

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2020-FEB-10, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht (arrived 1:52 p.m.)
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor S. D. Armstrong

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture (arrived 1:08 p.m.)
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
J. Van Horne, Director of Human Resources (arrived 2:25 p.m.)
Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development (vacated 1:58 p.m.)
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning (vacated 2:10 p.m.)
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications
C. Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner (vacated 2:10 p.m.)
D. Blackwood, Client Support Specialist (vacated 1:10 p.m.)
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Hall, Steno, Legislative Services
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the following minutes be adopted as circulated:

- Minutes of the Special Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2020-JAN-20, at 12:30 p.m.

- Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2020-JAN-27, at 9:00 a.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

a. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(a) Neighbourhood Association Status and Engagement

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, spoke regarding Neighbourhood Associations – Part 2 being scheduled for a future Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting.

Presentation:

1. Chris Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner, provided a presentation regarding the following:
 - Provided background information regarding the City's Neighbourhood Policy

R. Harding entered the Boardroom at 1:08 p.m.

- Overview of the different types of neighbourhood associations and their structure:
 - 21 active neighbourhood associations
 - Spread throughout the community with self-defined boundaries
 - Organization capacities vary from unregistered societies to non-profit organizations
 - Generally collaborative relationships

D. Blackwood vacated the Boardroom at 1:10 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- Levels of communication between the City and various neighbourhood associations
- Differences between the types of organizations

Chris Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner, continued his presentation as follows:

- Methods used to engage with neighbourhood associations:
 - Groups expected to self-regulate to resolve disputes

- Development referral/information
- Previous Community Engagement Task Force (2018)
- Involving neighbourhood groups during 2020 Official Community Plan (OCP) Engagement
- Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network (NNN):
 - Formed in 2003 as an independent organization for neighbourhood associations
 - Mandate is to facilitate development of effective neighbourhood associations through shared information, consultation and decision making between associations, the City and other organizations
 - Meets three times a year in the Services and Resource Centre, Boardroom
 - NNN is not a committee of Council and operates independently, but a Community Planning staff member attends meetings
- Methods other communities use to support and engage neighbourhood associations

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- Funding opportunities previously provided by the Social Planning Advisory Committee
- If the City of Nanaimo has any regulations, policies or bylaws in place with respect to neighbourhood associations

Chris Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner, continued his presentation and spoke regarding comparable municipalities and how they engage with neighbourhood associations.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- How neighbourhood association become recognized
- Potentially creating a formal process
- Current landscape with neighbourhood associations and their involvement in local planning and developments
- Lack of consistency in what constitutes a neighbourhood association and how to ensure accurate representation of all members
- If other municipalities set boundaries for neighbourhood associations
- Developing a method to determine actual member involvement when a neighbourhood association speaks on their behalf
- Grants provided by other municipalities for neighbourhood associations

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, spoke regarding next steps. He suggested scheduling Neighbourhood Association – Part 2 for a GPC meeting in April, 2020, to provide time for the community groups to prepare their thoughts and feedback.

Councillor Geselbracht entered the Boardroom at 1:52 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- NNN being involved in the upcoming GPC meeting
- Methods of engaging and reviewing feedback submitted by neighbourhood associations
- Sending a questionnaire to the neighbourhood associations
- Ensuring the neighbourhood associations have a reasonable amount of time to provide feedback in advance of the next meeting (Part 2)
- Previous round table discussion regarding neighbourhood associations – what were the key items being requested by neighbourhood associations

B. Corsan vacated the Boardroom at 1:58 p.m.

- Strengthening the neighbourhood association network and its governance structure
- Ensuring the questionnaire/survey is distributed to people who might not be members of neighbourhood associations
- Potentially using Bang the Table software during the future GPC meeting with neighbourhood associations

L. Bhopalsingh, D. Lindsay and C. Sholberg vacated the Boardroom at 2:10 p.m.

(b) 2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan Amendments

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a summary of the discussion during the 2020-JAN-27 GPC meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council revise the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan with the following amendments:

1. Reword Key Focus Area 2 to read: “Ensure our community and transportation planning are multi-modal designed to encourage active and public transportation”
2. Reword the action item regarding public transit to read: “Work with the Regional District of Nanaimo to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public transit services in the City”
3. Add “innovative” and remove “within our risk framework” under Key Focus Area 3
4. Add “as well as the health and safety of those in our community” under Key Focus Area 4
5. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Undertake a review of civic facilities to prioritize and plan for necessary upgrades, expansion and/or replacement”
6. Add “safe” under Council Priority

7. Reword Key Focus Area 6 to read: “Proactively address social disorder issues and advocate for support to ensure our community is a safe place for all people to live, work, play, create and learn”
8. Add “connected” under Key Focus Area 7
9. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Work with the RCMP, Bylaw Services, community and neighbourhood block watch programs to reduce social disorder issues”
10. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Support the work and implement the recommendations of the Health and Housing Task Force to address the health and housing crisis in our community”
11. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Implement improvements in the downtown core to increase pride of place, stimulate the economy and address public safety concerns”

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- Discussion during GPC meeting held 2020-JAN-27
- Dealing with issues as they arise
- Wording regarding Key Focus Area 4
- Duplicating wording about public safety

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended to remove the following:

4. Add “as well as the health and safety of those in our community” under Key Focus Area 4

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Brown, Maartman, Thorpe and Turley*

Committee discussion took place regarding the Strategic Plan being a communication tool between Council and the public.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that Staff will review the wording under Key Focus Area 4 for grammatical issues.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- The word multi-modal being included

D. Lindsay returned to the Boardroom at 2:22 p.m.

- Framework and actions of the Environment Committee being listed under the Actions section of Environmental Responsibility

J. Van Horne entered the Boardroom at 2:25 p.m.

- Listing environmental actions potentially creating restrictions
- Environment Committee has not provided a clear focus on topics/actions yet

The vote was taken on the main motion as follows:

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council revise the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan with the following amendments:

1. Reword Key Focus Area 2 to read: “Ensure our community and transportation planning are multi-modal designed to encourage active and public transportation”
2. Reword the action item regarding public transit to read: “Work with the Regional District of Nanaimo to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public transit services in the City”
3. Add “innovative” and remove “within our risk framework” under Key Focus Area 3
4. Add “as well as the health and safety of those in our community” under Key Focus Area 4
5. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Undertake a review of civic facilities to prioritize and plan for necessary upgrades, expansion and/or replacement”
6. Add “safe” under Council Priority
7. Reword Key Focus Area 6 to read: “Proactively address social disorder issues and advocate for support to ensure our community is a safe place for all people to live, work, play, create and learn”
8. Add “connected” under Key Focus Area 7
9. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Work with the RCMP, Bylaw Services, community and neighbourhood block watch programs to reduce social disorder issues”
10. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Support the work and implement the recommendations of the Health and Housing Task Force to address the health and housing crisis in our community”
11. Add the following bullet as an action item: “Implement improvements in the downtown core to increase pride of place, stimulate the economy and address public safety concerns”

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion took place regarding potentially developing a policy to outline how the Strategic Plan would be reviewed annually.

(c) AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- Arts and Culture scheduled for March 23rd being pushed to a future date in April
- Neighbourhood Associations – Part 2 being rescheduled to March 23rd
- Women’s Participation on City of Nanaimo Committees and Task Force topic and Childminding Reimbursement topic being reviewed by the Council Remuneration Task Force
- Effective Advocacy Strategies scheduled for February 24th
- Launch of OCP Plus at the February 24th GPC meeting
- Farnaz Farrokhi, Manager, Communications, to provide advice regarding Effective Advocacy Strategies topic on February 24th
- Transit and Crosswalk safety topics being combined and inviting the Regional District of Nanaimo transit staff to participate

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

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

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 2:58 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER