

MINUTES
OPEN NANAIMO YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2018-FEB-21, AT 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Michael Ribicic, Chair
 Councillor J. Hong
 Erin Burnley
 Clare Shuley
 Claudia Thompson
 Henry Waatainen (vacated 6:20 p.m.)

 Absent: Aakash Pawar

 Staff: Karin Kronstal, Social Planner
 Peggi Humphreys, Recording Secretary

 Others: James Bowen, VIU Students' Union Executive Director
 Chantelle Spicer, VIU Students' Union Women Students'
 Representative
 Avery Bonner, VIU Students' Union Director of External
 Relations
 Ivy Richardson, Youth Advisory Council - Coordinator (Nanaimo
 Aboriginal Centre)
 Cadence Manson, Youth Advisory Council (Nanaimo Aboriginal
 Centre)
 Michael Jack, Youth Advisory Council (Nanaimo Aboriginal
 Centre)
 Claire Little, Youth Advisory Council (Nanaimo Aboriginal
 Centre)
 Owen Eshelby, Wellington Secondary Student Council

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

The Open Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m.

Michael Ribicic, Chair, invited the attending youth stakeholders to join the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council members at the committee table to discuss transportation issues.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- (a) Michael Ribicic, Chair, asked to add Agenda Item 7. (a) 2018 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Conference to Other Business.

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, 2018-JAN-17 at 4:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Youth Priorities for Public Transportation – Discussion

Michael Ribicic, Chair, welcomed the stakeholder guests and advised the purpose for the meeting was to gather opinions on public transit issues in Nanaimo from local youth leaders. The feedback received will be considered in a potential upcoming presentation to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Transit Select Committee from the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council. Roundtable introductions and open discussion followed, and points raised were noted on the white board. Items discussed included the following:

- Buses scheduled for after school from high schools (Wellington, Barsby, Dover Bay and Nanaimo District Secondary School (NDSS)) need to better reflect school dismissal times to allow students enough time to catch the buses.
- After school buses are too infrequent. If one is missed, students may incur long wait times of an hour or more.
- There is no bus service on Tenth Street and it is needed by elders, families and youth in this growing area.
- Sidewalks should be in place near bus stops to help riders avoid having to walk on busy roads to reach them (and they should be cleared of snow).
- Bus schedules for routes from Vancouver Island University (VIU) to Westwood Lake, Rutherford/Hammond Bay and the Hospital Area are infrequent and long winding.
- VIU students require more capacity for bus service as most buses during peak times are full and infrequent, and future plans to reduce parking availability at VIU will increase the need for better bus service.
- VIU students have expressed the need for bus service connecting the Nanaimo and Cowichan campuses, as well as service from Parksville.
- An idea being considered at VIU is establishing a park and ride agreement from shopping malls with a direct shuttle to VIU.
- After school conditions at NDSS are unsafe due to buses being infrequent and unable to accommodate enough riders. Since many students are always left behind once capacity is reached, kids will push and shove to get a spot on the bus. Students have been pushed out on to busy Wakesiah Avenue during these struggles to get on the bus.

- The waiting area at NDSS is not adequate to accommodate the current number of riders safely.
- Better coordination between drivers for connection routes would help riders avoid missing their connecting buses and waiting a long time for the next one.
- Youth left waiting a long time at bus stops after dark can be unsafe.
- Infrequent or bus service that ends early in the evening on weekends makes it difficult for students using transit on Saturdays and Sundays (to get to a job, event, family visit, etc.).
- Good destinations for a bus from Tenth Street would be Country Grocer at Southgate Mall or Woodgrove Mall.
- The bus running to Cedar is very infrequent and takes a long time to wind through many points in with very low ridership.
- The prices for transit (one destination tickets, day passes and monthly passes) are acceptable (and discounts are available to students).
- Students would appreciate a fast, convenient payment system like the Compass card in the Lower Mainland that can be pre-loaded with the amount of money desired by the rider for payment whenever needed.
- Buses from VIU to the Departure Bay ferry could be better coordinated with ferry arrival and departure times.
- Duke Point was discussed as a destination and is not considered a priority for most youth.
- Linley Valley is a rapidly growing area that currently has no bus service from Rutherford Road.
- Smaller bus loops connecting with main lines may help shorten transit times between for some destinations.
- A new bus tracking system planned by BC Transit for Nanaimo within the next year may allow better communication between drivers to improve bus connections for riders.
- Lighting at some bus stops (i.e. behind Value Village) is insufficient with the result that drivers do not notice people waiting and drive by without stopping.
- A University transit pass (U-Pass) will likely be considered at VIU in the future with the cost included in student fees (similar to other universities); however, VIU students want improved transit service before this becomes mandatory.

The discussion concluded and the youth stakeholder guests vacated the committee table at 5:35 p.m.

The Nanaimo Youth Advisory Committee members analyzed the ideas discussed and notes recorded on the white board to prioritize the importance of the findings. The Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council identified the following points as the main transportation priorities for youth in Nanaimo:

- Increased bus frequency and capacity needed at high schools during peak after school hours, and improve scheduled pick up times to coordinate with dismissal times and meet connections better.
- Improve safety at bus stops (rectify overcrowded high school loading situations and ensure sufficient lighting at stops)
- Modify routes to expand service to Tenth Street, improve connections between John Barsby Secondary/VIU and the south end of Nanaimo, and

consider increased service to areas in North Nanaimo that are currently underserved (such as Linley Valley, Hammond Bay Road).

It was moved and seconded that the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council:

1. present to Nanaimo Council the identified priorities of youth for public transportation improvements; and,
2. request that Council support the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council in presenting these identified priorities at a Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Select Committee meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) 2018 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Convention

It was moved and seconded that the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council participate at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Convention in Victoria from 2018-APR-13 to 2018-APR-15. The motion carried unanimously.

Members were asked to think of participation ideas in time for the planning arrangements to be finalized at the next Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council meeting on 2018-MAR-21.

Henry Waatainen vacated the Board Room at 6:20 p.m.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:20 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.


CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


CORPORATE OFFICER