

M I N U T E S
DOWNTOWN NANAIMO PARTNERSHIP
TUESDAY, 2006-FEB-07, CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

Present: Doug Backhouse, Acting Chair Councillor Bill Bestwick
 Blake McGuffie Bruce Barnard
 Eileen Harakas Camela Tang
 Jim Whiteaker Kathy Torhjelm

Staff: George Hanson, Partnership Managing Director
 Andrew Tucker, Manager, Community Planning
 Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Others: Bob Moss, NCCA
 Dave Covey, NCCA
 Mayor Gary Korpan
 Councillor Joy Cameron
 Councillor Merv Unger
 Jerry Berry, City Manager
 Brian Mehaffey, General Manager, Development Services

Regrets: Dee Klein

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that D. Backhouse be appointed Interim Chair. CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by E. Harakas, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Letter from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission regarding the 2006 Heritage Summit
- BIABC Conference update
- Letter from Peter Wipper regarding James Street Billiards liquor license application
- Ambassador Program survey results

CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by J. Whiteaker, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the Minutes from 2006-Jan-10 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

D. Backhouse advised that the Mayor and City Manager were invited to the meeting to give the City's perspective on proposed changes to the DNP structure. Some of their comments were:

Mayor Korpan

- The 2 main issues appear to be the change to the Council appointment structure and the requirement that the DNP formulate as a legal entity.
- This does not mean that the City has a diminished interest in the DNP.
- The City is still recommending that \$168,000 be allocated to the DNP to match BIA contributions, and \$200,000 in capital funding.
- As the City is of the opinion that some of their contractual relationships may be in jeopardy, the DNP is being asked to become an independent legal entity in order to mitigate these concerns.
- Councillors are asked to sit on arms length or third party bodies and become advocates for them. In light of the number of committees Councillors are being asked to sit on, the Mayor tried to scale back the number of Councillors on each. That is why one Councillor, rather than three, was appointed to the DNP. Statutory obligations restricted his ability to do that in some other cases.

Jerry Berry

- Council does consider itself a partner in the DNP, and to allay any concerns they may have, he has only heard of support for the DNP.
- Council has the philosophy however “to help the community help themselves”.
- An independent society model has been well proven and tested across the city. Other such entities that Council supports monetarily are the Port Theatre, Nanaimo District Museum and the Archives.
- It is believed that being a separate entity from the City will address liability issues and give protection to DNP staff.
- Another proposed advantage would be the possibility of receiving block funding taking into consideration an escalation factor. This would allow the entity to do long-term planning by knowing what their funding would be, and they would not have to continually seek Council approval.
- Council sees the entity as looking the same as the hybrid that has worked to date; it just needs to be a clear and identifiable body.

B. Moss enquired whether the Mayor would reconsider his decision to appoint only one councillor to the DNP, if a compelling alternative business case was presented to him setting out how the DNP is different from other societies, and the value of having three councillors participate. The Mayor replied that he would.

In response to a question from B. McGuffie whether the formation of a duly constituted body would be contingent upon the withdrawal of staff and clerical support from the City, J. Berry replied that it would.

D. Backhouse commented that the Mayor and Councillors have not been thanked enough for their past efforts concerning the Downtown, and that he has always considered Councillor advocates for the Downtown as a positive thing. The role of the DNP in city building is far in excess of \$400,000 and he hopes that an argument can be crafted for this higher level of service as a benefit to the city.

When asked about the status of the proposed Ambassador Program, the Mayor advised that the matter will be discussed at an upcoming Finance/Policy Committee of the Whole. Alternatives such as expanding the bike patrol and using auxiliaries and reserves will be considered.

J. Berry noted that the funding request for the proposed Ambassador Program is low on the City's priority list.

The Mayor, J. Berry, B. Mehaffey, and Councillor Unger left the meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter dated 2006-Feb-03 from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission inviting a representative from the DNP to attend the Heritage Summit on February 22nd at the Dorchester Hotel.

MOVED by Councillor Bestwick, SECONDED by C. Tang that B. McGuffie attend the Heritage Summit as the DNP representative. CARRIED.

- b) Registered letter dated 2006-Jan-26 from Western Edge Theatre regarding a statement made in the June 21, 2005 DNP Minutes about the management of theatrical lighting equipment.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the DNP Minutes from June 21, 2005 be amended to remove the paragraph "G. Hanson advised that Western Edge ... same access to the equipment as before." CARRIED.

G. Hanson will send a letter to Western Edge advising of the Committee's action in this regard.

The Minutes will be amended and re-posted to the website.

6. PARTNER REPORTS

- a) OCQA - E. Harakas reported that the OCQA are preparing for the Multicultural Street Festival to be held on May 20th. She also complimented City staff for the newly installed benches.
- b) NCCA – Draft NCCA Minutes from 2006-Jan-16 were considered.
- c) City – Councillor Bestwick advised that he is looking forward to working with the DNP and is planning to meet with the Managing Director on a consistent basis. He would be pleased to meet with DNP members as well.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that the Partner Reports be received. CARRIED.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Arts, Culture & Entertainment – C. Tang reported that ACE will not meet until DNP membership has been formally finalized. She did note however that work is continuing on the Cultural Capitals Canada 2008 application process, and that it is wonderful to see the participation from the Arts groups on such a huge job.
- b) Business Development – Meeting Notes from 2006-Jan-19 were considered.
- c) Housing, Design & Development – Draft Minutes from 2006-Jan-18 were considered. B. McGuffie noted that installation of the new lighting on Front Street at the Port Theatre

has begun, and A. Tucker advised that the Sub-committee's recommendation for high pressure sodium lighting has been passed along to City staff.

- d) Promotions – No report.
- e) Personnel – G. Hanson advised that the Partnership office Administrator and Business Recruiter have submitted their resignations. The Administrator position will be refilled asap, and the assumption is that the BDC will want to refill the Business Recruiter position also. Business Recruitment will, of course, be further considered in light of the present DNP planning cycle.

George noted that the DNP will be holding an open house at Port Place Mall on February 14th from 11 am to 7 pm, and that an information gathering survey is now online. There will also be a link from the City's website to the survey.

- f) Financial – The Committee considered: Balance Sheet as at 2005-Dec-31; Summary of Revenues and Expenditures for the year ended 2005-Dec-31; and Summary of Variance of Budget to Actual for the year ended 2005-Dec-31. J. Whiteaker reported on the DNP budget and noted that a surplus of \$23,820.26 will be carried forward. He also advised of a proposal to acquire new computer equipment for the Partnership office and noted the cost difference between leasing and buying the equipment.

MOVED by J. Whiteaker, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the Financial Report be received. CARRIED.

MOVED by J. Whiteaker, SECONDED by B. McGuffie to recommend that the DNP purchase computer equipment at a cost of \$4,245 (before GST). CARRIED.

8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- a) Safe Streets Act & Trespass Act - G. Hanson advised that the DNP has been given permission to reproduce the brochure using their own social agency information. The intent of the brochure is to advise Downtown merchants, property owners and residents about their rights with respect to issues such as trespassing and panhandling. B. Barnard suggested that an education session also be held on these issues.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that the DNP reproduce the Safe Streets Act & Trespass Act Brochure for use in the Downtown. CARRIED.

A brochure entitled "Surviving in Nanaimo" which is published by the Community Planning Division was circulated. It lists social service agencies available in Nanaimo. Copies will be forwarded to the Partnership office for distribution as necessary.

- b) Security Committee - G. Hanson noted from the BDC Minutes that the Sub-committee are recommending "that 1 member from the Housing Sub-committee and 2 members from the BDC serve as representatives of the Partnership on a City led committee to deal with Social & Security issues in the downtown core as outlined in the Concept Paper, 'Working Group on Downtown Safety and Security' of August 16, 2005 which was forwarded to the City by the DNP".

Councillor Bestwick advised that he will consult with City Council and staff as to their intent in this regard and will report back to the DNP.

- c) Staff Benefits - Still under review.
- d) DNP Structure - A lengthy discussion was held on this matter. The sub-committee looking into this matter will meet on 2006-Feb-08 with City staff to discuss the issues further.

J. Whiteaker and E. Harakas left the meeting.

- e) BIABC Conference - G. Hanson gave a status report on planning for the Conference to be held from May 25-27 in Nanaimo.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Capital Budget - The 2005-Aug-18 version and revised draft dated 2006-Jan-26 were considered. The Committee will reconsider priorities at their May meeting in order to take into consideration information gathered at the upcoming DNP planning session.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by C. Tang to receive the Capital Budget reports. CARRIED.

C. Tang noted that the needs of the Arts groups still remain and are getting worse, so urged the Committee to not be hasty in reallocating funds that had been earmarked for purchase of the Caprice Theatre in case a similar opportunity came up and could be pursued.

- b) James Street Billiards Liquor License - G. Hanson noted a letter dated 2006-Jan-27 from Peter Wipper asking for the DNP's comments on an application from the owner of James Street Billiards located at 77 Victoria Crescent for a liquor-primary license.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard to not support the application from NEO Enterprises Limited for a liquor-primary license at James Street Billiards located at 77 Victoria Crescent. CARRIED.

- c) Downtown Ambassador Program - Survey Results from January 2006 were distributed which compared data from 6 cities with Ambassador programs and 2 cities that previously had programs.

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

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2006-Mar-07 at 5:15 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the meeting adjourn at 7:45 p.m. CARRIED.