

**MINUTES**  
HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING  
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,  
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
WEDNESDAY, 2020-MAY-27, AT 3:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
A. LaHue (joined electronically 3:10 p.m.)  
H. Hartman (joined electronically)  
J. Harrison (joined electronically)  
J. McCormick (joined electronically, disconnected 4:20 p.m.)  
L. McHaffie (joined electronically, disconnected 4:10 p.m.)  
L. Murphy (joined electronically 3:12 p.m.)  
M. White (joined electronically)  
S. Madden (joined electronically)  
Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP (joined electronically)

Absent: K. Smythe

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning  
K. Kronstal, Social Planner  
D. Stewart, Social Planner  
D. LaBerge, Manager Bylaw Services  
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk  
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

Others: Sheila Malcolmson, MLA

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Health and Housing Task Force Meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

Councillor Bonner advised the 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. M139.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add Agenda Item 6(a) Correspondence from Honourable Selina Robinson, dated 2020-MAY-21, re: Community Housing Fund Request for Proposals.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 6(b) Update re: Social Disorder Response Team

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 Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-MAY-06, at 3:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Draft Integrated Needs Assessment Review of Remaining Data Requests

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided an overview of the presentations that Dr. Alina Tuner would be giving and provided an update on what the City has been working on during COVID-19. She noted the following:

- The City has provided the Community Services Building at 285 Prideaux Street as part of the Province's Emergency Response Centres
- Island Crisis Care Society hopes to begin operating the Emergency Response Centre in early June
- The Emergency Response Centre will involve moving women from the Samaritan House Shelter to the Community Services Building so that the Samaritan House Shelter can resume their pre-COVID capacities
- At a later date additional spaces for men will be added within the Community Services Building on a separate floor

A. LaHue joined the meeting electronically at 3:10 p.m.

L. Murphy joined the meeting electronically at 3:12 p.m.

By unanimous consent, the Health and Housing Task Force agreed to reorder the agenda to consider Other Business items prior to Reports.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Update re: Social Disorder Response Team

Presentation:

1. David Laberge, Manager, Bylaw Services, provided a verbal update on the Social Disorder Response Team activities to date. Highlights included:
  - A year ago it was noted that approximately 70% of the bylaw officers' time was being spent on sanitation work such as clearing garbage and encampments

- Support was requested from the Sanitation Department and some additional funding was allocated through Public Works for two workers and a truck to relieve bylaw officers in order to allow them time to focus on enforcement duties
- Funding for this additional support was exhausted in December 2019
- A recent report to Council by the new Manager of Sanitation, Recycling and Cemeteries referred to this cleaning team as the Social Disorder Response Team
- The goal of this team is to provide a higher level of cleanliness, focusing on the downtown core and public spaces
- The team began work again in January 2020 and increased their efforts in March by performing deep cleaning every morning in locations where encampments and large gatherings are common overnight

(b) Correspondence from Honourable Selina Robinson, dated 2020-MAY-21, re: Community Housing Fund Request for Proposals

Councillor Hemmens introduced Sheila Malcomson, MLA, who provided the following overview of the new Request for Proposals program for new rental housing units under the Building BC: Community Housing Fund:

- Part of the Province's 10 year plan is to create more affordable housing
- Request for Proposals (RFP) opened today across the entire province and will remain open until January 2021
- Project proposals must reflect affordable housing opportunities and can be geared towards low and middle-income earners, seniors, families, etc.
- Expect funding requests to be highly competitive
- Applications require a letter of support from Council
- Funding will be awarded based on how well projects demonstrate they can impact and fulfill an identified need
- The RFP is available on BC Housing's website and applicants must be non-profit organizations, housing co-op's or housing providers
- Project proposals must reflect a mix of grants and incomes within a single building
- This housing does not come with any supports or residential care components

5. REPORTS: (continued)

(a) Draft Integrated Needs Assessment Review of Remaining Data Requests (continued)

Presentation:

1. Dr. Alina Turner, Turner Strategies, provided a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the data indicating:
  - 674 listings (totaling approximately 3,000 services) - previously 600 listings prior to COVID-19

- 115 COVID-19 specific services listed and 112 provincial/national resources
- Reminded members to provide feedback by May 30<sup>th</sup>

(b) Financial Modelling Scenarios (Overview)

Presentation:

1. Dr. Alina Turner, Turner Strategies, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
  - Provided an overview comparison of four funding scenarios
  - Scenario three is most likely case costing \$12.5 million/year
  - Where/how \$12.5 million could be funded
  - Social Impact Audit is based on the data available and is missing data from Island Health and BC Housing
  - Provided charity annual revenue numbers to indicate the scope of their funding in comparison to a request for \$12.5 million

(c) Introduction of Ecosystem Design

Presentation:

1. Dr. Alina Turner, Turner Strategies, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
  - Ecosystem design is being discussed within the working group as a way to optimize efficiency and help with mapping a design
  - Learning what the needs are and who will take on roles

A discussion period ensued. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Maximizing current resources through coordination and integration
- Coordinated access, working together and sharing resources
- Difficult for Island Health to collect and track data related to homeless individuals
- Homelessness is a high priority in the public's eye
- Decrease in hospital visits for residents of Nanaimo Affordable Housing units
- Concern about extending the timeline and is there a plan for the fall
- Using nonconventional housing units to accommodate people
- COVID-19 potentially providing some opportunities to house people
- BC Housing is working through their processes to compile data
- Organizations are ready to take on projects as soon as funding and locations are provided
- Providing municipal support through statements on why actions are being taken

L. McHaffie disconnected at 4:10 p.m.

- Staffing capacities for non profits especially during COVID-19
- Current work is long-term focused and there is a need for a coordinated response to what is going on now
- The City taking on a strong role supporting the Homeless Coalition and organizing multiple funders to agree on a plan for the whole community
- Capacity issues and the labour market during COVID-19

J. McCormick disconnected at 4:20 p.m.

- The Homeless Coalition's role and communicating out to the community
- Other communities have been reviewing their capacities and redeploying resources where possible
- Capacity increasing and timeframe to have 20 people working in a location

6. OTHER BUSINESS: (continued)

(b) Update from Task Force Members

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, requested an update from those actively working in the community. Highlights included the following:

- Island Health monitoring people for COVID-19 and noticing an increase in the number of people with mental health and substance issues
- Snuneymuxw First Nation is updating its plans and have noted the mental health and addiction issue with a focus on homeless men in the last month

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:32 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER