

MINUTES
OPEN NANAIMO YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2018-JAN-17, AT 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Michael Ribicic, Chair
 Councillor Jerry Hong (entered 4:36 p.m.)
 Erin Burnley
 Aakash Pawar (entered 4:37 p.m.)
 Clare Shuley
 Claudia Thompson
 Henry Waatainen

 Absent: Tali Campbell

 Staff: Karin Kronstal, Social Planner
 Chris Barfoot, Culture and Heritage Coordinator
 Peggi Humphreys, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE NANAIMO YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Open Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

A member of the City of Nanaimo's Leaders-In-Training program, Honour Thagaard, was in attendance and was invited to sit at the meeting table with the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

(a) Michael Ribicic, Chair, asked to remove Agenda Item 5. (b) Presentation by Constable Misty Dmytar, Nanaimo RCMP, due to Constable Dmytar being unable to attend the meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council held in the Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2017-NOV-15, at 4:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Youth Poet Laureate Program

Chris Barfoot, Culture & Heritage Coordinator, provided an update regarding the Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate program. The term length has been changed by Council from one year to two years, and Kailey DeFehr, Nanaimo's current Youth Poet Laureate, has agreed to continue in the role for a second year.

Councillor Hong entered the Board Room at 4:36 p.m.

Chris Barfoot asked the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council to consider opportunities to involve the Youth Poet Laureate in initiatives facing youth as they are encountered. The goal would be to help the Youth Poet Laureate build relationships and make connections in the community.

Aakash Pawar entered the Board Room at 4:37 p.m.

Suggestions for involvement by the Youth Poet Laureate included continuing the annual High School Poetry Contest; reading poetry at local events that the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council participates in and/or hears about (such as the annual student welcome at Vancouver Island University (VIU)); and sharing topics of interest or concern to youth encountered with the Youth Poet Laureate.

Michael Ribicic, Chair, invited Kailey DeFehr to attend a future Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council meeting to further discuss ways of collaborating. Chris Barfoot advised he will try to arrange for the Youth Poet Laureate to attend one of the next two Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council meetings in February or March 2018.

(b) Youth Advisory Council - Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre

Ivy Richardson, Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, provided an introduction to the recently formed Youth Advisory Council. Members Michael Jack, Trent Jack, Claire Little, and mentor Ruby Barclay were also in attendance to provide information about the group.

The Youth Advisory Council is made up of aboriginal youth members aged 13 to 19 and was established four months ago with the goal to improve the lives of aboriginal youth in urban Nanaimo areas. The group has embarked on multiple endeavours, including determining a mission statement; becoming survey building certified; co-hosting a youth reconciliation event; organizing two retreats and several team building activities; creating a "shoe-sized" guide to youth resources; and creating a Youth Advisory Council boxing team. "Youth empowering youth" is the theme for an upcoming survey and youth engagement forum being hosted by the Youth Advisory Council.

Discussion ensued with Michael Ribicic, Chair, and Aakash Pawar, past Chair, sharing previous and current projects of the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council. Notable items included an upcoming transportation survey for youth, participating in an Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Convention; presentations in other island communities promoting youth councils;

participating in parades and festivals, and fundraising/volunteering for local charity organizations.

Ivy Richardson invited the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council to participate in their upcoming youth engagement forum on 2018-MAR-01, including an invitation to the Youth Poet Laureate to read a poem or conduct a poetry writing workshop at the event. The group also invited Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council members to attend one of its future meetings at their Estevan Road location.

Michael Ribicic, Chair, encouraged members of the Youth Advisory Council to apply to fill any of three current member vacancies for the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council. Members of both councils expressed enthusiasm about building a relationship with each other and working together on projects in the future.

6. ADMINISTRATION:

(a) Transportation Survey

In discussion, members identified transit service improvements as the most important aspect of transportation for youth in Nanaimo. The idea of hosting a round table meeting to gather input from key stakeholders, including the university, high schools and youth groups in Nanaimo, was suggested.

It was moved and seconded that the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council invite youth stakeholders to its 2018-FEB-21 meeting to participate in a conversation about public transit in Nanaimo. The motion carried unanimously.

Members divided the task of inviting representatives from all Nanaimo high schools either in person at Student Council meetings or by email amongst themselves. Invitees will include the VIU Student Union, student councils from Dover Bay, Nanaimo District, Barsby, Wellington, and Cedar Secondary schools, the Youth Advisory Council (Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre), Nanaimo Youth Services Association and the Boys and Girls Club.

The Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council will determine recommendations from the ideas gathered at its 2018-FEB-21 meeting to present to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) for consideration when the RDN designates transit bus routes in the future.

(b) Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Promotional Items

T-shirts reflecting the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council logo were distributed amongst members. Banners and water bottles are scheduled to deliver later in January. These promotional items were ordered in December to promote the identity of the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council at public events throughout the year.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:50 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.



CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



CORPORATE OFFICER