

**MINUTES**  
**DOWNTOWN NANAIMO PARTNERSHIP**  
**TUESDAY, 2006-JAN-10, CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

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**Present:** Doug Backhouse, Acting Chair  
Bruce Barnard  
Camela Tang  
Blake McGuffie  
Eileen Harakas  
Jerry Plnk

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

**Others:** Eric McLean, OCQA  
Kristo Zorkin, OCQA  
Bob Moss, NCCA  
Rick Hyne, NCCA  
Dave Covey, NCCA  
Randy Churchill, City of Nanaimo  
Mike Sinstadt, RCMP  
Jennifer Allan, RCMP  
Dave La Berge, RCMP  
Peter Guest, BDC  
Kevin Shaw, DT Property Rep.

**Regrets:** Bill Bestwick  
Jim Whiteaker  
Dee Klein  
Kathy Torhjelm

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that Doug Backhouse be elected as interim Chair. CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Staff benefits

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the Open and In Camera Minutes from 2005-Dec-06 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the meeting proceed In Camera at 5:25 pm. CARRIED.

The Open meeting reconvened at 5:45 pm.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard that a Personnel Sub-committee be appointed to deal with a personnel/contractual issue, consisting of the following people: Camela Tang; Bob Moss; Dave Covey; Eric McLean; and Doug Backhouse. CARRIED.

## 5. DELEGATIONS

Cst. Jennifer Allan of the Nanaimo Detachment RCMP introduced herself and the program committee for the proposed Ambassador Patrol Program: Peter Guest, Mike Sinstadt, Tim Davidson (not in attendance), Blake McGuffie and Dave La Berge.

An overview of the proposed program was distributed and a Powerpoint presentation was given. Some points made were:

- Reps. from the City of Nanaimo, RCMP and DNP recently traveled to Regina to evaluate their Ambassador Program. They found it deterred nuisance behaviour, as well as providing visitor information, promoting services and increasing the public's perception of safety in their downtown.
- The Program will be designed as a non-confrontational goodwill safety patrol, and will serve as an extra pair of eyes and ears for the RCMP and City Bylaw Dept. by watching for risks or threats to public safety and security.
- The Patrol will have two full-time patrollers and two part-time patrollers, providing coverage six days per week during standard daytime and evening business hours.
- Training will be developed and delivered by the RCMP, City and DNP.
- The Program will be operated and managed by the DNP with a program committee noted above to implement the Program and provide ongoing consultation.
- The projected cost for a six-month pilot program is \$81,389.

### Questions and Answers

What will the patrollers specifically do in Downtown Nanaimo? (K. Zorkin)

They will move people along where easy to do; provide litter clean-up; and essentially be leaders and greeters to provide comfort to people who perceive the Downtown as unsafe. (B. McGuffie)

Will they be enforcers? (K. Zorkin)

No, they will phone the authorities when necessary. (B. McGuffie)

Will they be dressed a certain way? (K. Zorkin)

Yes, they will be readily identifiable. (M. Sinstadt)

It is important for them to not look like security personnel. (B. McGuffie)

Did Regina see a drop in incidents? (C. Tang)

Calls regarding panhandling were reduced, but there were no stats. on whether incidents involving the police were reduced. (J. Allen)

When is the peak time for crime and will the hours of operation be suitable? (B. Barnard)

There is a significant difference between Regina's social problems and Downtown Nanaimo's. In Regina the majority of incidents are alcohol-related, and they are able to get the homelessness into shelters right away. Downtown Nanaimo has a large number of transitory drug users because of the mild climate and proximity to Vancouver, and people suffering from mental health problems. The patrollers will not have the skills to deal with those type of people. Downtown Nanaimo's patrollers will therefore predominantly promote tourism and business during the day and early evening. It should be clear that the patrollers will not and should not be expected to impact the problems of homelessness and drug addiction. These are beyond the capacity and intention of the program. (D. Laberge)

The patrollers may do some clean-up in the early hours and be a presence in the early evening when hotel guests may want to go out. (B. McGuffie)

Where will the funding come from? (R. Hyne)

The City's General Manager of Community Services has indicated an interest in providing funding. He would have liked the DNP to have contributed also, but it is understood that the DNP is already under-resourced. (B. McGuffie)

Will bad areas be targeted? (B. Barnard)

The patrollers will quickly learn where these spots are, and they can then focus on them. (M. Sinstadt)

What has Regina learned from the Program? (B. Barnard)

That it worked better for them than hiring a security company. (B. McGuffie)

Be very careful when picking people to be the ambassadors. They must be ambassadors for the program. (M. Sinstadt)

People stay constant during their employment as ambassadors, while security firms have a high turnover. (P. Guest)

Who will oversee the program? (K. Zorkin)

The DNP will manage the program with an advisory committee. (D. Backhouse)

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by B. McGuffie that the DNP is most willing to operate the program, if implemented and funded by the City. CARRIED.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by E. Harakas that the DNP strongly recommend to the City to proceed with the implementation of the Downtown Ambassador Program as presented, and recommend that the City provide adequate funding in line with the project proposal. CARRIED.

G. Hanson clarified that it is intended for the program to be a City initiative, funded by the City, and operated and managed by the DNP. If approved, it would presumably become one of the priorities for the DNP in 2006.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. PARTNER REPORTS

a) OCQA - No report.

b) NCCA – Draft Minutes from 2005-Dec-19 were considered.

c) City – No report.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Arts, Culture & Entertainment – C. Tang displayed the new Spring Break Festival and Arts brochure. She also noted:

- Funding has been received for the live site and technical and programming committees have been struck. The screen will be installed in the summer so will not be ready in time for the opening of the Turino games.

- Arts groups are continuing their search for suitable rehearsal and performance space. When asked if they had approached the owners of Fiesta Theatre (Bay Theatre), Camela advised that the condition of the theatre is not suitable. B. McGuffie added that it is priced for redevelopment and therefore unattainable.

- b) Business Development – No report.
- c) Housing, Design & Development – Draft Minutes from 2005-Dec-08 were considered.
- d) Promotions – No report.
- e) Personnel – No report.
- f) Financial – December Statements for the DNP, NCCA and OCQA were considered.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by C. Tang to receive the Partner Reports and the Sub-committee Reports. CARRIED.

## 9. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- a) Safe Streets Act & Trespass Act - Deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Front Street Comprehensive Design - Copies of the final report from NDLea were distributed. This item will remain on the agenda as an outstanding issue.
- c) Heritage Façade Improvement Grant Program  
MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard to recommend that the City approve the 2006 program amount of \$20,000. CARRIED.
- d) Annual Planning - A paper entitled “DNP Annual Planning Process for 2006” was distributed.  
MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the DNP Annual Planning Process for 2006 as set out in the paper dated 2006-Jan-04 be endorsed. CARRIED.
- e) Security Committee  
MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by C. Tang that the matter of forming a Security Committee be referred to the Business Development Sub-committee for their recommendation and report back to the DNP. CARRIED.
- f) DNP Structure and Personnel - See second motion under No. 4. of the Minutes.
- g) Staff Benefits - G. Hanson reported that benefits for the four employees of DNP would cost approximately \$750/month if they were acquired from a benefit provider. A more economically feasible plan would be to establish a trust program either with TOS Insurance or self-administered if possible which would provide a pool of money to draw on when necessary, and that the DNP Treasurer has indicated that a portion of unallocated money in the DNP 2005 Budget could be used to initiate such trust.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the DNP Treasurer be asked to look into setting up a health benefit trust fund either self-administered or through TOS Insurance, and to report back to the DNP. CARRIED.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None.

12. NEXT MEETING

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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