

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2021-FEB-08, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor S. D. Armstrong (joined electronically, disconnected 2:36 p.m.)
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
T. Doyle, A/Fire Chief (joined electronically)
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
S. Snelgrove, Steno Coordinator
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

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

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(a)(1) – Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning – Add PowerPoint presentation.
- (b) Agenda Item 5(b)(1) – 2021 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions – Add Proposed Council Resolutions.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2021-JAN-11, at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

a. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

Presentation:

1. Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - There are 15 Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meetings remaining in 2021
 - Using the meeting topic framework model and utilizing the column for desired outcome of the Committee topics
 - Goal for today's meeting is to prioritize future meeting items, brainstorm new items and consideration of a roundtable discussion regarding future meeting topics
 - Any new ideas or topics Committee members would like included can be forwarded to Staff for inclusion in the framework document
 - Agenda Planning will now be the first item on the GPC Agenda's with a time limit on discussion

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Items/Topics the Committee would like brought forward include:
 - Street Entertainers Regulations with an invitation to downtown business owners to present or discuss their concerns and suggest improvements
 - Crosswalk safety
 - Neighbourhood Associations – invite to meeting to discuss new development and their role
 - Election signage
 - Invite representatives from downtown businesses in a forum type discussion regarding safety, homelessness, crime and brainstorm ideas to improve the downtown area
 - New Downtown Business Improvement Association
 - Youth Engagement
 - Capital Planning Process
 - Waterfront Walkway

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Committee that:

- Staff can rearrange the framework based on discussion today and provide a revised version for the 2021-FEB-22 GPC Meeting
- Work to increase youth engagement was underway through the Communications Department, Community Planning and Parks, Recreation and Culture Department but was paused due to COVID-19

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- The new structure of the BIA does not require funding from the City
- Suggested that Committee members fill out the framework with their top five priorities and bring back for discussion at the 2021-FEB-22 GPC meeting
- Other priority topics include:
 - Engagement with Neighbourhood Associations
 - Joining with Vancouver Island University and School District 68 on youth engagement
 - 1 Port Drive
 - Upcoming Health and Housing Task Force Action Plan
- Embedding language in all Council, Task Force and Committee Terms of Reference documents that encourage women's participation and ensure gender neutral terminology
- Updates regarding outcomes being received by Council
- Ensuring that a forum on Homeless and Addiction related concerns are open to the whole community not only the downtown area
- Council to fill in the framework with priorities and Staff will compile into one framework document for discussion at a future GPC meeting

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the Committee that:

- Going forward Agenda Planning will be the first item on the GPC Agenda
- Staff can plan two months in advance based on Council priorities to ensure large discussion items are not on the same Agenda and provide Staff room to add items that need to come to a GPC meeting
- Forum and discussions with Neighbourhood Associations need to be planned months in advance for invites and to ensure attendance
- Time could be set aside, every couple of months, for a brainstorming and discussion session with the Committee on emerging ideas and topics
- Staff need time to prepare when topics like engagement are placed on the Agenda

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Staff continue to work on 1 Port Drive and Waterfront Walkway and continue to bring new information forward
- Set aside time for a fulsome discussion regarding fiscal restraints, capital projects and what Council hopes to accomplish by the end of this their term

- Staff could also bring ideas of topics forward for a GPC and the Committee could decide where these would best fit into the framework
- Duplication of information in reports and presentations

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Committee that the framework document will be sent to each Committee member for input. Committee members are asked to fill out the desired outcomes section of all items and list their priority items. Legislative Services Staff will compile these and bring them to a future GPC meeting for discussion.

b. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

1. 2021 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding the proposed Council resolutions and advised the Committee of the format required by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC).

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- First three resolutions were created by an intermunicipal working groups with input from people working in the field
- Discussion with AVICC representatives regarding the first three resolutions and the three whereas clauses were acceptable

1. Right to Repair – Councillor Geselbracht

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council submit the following resolution and backgrounder to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Convention:

Right to Repair

Whereas the longevity of items is decreasing because manufacturers are deliberately designing products to be disposable and;

Whereas citizens and businesses are deterred from repairing their belongings by companies that claim ownership over the intellectual property in their products, fail to provide parts or other aspects that make it hard to repair items;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation.

The motion carried.

Opposed: Councillor Turley

2. BC Government's Commitment to a Province Wide Strategy to Manage Construction and Demolition Waste – Councillor Geselbracht

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council submit the following resolution and backgrounder to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Convention:

BC Government's commitment to a Province Wide Strategy to Manage Construction and Demolition waste

Whereas construction and demolition ("C&D") waste comprises approximately 2.8 million metric tonnes of materials annually in British Columbia ("BC"), and about one-third of municipal solid waste disposed in the province; and,

Whereas the materials disposed could have been resold, reused or recycled, they represent sources of embodied carbon, and deconstruction provides six times more job opportunities; and,

Whereas recent research in just Metro Vancouver suggests the value of salvageable wood at \$343 million annually, and the addition of other materials and other regions would radically increase this number of value;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy develop a plan, including changes to regulations, provincial procurement policy, and economic and industrial policy, to significantly reduce Construction and Demolition waste.

The motion carried unanimously

3. BC Circular Economy Strategy – Councillor Geselbracht

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council submit the following resolution and backgrounder to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Convention:

BC Circular Economy Strategy

Whereas the provisioning and management of goods and food consumed by BC communities produces excessive and unnecessary quantities of waste, pollution and carbon emissions that threatens environmental health; and,

Whereas the concept of a Circular Economy provides a vision and framework to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems to help BC communities move towards Zero Waste; and,

Whereas, the province has yet to develop a comprehensive strategy to transition BC's economy to a circular one;

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM request that the province of BC develop a provincial Circular Economy strategy.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Restorative Justice – Councillor Armstrong

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council submit a resolution and backgrounder to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Convention regarding Restorative Justice and that the action clause include:

That a Municipality be given the option of allowing Restorative Justice as a means to resolve bylaw infractions.

The motion carried unanimously.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the Committee that Staff would provide a report regarding Restorative Justice at the 2021-FEB-22 Regular Council Meeting.

5. To Reinstate Three-Year Local Government Terms Of Office – Councillor Thorpe

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Some Council, Committee or Task Force projects require significant amounts of time to create and implement and three years may not be enough time for those items
- Larger municipalities require that Council members break from their career to become a Council Member as it is a full time job
- Four years allows for Staff/Council relationships to strengthen
- Similar resolution submitted in 2017 was not debated
- Shorter term could encourage quick decision making that may not be in the best interest of the community in the long term
- Small municipalities may benefit from shorter terms and suggested the local governments be able to set their own terms of office
- If conflict arises electors have no choice but to deal with the current Council for a long period of time
- Adding benefits and increased remuneration for four year terms of office

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council submit the following resolution and backgrounder to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Convention:

To Reinstate Three-Year Local Government Terms of Office

WHEREAS: Three-year terms allow greater accountability to voters, who are able to show, through, elections, their regard for the directions their local governments are taking, and;

WHEREAS: Four-year terms are an onerous commitment for many, and more likely to make potential candidates willing to stand for election hesitant to do so; and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the provincial government reinstate three-year local government terms of office.

The motion carried.

Opposed: Councillors Bonner, Brown and Hemmens

The Governance and Priorities Committee recessed at 2:26 p.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

Councillor Armstrong disconnected at 2:36 p.m.

c. REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

1. REIMAGINE Nanaimo Phase 1 Engagement Summary

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Staff will return with survey results from the Neighbourhood Associations in March which were broken down by neighbourhood
- Phase 1 is now complete but engagement and community awareness will continue throughout the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process
- Phase 1 engagement involved 39 pop-ups, 110+ workshops, meetings and discussion groups and 5855 returned survey questionnaires
- More than half of the respondents were participating for the first time and survey results were the most any engagement platform in Nanaimo has received
- Staff looked for and implemented different methods of engagement through technology, social networking and social media platforms
- Statistically valid survey results provided Staff with a scientific way of measuring the likely outcomes of the responses from the community
- Strong participation from the 30 – 44 year age groups but an under represented group was the 15 – 24 age group despite best efforts by the City, School District 68 and Vancouver Island University
- Geographic distribution was equal to census population especially in the statistical survey results
- All City Committees and Task Forces have had some participation in the process and provided feedback
- Nanaimo Foodshare and Loaves and Fishes were utilized to promote participation and suggested ways for people with barriers to be heard using more accessible questionnaires

- Results showed that the community is happy with access to nature, parks and open spaces
- Biggest concerns were homelessness, social challenges (drug use and crime), and providing safe walking and cycling routes

Committee discussion took place regarding arts and culture spaces and wording of the different types of homelessness.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Each City department has a role to play in balancing results with future projects
- Statistically valid survey results allow Staff to prioritize concerns based on results from each neighbourhood
- Staff need to breakdown how we address concerns and prioritize action plans for each area of the City of Nanaimo
- Phase 2 will involve working on and implementing scenarios based on survey results
- More time is needed to define and address homelessness
- Majority of the public say they have a good quality of life but 44.2% say their quality of life has worsened in the last 10 years
- Key issues include a thriving downtown, supportive community, waterfront access for all and a green approach
- Phase 2 will include land use options, policy options, environment, climate change, community events, workshops and the second community survey

Committee discussion took place regarding COVID-19 and the potential impact on numbers contained in the survey scenarios.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Higher growth and lower growth rates were built into the scenarios showing anticipated growth
- Next steps include City Portrait, Doughnut Economics, scenario development and continued community engagement
- Phase 3 includes the draft plan development in the Fall/Winter of 2021 and engagement
- May request that Council consider a moratorium on new Official Community Plan (OCP) amendment applications from May to November of 2021
- Thanked Staff, Senior Leadership Team members, Mayor and Council for their support and assistance throughout the process

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The amount of community members taking part and hopefully those numbers increase in Phase 2

- Implementing survey results and ensuring the community sees their contributions and participation
- Moratorium on OCP amendment applications
- Ensuring that goals match the scenarios presented to the community to measure achievements and indicators going forward
- Utilizing Committees and Task Forces to work on social, financial and other indicators

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised the Committee that:

- It will be a challenge to ensure all voices are seen and heard but the valid survey results will help bring awareness to issues in the community
- Major OCP Amendments may be coming in the future and will impact climate change, accessibility and other master plans
- A technical analysis will be completed in the future which will show actions, social, environmental and infrastructure costs
- Phase 2 is critical as it will show how we can accommodate growth while maintaining priorities
- Staff will return to a future GPC meeting to present a framework on how the City can evaluate goals and initial indicators for consideration

b. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE: (continued)

2. Strategic Plan Discussion

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding the Strategic Plan (the Plan). Highlights included:

- Clarify if the Committee wishes to focus on five to eight specific priorities
- A future GPC could be set aside to review the strategic plan, set priorities and discuss items that are more important now, due to COVID-19, that may not have been a priority when the strategic plan was approved

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Plan is a good general document that identifies themes and important priorities
- Other priorities and goals may be realized after the completion of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process
- The Plan is still one of the driving forces Staff focus on regarding development and objectives
- Aligning the City's strategic plan with the Doughnut Economy Model
- Completion of an asset management inventory
- Discussion regarding George Cuff's document on governance that was created for Council

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the Committee that:

- Staff ensure that the Plan is linked to reports to Council and none of the items in the Plan are off target
- Many of the items are on track and include multi-year timelines
- There are many links between the Plan, the Doughnut Model and REIMAGINE Nanaimo and Staff will ensure these are emphasized

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Would like to see more effort on addressing homelessness and addiction issues and what the expectations are in the community on these items
- Items in the Plan that need to be pushed back or moved forward based on community feedback during the REIMAGINE Nanaimo project
- Terminology used by George Cuff regarding Strategic Direction instead of Strategic Plan

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the Committee that:

- A GPC session in March could be dedicated to the Committees top five priorities and may provide Staff direction on focus items until the end of this Council's term
- Motion will be needed to send the George Cuff document to Council to be received

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Receiving the George Cuff document titled "Council Covenant" in a public forum would reaffirm Council's commitment to good governance
- Include the document in the training package for new Council members when the time comes
- Public perspective on receiving the document at a Regular Council Meeting

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council receive the George Cuff governance document titled "Council Covenant" at a future Regular Council meeting. The motion was defeated.

Opposed: Councillors Bonner, Brown, Geselbracht, Hemmens, Maartman and Turley

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:08 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER