

MINUTES
SPECIAL MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
FRIDAY, 2020-JUL-03, AT 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Krog, Chair
Councillor T. Brown
J. Byrne, Regional Managing Partner, Vancouver Island, MNP
D. Hais, Board Chair, Nanaimo Port Authority
D. Saucier, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University
S. Madden, Executive Director, United Way

Absent: I. Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, Petroglyph Development Group, Snuneymuxw First Nation

Staff: D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
K. Lundgren, Steno
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Friday, 2020-JUN-19 at 10:00 a.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Proactive Path to Prosperity (Non-Profits)

John McCormick, John Howard Society, Deborah Hollins, Nanaimo Family Life Association, and Crystal Dennison, Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation, and Signy Madden, United Way, provided a verbal presentation. Highlights included:

- An overview of the work done by Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA), Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF), the John Howard Society (JHS) and the United Way:
 - NFLA has been around since 1967 and works with all sorts of individuals with a strong focus on seniors
 - NLSF works to relieve financial constraints families are faced with by ensuring students receive basic supports like food programs and school supplies
 - The Nanaimo region of JHS is 1 of 61 across the country (8 in BC) responding to local community needs
 - JHS houses approximately 100 people, runs employment programs, a co-dental clinic, and one of the original restorative justice programs in Canada
 - United Way was created to raise and invest funds, but has shifted towards community development work and working with local municipalities and community foundations to maximize opportunities for provincial and federal funding opportunities
- Simply raising money and funding agencies will not resolve the many issues seen at the ground level
- Hope to identify intersection points between the non-profit sector, Vancouver Island University (VIU) and the City of Nanaimo to bring people together for conversations
- Hope to review what the City’s goals are and see how the non-profit sector can contribute to those goals
- Plan to collect feedback from the Mayor’s Task Force on Recovery and Resilience (MTFRR) about topics they would like more information on, then return for Part Two of this presentation during a future MTFRR meeting
- Listed some of the ways COVID-19 has effected the non-profit community:
 - Increase in client needs related to issues like domestic violence, drug use, homelessness, and senior’s abuse
 - Level of desperation has been alarming and COVID-19 has further increased pressures on families
 - Impact of isolation on older adults/seniors
 - Lack of quick coordinated response within the community which results in delays and duplicated services
 - Need to be able to quickly identify the key players when issues arise
 - Lack of recognition for the non-profit sector
 - Suggested the City take on a facilitator role to organize groups
 - NLSF saw a drastic increase in requests for support with COVID-19
 - Concern that students are missing the supports they were receiving during school – currently delivering breakfasts to homes and plan to provide support through the summer months

- Concern for the fall and the new year when the real effects of lay offs and COVID-19 take effect on families
- Need to identify the underlying issue forcing so many families to request support and develop long term solutions and sustainable programing while providing dignity to families
- JHS had to close the co-dental services forcing those clients to go the hospital where they cannot always receive medications due to histories of drug use
- JHS is providing food delivery to houses with limited contact/interaction with clients
- Concern regarding housing for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are being released back into the community
- Suggested there are opportunities to learn from other communities that responded quickly to COVID-19 to see what worked and did not
- Noted an increase in community engagement with the development of more committees and task forces
- Nanaimo is large enough to have non-profits that are a significant size and connected provincially and federally
- The non-profit sector is the front line, but they do not receive the same level of resources as other industries like the medical industry
- The non-profit sector has leadership and expertise regarding day-to-day information - suggested the creation of a standing group to better use resources and share information
- Fundraising is a significant part of non-profit funding and they expect a 30-40% drop in campaign funding which will effect their grants next year
- Anticipate another ten months where the non-profit sectors will need financial support
- Asked what type of information the non-profit sector can provide: budgets/revenues for each group, list of noted issues/risks for non-profits and recommendations for adjusting the City’s Strategic Plan
- Importance of having a social planning function in place for future events like COVID-19
- Previous efforts to collaborate were not successfully implemented
- Work being done by the Social Planning department and how the non-profit sector would like to have more input and provide more support for better integration of sectors

Task Force discussion took place regarding the following:

- Council was previously advised to avoid interference with federal and provincial mandated issues; however, a more robust social planning approach could ensure a more fulsome advocacy strategy
- COVID-19 has highlighted issues that need to be addressed
- Big infrastructure companies providing support to groups like the Food Security Group to help further their work on a larger scale
- Businesses supporting local non-profits could better support non-profits if request/events were coordinated to avoid “burn out” due to multiple requests from separate non-profit organizations all working in silos

- The City helping to coordinate and identify intersections of businesses, non-profits and the community
- Non-profit sector establishing a board to integrate plans and bring ideas/plans forward as part of an overarching plan within the community
- Requested a spreadsheet, or chart, listing all the projects the non-profit groups are working on
- Providing non-profits with personal protective equipment
- Reviewing items that appear necessary for recovery in the non-profits sector short term and then looking at ways to improve sector resilience
- Creating a structure or corporation to coordinate non-profit groups
- Some key issues appear to be: structure, alignment and coordination
- Need for a clear target and reduced barriers
- Identifying the critical gaps noted during the first wave of COVID-19 and how to plan for a second wave

5. REPORTS:

(a) Economic Strategy Business Survey

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, provided a verbal update regarding the Economic Strategy Business Survey. Highlights included:

- Survey has been distributed with a deadline for feedback of 2020-JUL-17
- Staff will provide feedback on data received during the 2020-JUL-31 MTFRR meeting
- Survey was distributed through the Chamber of Commerce to target as many local businesses as possible
- Additional questions related to COVID-19 were added to end of survey
- The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* does not allow the City to distribute the survey to all business licences within the City of Nanaimo

6. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public at 10:19 a.m. 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:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;
- (n) the consideration of whether a Council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2); and,

Community Charter 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.

6. RISE AND REPORT:

The Task Force rose, without report, at 11:05 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 11:06 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER