

MINUTES
OPEN COMMUNITY VITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2018-JUN-06, AT 4:30 PM

PRESENT: . Members: Dennis McMahon, Vice Chair
 Erin Hemmens
 James Bowen
 Julia Stevens
 Paula Waatainen
 Rob McGregor

Absent: Councillor G.W. Fuller
 Ingrid Sly

Staff: Dale Lindsay, Director, Community Development
 Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner
 John Horn, Social Planner
 Rebecca Buckler, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE OPEN COMMUNITY VITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Open Community Vitality Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Erin Hemmens advised that the Pride Week Flag Raising Ceremony would be taking place at 5:30 pm in the City Hall parking lot and suggested that members attend the ceremony if the meeting is adjourned in time for the event.
- (b) Dennis McMahon requested that the Committee introduce themselves and provide a summary of their background and interests to the new committee members in attendance.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Community Vitality Committee held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2018-MAY-02 at 4:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Organ Donation Program by Ron Walker, The Kidney Foundation of Canada

During the 2018-MAY-14 Special Council Meeting, Ron Walker and Randy Spensley of the Kidney Foundation of Canada provided a presentation regarding The Kidney Foundation of Canada's Organ Donation Program. Mr. Walker requested that the City of Nanaimo pass a resolution in support of the Organ Donor Program, in line with the resolution of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), which reads as follows:

"THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that UBCM call upon Mayors and Council Members to accept the Kidney Foundation's challenge to Save Lives Through Organ Donation in their communities and to work with the Foundation to increase the number of people registered as organ donors in their respective communities."

Council subsequently referred the item to the Community Vitality Committee for consideration.

Mr. Walker provided an overview of kidney disease, the Organ Donor Program, and the goal of reaching a 30% registration rate by 2020. The Foundation would like to partner with the City of Nanaimo to increase the registration rate, and some of their initial ideas included encouragement of City staff to register, advertising on City garbage trucks, and to place reminders alongside annual tax bills.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- If someone expresses interest in registering, send them a reminder, or offer to register them "on the spot".
- Request a booth at local Blood Donor clinics and offer to register interested people "on the spot".
- City support should be provided to all non-profit and special advocacy groups consistently. The City should consider adopting an official policy or list of "services" that can be offered to groups with requests such as this.

Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner, provided a list of staff-suggested ideas that the City currently offers to non-profit and special advocacy groups, noting that the City does not share third-party posts on Facebook or the City website:

- Light up the Bastion in a certain color (send request through Mayor's Office).
- Request a Proclamation of a specific day, month, or week (send request through Mayor's Office). Proclamations can be shared on the City's Facebook page and

the proclamation can be posted on the City's website (send request through Communications).

- Organize a flag raising (send request through Mayor's Office).
- Advertise in the Activity Guide using the reduced ad-rate for non-profit groups (send request through Parks & Recreation)
- Distribute posters to City facilities for display (distribute posters to Beban, Bowen, Ice Centre, Aquatic Centre, Oliver Woods, City Hall, Service & Resource Centre, Oliver Woods).
- Propose a "Mayor's Challenge" (send request through Legislative Services).
- Set up a booth at a City event, such as Canada Day (send request through Parks & Recreation).

It was moved and seconded that the presentation regarding The Kidney Foundation's Organ Donor Program be received for information. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded the following items be discussed at the next regular Community Vitality meeting:

- recommendation that Council endorse a Nanaimo-specific resolution similar to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) resolution;
- recommendation that Council consider creating and adopting a City-wide policy for ways in which the City can offer support to non-profit and special advocacy groups; and
- brainstorming of other creative suggestions for The Kidney Foundation's education and awareness campaign.

The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Point in Time Homeless Census by John Horn, Social Planner

John Horn, Social Planner, provided an update on the Point in Time Homeless Census. He provided background on the census, noting that the count was conducted under the auspices of the federal government's Homeless Partnering Strategy. Communities across Canada and Vancouver Island have or will be conducting counts and for the first time we can expect a relatively accurate count of how many people are homeless in Canada.

The local count can be set against this larger national picture, but the value lies in the detailed demographic data about the local population that is collected via the survey instrument, and it is this fine-grained analysis that will be the basis for the staff presentation.

Questions asked in the survey were standard across Canada, and preliminary results are as follows:

- Total # of respondents: 335 (estimated true count is over 450)
- Total # of respondents from last count: 174
- 70% male and 30% female
- The majority of respondents were between age 25 to 44
- Most respondents identified as being Nanaimo residents and living here for more than six months. A total of 80% identified as being long-term Nanaimo residents

- 31% respondents identified as Metis or First Nation
- 30% of respondents said they became homeless under the age of 17
- Of the 335 respondents, 252 identified as being heterosexual
- Respondents cited the reason for homelessness, which included illness, addiction, ability to pay rent, and “other”

The “Homeless in Nanaimo – Everyone Counts: 2018 Point in Time Count Report” can be viewed online at <https://pub-nanaimo.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=6794>.

It was moved and seconded that the presentation regarding the Point in Time Homeless Census be received for information. The motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Information Item: New Committee Members

On 2018-MAY-14, Council approved two new at-large members (James Bowen and Julia Stevens) to the Community Vitality Committee, for a term ending 2018-DEC-31.

(b) Information Item: High School Poetry Competition Winners

The winners of the 2017 High School Poetry competition and Nanaimo’s Youth Poet Laureate Kailey DeFehr will attend the 2018-JUN-11 Council Meeting to read their poems.

- 1st Place: “Untitled” by Jesse Nicholas Brittain
- 2nd Place: “Open Curtains; She is My Moon” by Isabella Cooper
- 3rd Place: “Ocean of Jubilation” by Rachel Ward

(c) Information Item: Temporary Public Art Installed in City Parks and Public Spaces

During Public Art Week (May 14 to 18, 2018), eleven new pieces of temporary public art were installed in City parks and public spaces.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no members of the public in attendance wishing to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:27 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.



CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



CORPORATE OFFICER


Sheila Gurrie
Corporate Officer
City of Nanaimo