

**MINUTES**  
OPEN COMMUNITY VITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE  
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
WEDNESDAY, 2018-SEP-05, AT 4:30 PM

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PRESENT:   Members:   Councillor G.W. Fuller, Chair  
                              Dennis McMahon  
                              Erin Hemmens  
                              Ingrid Sly  
                              James Bowen  
                              Rob McGregor

                 Absent:   Julia Stevens  
                              Paula Waatainen

                 Staff:     D. Lindsay, Director, Community Development (arrived 4:41 p.m.)  
                              J. Horn, Social Planner  
                              K. Kronstal, Social Planner  
                              R. Buckler, Recording Secretary

1.    CALL THE OPEN COMMUNITY VITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Open Community Vitality Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2.    ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3.    ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Community Vitality Committee held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2018-JUL-04 at 4:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy and Nanaimo's Action Plan to End Homelessness (2018-2023) by Karin Kronstal, Social Planner

John Horn, Social Planner, explained that "Nanaimo's Action Plan to End Homelessness, 2018-2023" was produced under the direction of the Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition, and with the administrative support of the United Way Northern and Central Vancouver Island. The City of Nanaimo provided extensive technical and advisory support. The 2018 Action Plan is also informed by the input of community members and service agencies.

The Action Plan assists the development of strategies in support of actions that take place outside of the Government of Canada's funding framework, and helps strategically align the sector's efforts. The Action Plan identifies 10 specific priorities and will assist with future funding priorities and decision-making:

- 1) Better engagement with people at the perimeter of the shelter system
- 2) Creation of a day space/drop-in facility
- 3) Remap of social networks
- 4) Managing market pressures and income insecurity
- 5) Supportive housing
- 6) Support for personal and program transitions
- 7) Managing increasing acuity
- 8) Increased sector capacity
- 9) Considerations in serving Indigenous people
- 10) Prevention through agency coordination

Because the Action Plan contains items that are not within the City's purview, it is a separate supporting document to the Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy.

Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, provided a presentation on the "Affordable Housing Strategy" process to date. The process is currently in Phase 5: Final Strategy. She provided an update on the process to-date, vision statement, principles, five policy objectives, and policies. The planning process began in April 2017, and will conclude on 2018-SEP-17 when the finalized strategy is presented to Council for endorsement.

The Affordable Housing Strategy is the City's first comprehensive study of affordability across the housing continuum, which includes social, non-market and market housing. The Strategy establishes the City's role and priorities with regard to promoting affordable, appropriate, and accessible housing in Nanaimo over the next ten years (2018 - 2028). The Strategy identifies 23 policies aimed at achieving five key objectives:

- 1) Increasing the supply of rental housing;
- 2) Supporting infill and intensification in existing neighbourhoods;
- 3) To diversify housing forms in all neighbourhoods;
- 4) Continuing to support low income and special needs housing; and
- 5) Strengthening partnerships and connections.

Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, provided a brief overview of each objective and their related policy actions.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- It was suggested that the paragraph at the top of page 38 of the strategy be moved to preface the Implementation Plan on page 35, to ensure that annual reporting includes a report on policy work done to-date in addition to targets that have been met or completed.
- The Action Plan contains much consultation and facilitation with non-profits. Is there an opportunity to bring those groups together on a regular basis to coordinate their efforts? John Horn, Social Planner, noted that the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition (also known as the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness) meets monthly and reviews the Action Plan during their meetings to ensure that sector priorities and efforts are being coordinated.

It was moved and seconded that the Community Vitality Committee recommend that Council endorse the Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy and endorse the Homelessness Coalition's Nanaimo Action plan to End Homelessness (2018-2023). The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Information Item: Committee Volunteers for 2019 Temporary Public Art Recommendations

At the 2018-OCT-03 Regular Community Vitality Committee meeting, Staff will be seeking up to 3 interested Committee members to participate in the 2019 Temporary Public Art selection process. The time commitment will involve a review/selection meeting and time spent reviewing proposals in advance of the meeting.

(c) Information Item: Committee Volunteers for 2019 Culture & Heritage Recommendations

At the 2018-OCT-03 Regular Community Vitality Committee meeting, Staff will be seeking up to 3 interested Committee members to participate in the 2019 Culture & Heritage Award selection process. The time commitment will involve a review/selection meeting and time spent reviewing nominations in advance of the meeting.

(d) Information Item: Committee Volunteers for 2019 Culture & Heritage Grant Recommendations

At the 2018-NOV-07 "In Camera" Community Vitality Committee meeting, the Committee will provide their recommendations on the 2019 Culture & Heritage Grants (Project & Operating). The commitment will involve time spent reviewing applications in advance of the meeting.

(e) Notice of Motion – Dennis McMahon re: BC Housing & Community Vitality Working Group

Dennis McMahon advised that he would be bringing forward the following motion for consideration during the Regular Community Vitality meeting scheduled for 2018-OCT-03:

WHEREAS the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), BC Housing Management Commission (BCHMC), the Federal Government and the Province of BC have jointly signed a bilateral agreement under the 2017 National Housing Strategy made as 2018-APR-01; and

WHEREAS Schedule C: Action Plan of the Agreement includes the following narrative “1.b. Description of consultation with municipalities and stakeholders” including “i. municipalities and stakeholders that were consulted in the development of the action plan”; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the Community Vitality Committee is to provide advice and recommendations (to Council) on (in part) affordable housing and homelessness; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Community Vitality Committee recommend that Council form a committee/working group/task force consisting of representatives from Council, staff, the Community Vitality Committee, major stakeholders, and citizens to liaise and work with BC Housing Management Commission (BCHMC) in the development of an action plan in accordance with the bilateral agreement.

(f) Notice of Motion – Dennis McMahon re: Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan

Dennis McMahon advised that he would be bringing forward the following motion for consideration during the Regular Community Vitality meeting scheduled for 2018-OCT-03:

WHEREAS the Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan sets aside a portion of the site as a residential precinct; and

WHEREAS the Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy objective #4 “continue to support low income and special needs housing” and 4.1.b. states “consider opportunities to co-locate civic facilities and affordable housing where appropriate”; and

WHEREAS the undeveloped Port Drive Waterfront provides such an opportunity; and

WHEREAS Section 3 of the Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan ‘Land Use and Urban Design’ provides guidelines for structural and density, but provides no guidance on the mix of housing affordability;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Community Vitality Committee recommend that Council direct staff to amend the Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan to include such guidance.

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

Dan Appell re: Methods of evaluating the efficacy of the policies contained within the Nanaimo Affordable Housing Strategy prior to its adoption?

Staff noted that only policies deemed feasible are included in the Strategy. Policies were researched based on best practices and by Staff and the consultants who have work on housing affordability across Canada. Once implementation begins, feedback will be received from partners and policies will continue to be evaluated in the local context.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:13 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER