

MINUTES
DOWNTOWN NANAIMO PARTNERSHIP
MONDAY, 2005-APR-11, CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

Present Diane Brennan, Acting Chair
Eileen Harakas
Camela Tang
Kathy Torhjelm
Doug Backhouse (5:45 pm)

Dee Klein
Jim Whiteaker
Jerry Pink
Bruce Barnard

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

Others: Moni Murray, NCCA member

Regrets Ron Cantelon
Bob Moss
Andrew Tucker

Tom Krall
Blake McGuffie

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by J. Pink, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that the Agenda be approved with the withdrawal of No. 4 on the Agenda, and the following additions:

- Correspondence from the Province of B.C.
- Correspondence from 2010 Legacies Now
- Correspondence from Citizen's on Patrol
- Correspondence from Darcy Olsen, Cambie Hotel
- Correspondence from Century Holdings Ltd.
- Correspondence from the Working Group on Homelessness Issues
- Balance Sheet and Income Statement
- Francophone Signage
- Wiseman House
- Parking

CARRIED.

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by J. Whiteaker, SECONDED by J. Pink that the Minutes from 2005-Mar-01 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

None.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Invitation by Provincial Government to an announcement to be made at Mal-U on 2005-Apr-12.

- b) Letter dated 2005-Apr-04 from Lori Baxter, Director, ArtsNow, 2010 Legacies Now advising they have given conditional acceptance to a \$15,000 grant for the DNP's proposed teen's festival.
- c) Letter dated 2005-Mar-08 from Cpl. Tom Burkett, Citizen's on Patrol (COP) thanking the DNP for inviting the COP to assist in the 2004/05 New VI New Year's event.
- d) Email dated 2005-Mar-24 from Darcy Olsen, Cambie Hotel requesting to be added to the May 3rd DNP Agenda to present plans for "the new Cambie" and to discuss neighbourhood initiatives.
- e) Letter dated 2005-Mar-15 from Tina Thygesen, Century Holdings Ltd. regarding their opposition to the proposed lease of the Wiseman House.
- f) Letter dated 2005-Apr-05 from John Horn, Chair, Working Group on Homelessness Issues regarding the first biannual census of Nanaimo's homeless.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that above-noted correspondence be received. CARRIED.

6. PARTNER REPORTS

- a) OCQA – Minutes from 2005-Mar-16 were considered.
- b) NCCA – Minutes from 2005-Mar-21 were considered.
 - B. Barnard highlighted the following items from the Minutes:
 - Support for BDC's recommendation that the NNC include continuous retail space from Commercial Street, along Terminal and around the corner to Gordon Street. D. Brennan noted that the space will be used for offices and will have windows, so will not be a blank wall.
 - Recommendation that any future use of the Port Place include as much retail space as existing. D. Brennan noted that the NCCA's comments on this matter are shared by Council. MOVED by J. Whiteaker, SECONDED by E. Harakas to recommend that the City pursue as much retail space as possible in future plans for the Port Place. CARRIED.
 - Recommendation that a security task force be created. MOVED by B. Barnard, SECONDED by C. Tang that the matter of security be deferred to the next DNP meeting. CARRIED.
- c) City – D. Brennan advised that at the last Council meeting, the \$200,000 portion of the budget allocated to the DNP was passed.

MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by E. Harakas that the Partner Reports be accepted. CARRIED.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Arts, Culture & Entertainment – C. Tang gave a verbal report advising:

- Very positive feedback was received at a recent site visit to the Caprice Theatre from representatives of Arts groups regarding the possible conversion of the Theatre into a performing arts centre.
G. Hanson noted that he is preparing a business plan for the proposal, and will be making a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission.
 - Conditional acceptance of a grant request for \$15,000 was received from 2010 Legacies Now for a teen spring-break festival. She noted that out of the five grant applications received by 2010 Legacies Now in this phase of funding, Nanaimo was granted four which included Crimson Coast for a youth introduction to dance project, the DNP for the spring festival, the Museum for a Sports Hall of Fame, and the City of Nanaimo for an inventory of cultural facilities and cultural calendar. The next phase of funding will be in June, 2005.
 - The Harbourfront Plaza will be pursued as a 'Live Site' option for 2010. The proposal must come through the City though or an organization approved by the City, so is presently being worked on.
- b) Business Development – Meeting Notes from 2005-Mar-17 were considered.
B. Barnard and G. Hanson highlighted the following from the Notes:
- Recommendation that there be continuous commercial space along Terminal Avenue, Commercial Street and Museum Way.
 - The Business Facilitator position was advertised.
George noted that more than 30 resumes had been received.
 - A Graffiti Task Force has been set up, with the Arts District being designated a "No Tolerance" zone. A paint-out will be held on June 4&5 in that area, followed by an "own a block" program.
- c) Housing, Design & Development – Draft Minutes from 2005-Mar-16 were considered.
The following items in the Minutes were discussed:
- Recommendation that City Engineering look for sites to plant 14 trees that are available, and to advise the DNP of future tree placement plans in order for the DNP plan for additional funding.
MOVED by D. Klein, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that the City review their Landscape in City Streets Bylaw with the intent of looking for opportunities to install additional street trees and boulevard planting on the section of Selby Street where infrastructure work is presently being done; and that the area of Fitzwilliam/Albert Streets also be considered for placement of available trees. CARRIED.
- M. Murray advised that Haliburton Street could also use some trees.
- Recommendation that a \$7,500 Façade Grant be allocated for 426 Fitzwilliam Street.
 - Recommendation that support be given to the Modern Café's application to have its liquor license extended to an outdoor seating area.
MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by D. Klein to recommend that the application by the Modern Café to have its liquor license extended to an outdoor seating area in front of Gallery 223, be approved. CARRIED.

- Clarification needed on whether a charette should be set up with the owners of the Howard Johnson Hotel.
D. Backhouse provided an update on this item, including the previous recommendation by the Housing Committee that as Study Area #1 and the Howard Johnson Hotel property are tied in together, that a plan be prepared for the entire area. However, due to the City's time constraints regarding the proposed Foundry site development, City staff are unable to proceed with such a study at this time. They have placed a \$50,000 higher level of service request for future planning of the area into the budget discussion. [Note: This item did not receive Council support during the budget discussions on 2005-Apr-04.]

After considerable discussion, it was decided that George would proceed with setting up a charette for the Howard Johnson property, as per the previous directive from the DNP.

- The Front Street Comprehensive Design Project is presently unfunded. MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by J. Pink to encourage the City to begin to plan the budgeting for the redesign of Front Street in conjunction with the development that is occurring Downtown; i.e. CAPE, Insight, NNC. CARRIED.

d) Promotions – The March Report was considered.

e) Personnel – G. Hanson reported that Tamara Hall has resigned her position as 'Project Assistant and Information Liaison' effective May 1. This is a career advancement in that she has been hired by Tourism Vancouver Island. Search begins immediately for a replacement.

f) Financial – J. Whiteaker reported on the budget, and advised that a more detailed status report is presently being designed.

MOVED by J. Pink, SECONDED by D. Backhouse that the Sub-committee Reports be accepted. CARRIED.

8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

a) DNP Priority Action 2005 Report – The Committee considered a synopsis document of the top priorities linking them to the Five-year Capital Plan, which was requested at the last meeting.
MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by C. Tang that the DNP Priority Action 2005 Report be accepted. CARRIED.

D. Klein clarified that when the action stating "Explore economical ways of enhancing streetscape with flower pots, benches, banners, etc." was put forward at the Planning Session, that it was referring, at least in part, to the Old City Quarter.

b) Transit Exchange – G. Hanson reported that the temporary location on Prideaux Street is proceeding. D. Brennan confirmed that Council did approve the location, and that no customer parking in the lot behind the ARC building will be lost.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by E. Harakas that the City and Regional District of Nanaimo include an enhanced pedestrian environment around the exchange and that an increased level of service request be put forward to the DNP. CARRIED.

- c) Francophone Signage – G. Hanson advised that the Francophone Society had received federal funding for a program to include a welcoming message in French on Downtown signs as part of the 2010 Olympic preparations. He requested direction from the DNP on how he should proceed. Discussion followed on this issue, and whether a welcome message in the Snuneymuxw language should also be added to the signs. MOVED by C. Tang, SECONDED by E. Harakas that the DNP proceed with plans to include a welcoming message in French on Downtown signs as possible and appropriate given design limitations for signs still to be produced. CARRIED.

MOVED by D. Backhouse, SECONDED by J. Whiteaker that in conjunction with the Francophone Signage Project, that the Snuneymuxw Band be contacted about having a welcoming message in their language as well. CARRIED.

George clarified that he will endeavor to converse with the Snuneymuxw but will not hold up the implementation of the signage program.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) DNP Capital Projects Budget Projections – 2005-2009 – The Committee considered the Report which included the following concepts:
- Using the \$107,000 remaining in 'Art/Culture Projects' combined with \$70,000 in 2005 and \$55,000 in 2006 to pursue development of a performing arts centre at the Caprice Theatre.
 - Using the \$100,000 in the Conversion Reserve for smaller projects, and to respond to the anticipated demand for façade grants in 2006.
 - Using the \$75,000 remaining in 2004 for Front Street combined with \$100,000 proposed for 2005 for a waterfront stairway project.

MOVED by J. Pink, SECONDED by B. Barnard that the Report be accepted. CARRIED.

This item will also be placed on the next agenda as an 'Outstanding Issue'.

- b) April Schedule – G. Hanson reported that the next Quarterly Coffee meeting will be held on April 27th at B. McGuffie's building at Esplanade and Nicol, and that the next property owner's luncheon will be held on April 29th at the Coast Bastion Hotel.
- c) Parking – G. Hanson advised that the Cavan Street Flea Market proposal has been approved.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2005-May-03 at 5:15 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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