

**MINUTES**  
SPECIAL MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE MEETING  
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,  
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
FRIDAY, 2020-JUL-31, AT 9:02 A.M.

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Present: Mayor Krog, Chair  
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically)  
J. Byrne, Regional Managing Partner, Vancouver Island, MNP  
D. Hais, Board Chair, Nanaimo Port Authority  
D. Saucier, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University (joined electronically)  
S. Madden, Executive Director, United Way (joined electronically)  
I. Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, Petroglyph Development Group, Snuneymuxw First Nation

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services  
B. Mackay, Director, Information Technology  
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services  
J. Vanderhoef, Steno, Legislative Services  
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.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 Minutes of the Special Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Friday, 2020-JUL-17 at 9:01 a.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Regional District of Nanaimo

Daniel Pearce, General Manager, Transit and Emergency Services, Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding public transit. Highlights included:

- Operator and public health safety updates due to COVID-19:
  - March 19 – Implemented rear door boarding, eliminated fare collection and decreased transit capacity to 15 to 20 riders
  - March 25 – Transit service reduced
  - April 3 – Route 25 Departure Bay ferry terminal shuttle discontinued
  - April 15 – Implemented a temporary Duke Point ferry terminal shuttle
  - June 1 – Returned to front door boarding, driver shields installed, reinstated fare collection
  - June 3 – Increased transit capacity to 35 riders
- RDN Transit has been a leader provincially on implementing temporary driver shields, and is currently working towards installing permanent driver shields
- Prior to COVID-19, 9% ridership growth from 2017 to 2019
- Ridership decreased 60% after March 2020 due to COVID-19
- Currently operating at 12% reduced service and preparing to return to full service in September
- No transit runs were missed due to staff shortages during COVID-19
- To ensure safety, busses are being cleaned regularly and riders are encouraged to wear masks
- 2020 and 2021 transit projects include:
  - Transit redevelopment strategy (fleet realignment, fare review, transit network review and 5-year business plan)
  - Developments and upgrades to transit exchanges
  - Interregional transit to the Cowichan Valley

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Expected loss of \$2.1 million, and potential funding anticipated from the Federal Government and Province of BC (amount unconfirmed)
- Transit expansion delayed in part due to COVID-19
- Transit exchange development incorporating a blend of on-street and off-street exchanges

Larry Gardner, Manager of Solid Waste, Regional District of Nanaimo, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding solid waste. Highlights included:

- The term “circular economy” first expressed in 1966
- Waste diversion positively impacts both the environment and the economy
- The solid waste management plan includes initiatives on waste diversion and improved services for residents through mandatory source separation and waste hauler licensing
- Barriers to industry growth include challenges with land use to site facilities
- Noted drastic changes in the management of end-of-life materials over the past 30 years

Task Force discussion took place regarding the sorting of contaminated materials and soils.

(b) School District 68 Strategic Plan Overview

Scott Saywell, Superintendent, School District 68, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- School District 68 consists of over 14,700 students, 28 elementary schools, 7 secondary schools, 1 distributed learning school (Island ConnectEd), and 2,200 employees
- Additional programs include Learning Alternatives, Island ConnectEd and Career Technical Centre
- Canada is highly ranked by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in mathematics, reading and science
- 2019-2023 Strategic Plan goals include:
  - Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment
  - Safe, caring and healthy learning and working environment
  - Environmental stewardship and sustainability
  - Truth and reconciliation
- \$16 million upgrade to expand Hammond Bay school by 10 classrooms to accommodate the high demand for French Immersion schools
- Seismic upgrades to Pleasant Valley and Cilaire schools to be completed September 2022
- Other projects include new childcare spaces and the Te'tuxwtun Project
- The five stages for schooling during the pandemic:
  - Stage 5 – Remote learning (no in-class instruction)
  - Stage 4 – Remote learning with exceptions
  - Stage 3 – In-class and remote learning
  - Stage 2 – Learning groups: full time in class
  - Stage 1 – Learning as usual
- Planning a Stage 2 return to classrooms with cohorts of a maximum of 60 elementary students and 120 high school students
- Focus placed on vulnerable students

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Graduation rates 83% for the population as a whole and 70% for indigenous students
- Food program, serving approximately 1,000 families, provided connection with students during COVID-19 remote learning
- Recognition of mental health issues and where to access help

(c) Innovation Island Technology Association

Jennifer Hufnagel, General Manager, Innovation Island Technology Association, and Graham Truax, Executive Director and EiR, Innovation Island Technology Association, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding their Digital Economy program and other tech-sector issues and opportunities. Highlights included:

- Innovation Island is a non-profit, industry based organization with a mission to support technology entrepreneurs
- Over 300 businesses in the Digital Economy Restart, Recover, Reimagine (DER3) program

- DER3 designed to help businesses enter or expand into the digital economy by providing one-on-one business assessments and recommendations
- The program is open to businesses of any size and sector
- Onboarding process starts as an online application followed by an intake meeting, an online presence assessment, and the creation of an Immediate Action Plan. Process can then be escalated to a business advisor and the creation of a Business Action Plan
- COVID-19 has pushed many physical companies online where they are struggling to compete
- A large portion of the market base is unsure on how the market is going to change in relation to changes in the economy

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Most competitors are embracing technologies and there is a need to help traditional businesses adapt
- Focusing on the fundamental attributes that draw people to Nanaimo and are within the City's influence and control
- Understanding that going digital is a process that takes time
- The role that Nanaimo plays as a municipality to attract and retain technology companies
- Providing assistance and identifying sectors of the non-profit industry that are struggling to adapt

(d) Update from Snuneymuxw First Nation

Ian Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, Petroglyph Development Group, Snuneymuxw First Nation, provided updates on the projects Snuneymuxw First Nation is working on, such as their involvement in the Courtyard by Marriott hotel project and a 26 unit townhome development.

5. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter*:

Section 90(1) A part of the Council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;
- (n) the consideration of whether a Council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2); and,

*Community Charter* Section 90(2):

- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Task Force moved In Camera at 10:36 a.m.

The Task Force moved out of In Camera at 12:04 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 12:04 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER