

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 28, 2019

AUTHORED BY TRACY LOEWEN, COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
SPECIALIST

SUBJECT **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM SESSION FOUR**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with a review of the Public Engagement Pilot Program's fourth and final session.

Recommendation

That the report "Public Engagement Pilot Program Session Four", dated 2019-JAN-28, be received for information.

DISCUSSION

The Community Engagement Task Force, established in July 2017, has been working to fulfill the following Council motion:

"It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to prepare a report pertaining to starting and hosting informal community engagement and public conversation sessions, which must meet all procedural requirements, with the intent to further community engagement and public conversation by the accommodation of a regularly scheduled, open topic, facilitated dialog in a setting distinct from Council's formal business meetings with the following parameters:

- An ad hoc committee of Staff, Council and the public be struck to assist in the development of the format, schedule and launch of the initiative;
- First session to be held in January 2017;
- Sessions will be held on a three month schedule; and,
- After four sessions a follow up review will take place with the intent to evaluate the success, participation and accomplishments of the engagements."

Four sessions were held over one year with each session featuring a different format.

Sessions 1-3:

- Session #1 (November 23, 2017) – Augmented Open Space Technology, Vancouver Island Conference Centre
 - Attendance: 60 members of the public
 - The purpose of this session was to hear from residents on the top most pressing issues they wanted to speak about with members of Council.
 - Cost for session: \$5,398.26

- Session # 2 (April 26, 2018) – A Mini Town Hall, Beban Park Social Centre
 - Attendance – 30 members of the public
 - The purpose of this session was to engage residents in a direct dialogue with members of city council about issues of concern to the community.
 - Cost for session: \$3,241.61
- Session #3 (July 28, 2018) – Collaborative Action Process, Oliver Woods Community Centre
 - Attendance – 60 members of the public
 - The purpose of this session was to find solutions to a chosen topic (Homelessness through collaboration).
 - Cost for session: \$3,891.14

Session #4 (November 21, 2018) – Empowering Neighbourhoods, Beban Park Social Lounge

Attendance – 70 members of the public

The final session featured the theme of “Empowering Neighbourhoods” with a goal to provide an opportunity for neighbourhoods to connect with Council. Each table represented one or more neighbourhoods grouped geographically. Participants shared what they loved about their neighbourhood and the areas/issues of concern. They then worked together on solutions they could take on as a neighbourhood.

The session was facilitated by Larissa Coser with members of the Young Professionals of Nanaimo moderating individual tables.

Feedback was mostly positive from participants. They particularly enjoyed connecting with others from their own neighbourhood/geographic area, connecting with members of Council and learning about their neighbourhood association.

Cost for session: \$2,648 – includes facility rental (Beban Park), refreshments, materials, advertising (News Bulletin, Facebook), table facilitator honorariums

Please see the attached detailed report on the session by the Community Engagement Task Force.

Next Steps:

The Community Engagement Task Force has prepared a final report on their findings from the pilot program with recommendations and is being presented at the 2019-JAN-28, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The fourth and final session of the Public Engagement Pilot Program took place on November 21, 2018.
- The format for the session featured participants discussing positive attributes and issues of concern about their neighbourhoods followed by a collaborative workshop on solutions
- The Community Engagement Task Force has prepared a final report on their findings from the pilot program with recommendations and is being presented at the 2019-JAN-28, Committee of the Whole Meeting |

ATTACHMENTS

Community Engagement Task Force Detailed Report on Session 4 |

Submitted by:

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