

MINUTES
SPECIAL HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-MAY-06, AT 3:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Krog (arrived 3:26 p.m., vacated 5:12 p.m.)
Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Councillor E. Hemmens
H. Hartman (joined electronically)
J. Harrison (joined electronically)
A. LaHue (joined electronically)
S. Madden (joined electronically)
E. Manson (joined electronically 3:06 p.m.)
J. McCormick (joined electronically)
M. McNaughton (joined electronically)
K. Smythe (joined electronically)
L. Murphy (joined electronically)
Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP (joined electronically)

Absent: K. Glynn
L. McHaffie

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer (arrived 4:57 p.m.)
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning
D. Stewart, Social Planner (joined electronically)
K. Kronstal, Social Planner (joined electronically)
D. Blackwood, Client Support Specialist (vacated 3:03 p.m.)
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
S. Snelgrove, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Councillor Bonner advised the Special Meeting of the Health and Housing Task Force would be held in accordance with the *Community Charter*, Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272 and Ministerial Order No. M083.

2. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter*:

Section 90(1) A part of the Council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

Section 90(2):

- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Health and Housing Task Force Meeting moved In Camera at 3:04 p.m.
The Health and Housing Task Force Meeting reconvened the open meeting at 4:03 p.m.
The Health and Housing Task Force Meeting recessed 4:04 p.m.
The Health and Housing Task Force Meeting reconvened at 4:08 p.m.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 6(b) – Add City Update on Actions to Keep the City Clean.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-APR-22, at 3:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS:

- (a) COVID-19 Responses for Unsheltered Community

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised:

- Updates to the Homeless Coalition continue weekly
- Sanitation work downtown hasn't changed significantly since last meeting and work is continuing
- Staff are facilitating meetings between shelter providers regarding the COVID-19 response
- Island Health has a good system in place to respond to individuals who are at shelters and are presenting COVID-19 symptoms or are at high risk and need shelter
- A summary of actions the City has taken to support vulnerable populations is available on the City's website at Nanaimo.ca

(b) City Updates on Actions to Support Vulnerable Populations

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning.

Dr. Turner joined the meeting electronically at 4:13 p.m.

1. City Updates on Actions to Keep the City Clean

Supt. Miller, Officer in Charge, Nanaimo RCMP, advised:

- RCMP has seen an increase in homelessness with close to 600 homeless in Nanaimo
- RCMP is concerned with the increased number of weapons seizures from homeless people over the last two months
- Clean team includes sanitation team, street sweeper, Bylaw and RCMP working together as a group to improve sanitation and conditions homeless people are living in
- RCMP role is to ensure safe conditions for City Staff and homeless people, as some homeless are not aware of social distancing or choose not to social distance
- Current RCMP focus is on Wesley Street, Diana Krall Plaza and the general downtown core
- RCMP procedure related to abandoned shopping carts

(c) Food Security Working Group Update and Review of Food Security Working Group Guidelines

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised:

- Food Security Working Group is meeting once a week
- Four members are working on a food security plan
- Requested that the Health and Housing Task Force endorse the Food Security Working Group Guidelines
- Guidelines provide a framework for what Food Security Working Group will undertake
- Framework allows the group to work fairly quickly
- Community groups have adapted roles to support each other to provide robust food services during COVID-19

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Intention for Food Security Working Group to continue after pandemic
- Data captured provides estimate of people who will be at risk due to unavailability of food and shelter
- Immediate focus is to ensure the current food system continues during COVID-19

It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force recommend that Council approve the establishment of a Food Security Advocacy Group Sub-Committee and endorse the Food Security Working Group Guidelines. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) HelpSeeker Project Status

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning.

[Note: Agenda Item 6(d) HelpSeeker Project Status Update and Agenda Item 6(e) Systems Mapping Project - Integrated Needs Assessment and Financial Modelling Key Highlights were considered in conjunction.]

Presentation:

1. Dr. Alina Turner, Turner Strategies, provided a presentation. Highlights included:
 - The Task Force will receive the Needs Assessment Package which compiles research on homelessness, affordable housing, food security, wellbeing factors and a summary of design labs
 - Task Force is asked to review the document with a strategic lens to determine if information is missing and provide feedback by 2020-MAY-30
 - In order to apply for funding for post COVID-19, an understanding of what the needs are in the community is required
 - Financial modelling for social issues takes into account variables such as population growth, costs of intervention, costs related to operating and developing housing
 - Modelling assumptions include:
 - Based on 5 years
 - Target population growth faster than usual due to higher rates of mobility of homeless population
 - Current support system is at capacity (rent subsidies, supportive housing)
 - Target is chronic and episodically homeless people
 - Ensure additional new capital rather than relying solely on existing units
 - Eliminate pressure on shelter system
 - When model was developed different intervention types were analyzed that would work for different types of homelessness
 - Different rates of turnover for how people move through types of homelessness
 - Numbers provided are assumptions as there isn't specific data for Nanaimo, which is not uncommon for communities at the beginning of this process
 - With this information HelpSeeker is able to start quantifying types of units needed and operational and capital costs to deliver services in order to add capacity to housing stock:
 - Estimated supports needed: 66 million over 5 years to support housing operations and Housing First programming
 - 42 million in capital costs for 621 new housing spaces

The Health and Housing Task Force meeting recessed at 4:53 p.m.

The Health and Housing Task Force meeting reconvened at 4:55 p.m.

J. Rudolph entered the Boardroom at 4:57 p.m.

K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk, advised the meeting had lost quorum at 4:57 p.m.
Members present: J. Harrison, S. Madden, J. McCormick
Supt. Miller rejoined the meeting electronically at 5:03 p.m.

Health and Housing Task Force discussion continued regarding:

- Managing the inflow of homeless if Nanaimo is the only community doing systems mapping
- Inflow to community may be higher than other parts of Canada
- Types of permanent supportive housing and supports offered

Mayor Krog vacated the Boardroom at 5:12 p.m.

Sheila Malcolmson, MLA-Nanaimo, provided an update regarding COVID-19 and advised that there were no new COVID-19 cases on Vancouver Island for the third day in a row. Outbreaks in the lower mainland continue; therefore, social distancing measures are staying in place. The next chapter of relaxing restrictions will commence in mid-May when elective surgeries will be restored as well as various professional businesses may open.

L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised the next meeting would be held 2020-MAY-27.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER