

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2019-JUL-29, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair
Mayor L. Krog (arrived 2:00 p.m.)
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor S. D. Armstrong
Councillor I. W. Thorpe

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. J. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture (vacated 3:07 p.m.)
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
L. Mercer, Director, Finance (vacated 3:56 p.m.)
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals (vacated 1:59 p.m.)
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
A. Manhas, Economic Development Officer
D. LaBerge, Manager, Community Safety (vacated 1:59 p.m.)
F. Farrohki, Manager, Communications (entered 1:11 p.m., vacated 1:30 p.m.)
D. Blackwood, Sr. Client Support Specialist (vacated 2:28 p.m.)
J. Jacob, Sr. Applications Analyst (arrived 1:39 p.m., vacated 2:18 p.m.)
L. Martineau, Client Support Specialist (arrived 1:39 p.m., vacated 2:18 p.m.)
S. Gurrie, City Clerk (vacated 2:48 p.m.)
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer (arrived 2:47 p.m.)
G. Whitters, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Add - Agenda Item 5(f) - Mayor's Report

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee approve the addition of Agenda Item 5(f) – Mayor's Report. The motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, Nanaimo, BC on Monday, 2019-JUL-15 at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

a. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(1) Downtown Nanaimo Key Opportunities

Introduced by Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development.

F. Farrokhi entered the Boardroom at 1:11 p.m.

D. Blackwood vacated the Boardroom at 1:13 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Diana Krall Plaza
- Tideline Park
- Redevelopment of key sites
- Front Street waterfront walkway
- Installing visual barriers around vacant land
- TV at the back of Port Theatre
- Including sidewalks in the Temporary Art Program
- Playground and Rotary projects at Maffeo Sutton Park
- Land valuations on vacant property
- Animating dead spaces
- Replacing planters downtown
- Intersection updates
- Updating crosswalks with colour
- Improving downtown entryways

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council approve the 'quick wins' as presented in the Staff Report titled "Downtown Nanaimo Key Opportunities", dated 2019-JUL-29, and direct Staff to move forward with their implementation. The motion carried unanimously.

b. ECONOMIC HEALTH:

(1) Economic Development Function Service Model Review

Introduced by Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. Allan Neilson, Principal, Neilson Strategies provided a presentation regarding Economic Development Service Models which included the following information:
 - City seeking to establish a new Economic Development Service Model
 - Feedback provided from economic development agencies in Nanaimo
 - Final report coming in about a month which will include options to resource the new model
 - Past and current situation of economic development in the City of Nanaimo
 - How can the City complement what is already being done by local economic development agencies
 - Scope of services the City may include: Economic Development Strategy, economic reporting, navigating City Hall, contract management, policy development, coordination of efforts, business attraction and Nanaimo investment fund

J. Jacob and L. Martineau entered the Boardroom at 1:39 p.m.

J. Jacob and L. Martineau vacated the Boardroom at 1:42 p.m.

- The three basic service models are: In-House, City-Owned Corporation and Service Contract
- Hybrids between the models and criteria for assessing the models

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting recessed at 1:59 p.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting reconvened at 2:11 p.m.

Staff present: D. Blackwood, B. Corsan, S. Gurrie, R. Harding, J. Jacobs, L. Martineau, L. Mercer, J. Rudolph, B. Sims and G. Whitters.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- The various benefits and costs of each model and their hybrids
- Developing a vision and strategy
- Council's role

D. Blackwood, J. Jacobs and L. Martineau vacated the Boardroom at 2:18 p.m.

- Identifying initiatives and priorities
- Strategy in Calgary regarding community investment
- Vancouver Island University's Initiatives Trust
- The best model for the City of Nanaimo
- Protection of the Economic Corporation
- Who would run the In-House option
- Economic groups overlapping services and structures for collaboration
- Economic development strategy

S. Snelgrove entered the Boardroom at 2:47 p.m.

S. Gurrie vacated the Boardroom at 2:48 p.m.

Bob Moss, Mid Island Business Initiative (MIBI), provided an overview of the MIBI, which included the following information:

- MIBI's preferred organizational structure which would be an independent organization with a formal agreement and operated by City staff
- MIBI's recommended governance of nine board members and four staff
- Suggested the next steps for Council would be to strike a task force to finalize the vision for a new Economic Development Organization

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Hybrid model advantages
- Key issues stopping business attraction
- Board membership and approval of board members

R. Harding vacated the Boardroom at 3:07 p.m.

Kim Smythe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, suggested Council strike a steering committee and develop an Economic Development plan for the next 3-5 years.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Number of home-based businesses in the City of Nanaimo and developing new ways of working with them
- Developing a Strategic Plan before selecting a Economic Development Model

Jolynn Green, Executive Director, Community Futures Central Island, stated that they would like to put together a discussion paper with their thoughts to present to Council.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Strong economic drivers in Nanaimo
- Budget cycle and timeline for selecting a service model
- Business retention
- Participation from the community
- Cost and budget constraints
- Council representation on the board
- Final report scheduled for the 2019-AUG-26, Governance and Priorities Committee

c. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Krog spoke regarding:

- Canada Post presenting the Nanaimo Bar Stamp to the City of Nanaimo
- Holding a press conference to notify the public what the City is doing to deal with public disorder

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Reporting crime to the RCMP
- Residents working with the City to advocate to Provincial and Federal Governments
- Providing residents information about the responsibilities of each level of government
- Drawing the public's attention to website updates
- Timing of the press conference

d. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Committee discussion took place regarding the August 26 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting content and prioritizing items.

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Dan Appell re: Economic Development Models

L. Mercer vacated the Boardroom at 3:56 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER