell suggested that the sub-committees narrow down their actions to three priorities to accomplish in 2006. It was also suggested that completed actions, or accomplishments, be published such as on the City and DNP websites.
- i) Revised Operating Budget - The Operating Budget as of 2006-Apr-03 was reviewed. Considerable discussion ensued regarding accountability and measurable results of the business recruitment position. It was noted that even though some properties may not benefit directly from this function, that they benefit indirectly because of the number and type of businesses opening in the Downtown.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by C. Tang to receive the Revised Operating Budget. CARRIED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Living Room - Discussion continued regarding information received from the ICCS delegation earlier in the meeting. J. Horn suggested that the DNP assist ICCS in finding a location outside the 'Red Zone' but still accessible to their clients, and also provide some financial assistance if possible. Possible locations were discussed and it was suggested that J. Horn would be in the best position to help facilitate a dialogue with neighbourhood stakeholders regarding the potential temporary use of 55 Victoria Crescent as a Living Room while the New Hope Shelter is being constructed.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2006-May-02 at 5:15 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.