

MINUTES
OPEN NANAIMO YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2017-NOV-15, AT 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: **Members:** Michael Ribicic, Chair
 Councillor J. Hong
 Erin Burnley
 Aakash Pawar
 Clare Shuley
 Claudia Thompson
 Henry Waatainen (arrived at 4:34 p.m.)

Absent: Tali Campbell

Staff: Karin Kronstal, Social Planner
 Megan Lum, Recreation Coordinator
 Peggi Humphreys, Recording Secretary

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

The Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. Michael Ribicic, Chair, acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- (a) Councillor Hong advised that he would be bringing forward an item under Other Business as Item 8 (a), Cowichan Valley Regional District Youth Placemaking Project.
- (b) Karin Kronstal requested that the Chair bring forward an item under Other Business as Item 8 (b), Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy.
- (c) Michael Ribicic advised that he would be bringing forward an item under Other Business as Item 8 (c), Christmas Social.
- (d) Erin Burnley advised that she would be bringing forward an item under Other Business as Item 8 (d), Empty Bowl Project.
- (e) Councillor Hong advised that he would be bringing forward an item under Other Business as Item 8 (e), Regional District of Nanaimo Transit.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

Henry Waatainen entered the Board Room at 4:34 p.m.

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-SEP-20, at 4:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Megan Lum, Recreation Coordinator/Youth Programmer, spoke regarding the Parks and Recreation Department's current activity offerings for youth. Programs designed with youth in mind include:

- Leaders In Training (LIT)/Quest: youth learn leadership skills and then volunteer in the community
- Babysitting: one of many courses for teens from the Activity Guide.
- Spare Blocks: free, sports-based drop-in programs at various City facilities and school sites
- Youth Drop-ins: free, drop-in sessions for teens to gather provided through partnerships between the City, Boys and Girls Club, and Vancouver Island University
- Youth Advocates Committee: a networking committee for youth workers to share ideas regarding both fun events and social issues
- Youth Resource Guide: a convenient list of agencies offering support services and activities for youth (a phone app version may become available in the future)

Social media is being used to communicate with youth groups and advertise programming to resident youth and parents. An Instagram initiative had some success and Snapchat is being considered as perhaps a more effective way to get messages to youth.

Initiatives that allow underprivileged youth to participate in programs include the City's LEAP program, which provides a 50 percent (maximum \$40) discount to youth who meet the program's criteria. Canadian Tire's Jumpstart program provides funding for youth in sports program. Parks and Recreation staff are considering scholarship-type programs that could provide greater funding for needy youth in future, and are continually looking to expand the availability of free drop-in programs.

Upcoming projects in the works include construction of a covered sports space in Harewood and the Harewood Skate Park. Notable events are Winter

Wonderland at Frank Crane Arena (December 26-30), Finale 2017 (December 31), and Youth Week in May 2018.

6. REPORTS:

(a) Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Key Date Calendar – 2018

The Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Date Calendar for 2018 was received by unanimous consent.

The Chair suggested that a member from the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council should attend the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention from April 13-15, 2018.

(b) 2017-OCT-10 Regional District of Nanaimo Committee of the Whole Meeting Debrief

Michael Ribicic, Chair, advised that his presentation regarding the formation of a Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Youth Advisory Council was well received by the RDN Board. A motion presented by Councillor Hong requesting an RDN staff report on this issue carried at the 2017-OCT-10 RDN Committee of the Whole meeting. However, the same motion later failed at the 2017-OCT-24 Regular Board Meeting. Some RDN Board members expressed concern that existing youth programs offered by individual communities within in the RDN might be duplicated.

(c) Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Vacancies (Verbal Update)

Karin Kronstal confirmed that three Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council members have resigned in 2017; also, a motion was put forward to Council requesting to add two more members to the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council. Consequently, if Council endorsed the addition of two new members, a total of five member vacancies will need to be filled. Advertising for new members for all City of Nanaimo committees is now planned for January 2018, as advised by the Legislative Services Department. Interested youth must wait for the official application call to go out before they can submit an application. All current Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council members have received letters extending their terms to 2018-DEC-31.

Karin Kronstal suggested extra advertising efforts (newspaper press release mentioning the Youth Council's third-year anniversary, Facebook posting, a visit to the university) to attract applicants when the citywide call for committee members begins. Comments from the current members regarding how they had each first heard of the committee before they applied included word of mouth; talking to the Mayor; information from teachers and parents; and, newspaper advertisements.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Letter dated 2017-SEP-18 from Rhonda Vanderfluit, Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society, regarding the Youth parliament's 89th parliamentary session in Victoria
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The Chair and Aakash Pawar advised that people they knew who had participated in past Youth Parliament sessions reported it was a very positive experience. They both recommended a member of the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council consider participating in 2018 (since the deadline for this year had passed).

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Cowichan Valley Regional District Youth Placemaking Project

Councillor Hong presented an open invitation to the Placemaking Vancouver Island 2017 awards ceremony happening on 2017-NOV-30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cowichan Theatre. The event is supported by Cowichan Social Planning as part of its Youth Placemaking Project. Safe Youth Cowichan is a youth committee that offers ideas on how to make Cowichan a safer, more inclusive, youth friendly and resilient community.

Karin Kronstal noted that a way for youth to have input into the future of Nanaimo is to participate in the City's Public Engagement Pilot Program. Future meetings will be facilitated by Vancouver Island University's Masters of Community Planning students. Youth are encouraged to add their voices to those of the overall population at these sessions.

- (b) Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy

Karin Kronstal advised of upcoming drop-in open house sessions being held on November 17, 18, 24 and 25, 2017 regarding Nanaimo's Affordable Housing Strategy. Feedback from youth would be valued since housing affordability issues affect many young people. Members were also encouraged to take the Affordable Housing Strategy Survey available online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/AHS.

- (c) Christmas Social

By unanimous consent, the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council decided to go out as a group for dinner on Friday, 2017-DEC-08 at 6:00 p.m. The restaurant location will be communicated to members once Karin Kronstal has confirmed a reservation.

- (d) Empty Bowl Project

Erin Burnley and Clare Schuley encouraged members to attend the Empty Bowl fundraising event sponsored by students at Nanaimo District Secondary School (NDSS). Students and community members have made 150 pottery bowls to be donated. Each ticket sold includes one of the handmade bowls that can be filled with soup; entertainment is also provided. The event takes place on Wednesday, 2017-DEC-13 at the NDSS Cafeteria beginning at 5:30 p.m.

(e) Regional District of Nanaimo Transit

Councillor Hong initiated a discussion to determine which specific transit concerns the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council would like to bring up at a future RDN meeting. Overly long transit times and bus infrequency to VIU from some areas of the city were mentioned. The group discussed conducting an online survey to ask local youth for their ideas regarding improvements to the transit system.

It was moved and seconded that the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council create a survey for youth regarding Regional District of Nanaimo transit issues. The motion carried unanimously.

Karin Kronstal will work with members over the next few months to establish questions and promotional advertising for the proposed survey. The group is aiming to present the data findings at a Regional District of Nanaimo meeting in May 2018.

9. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:45 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.



CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


CORPORATE OFFICER