

**MINUTES**  
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
MONDAY, 2020-OCT-05, AT 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair  
Mayor L. Krog  
Councillor S. D. Armstrong  
Councillor B. Geselbracht  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
Councillor Z. Maartman  
Councillor I. W. Thorpe (arrived 1:02 p.m.)  
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor T. Brown

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development  
L. Wark, Director, Recreation & Culture  
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications  
J. Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events  
C. Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner  
A. Collins, Recreation Coordinator, Cultural Services  
M. Duerksen, Recreation Coordinator, Special Events  
R. Buckler, Culture and Heritage Clerk  
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services  
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

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

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(f)(1) Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning - Replace Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning Documents.
- (b) Add new Agenda Item 6 Correspondence, and add Correspondence from Dennis McMahon, dated 2020-SEP-30, re: Arts and Culture, reorder Agenda Items accordingly.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

Councillor Thorpe entered the Shaw Auditorium at 1:02 p.m.

4. REPORTS:

a. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(1) Building Community through Arts and Culture

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- (1) Poetry reading "The Change I Want to See" by Valina Zanetti, Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate

Introduced by Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events.

Valina Zanetti, Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate, provided a poetry reading.

- (2) Nanaimo's Cultural Cornerstones: Collaboration, Leadership and Community Resilience

Introduced by Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events.

Presentation:

1. Bruce Halliday, General Manager, The Port Theatre, Carolyn Holmes, Executive Director, Nanaimo Art Gallery, and Sophia Maher, General Manager, Nanaimo Museum, provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- Introduction of each organization: Nanaimo Museum, Nanaimo Art Gallery and The Port Theatre
- The community is enhanced by deeper collaboration and the nurturing of creative endeavors
- Commitment to working with the City to ensure City owned cultural facilities are well cared for, cost effective, and artistically and culturally relevant
- Importance of providing supportive, safe and equitable work places for employees and programing that engages Nanaimo citizens
- All three organizations have secured funding from Provincial and Federal government to support their on-going stability

- During COVID-19 the three organizations have supported each other by sharing critical safety policies, sharing communications, developing some shared membership benefits and providing moral support
- Planning ways to adapt to COVID-19 in 2021
- The Port Theatre, Nanaimo Art Gallery and Nanaimo Museum aim to show best practices across their industries and provide leadership roles
- Provide accessible opportunities to connect with cultural heritage, live performances and contemporary art
- Reducing barriers to participation:
  - At The Port Theatre approximately 2,000 free tickets were distributed to local service agencies, and offered \$5 tickets to high school students
  - Admission to the Nanaimo Art Gallery is by donation and they offer bursaries for teen programs
  - The Nanaimo Museum keep their entrance fees very low and access to the Bastion is by donation
- Committed to excellence in school and youth programming to expose young people to arts and culture
- The services provided by these organizations are the cornerstones of a healthy community
- The three organizations employ 28 full-time employees, 28 part-time employees, and between 40-60 casual staff with a combined payroll of over \$2 million annually
- These organizations attract young professionals to the City
- Estimate they attract approximately 200,000 patrons annually to the downtown core which supports the surrounding businesses
- Well positioned to thrive into the future and help grow a healthy community
- Acknowledged the importance of reconciliation and decolonization and are taking action through learning opportunities, professional development, and working to become aware of biases to eliminate racism
- The Port Theatre hosts artists from across the country to share insight into different cultures and the diversity of Canada
- The Nanaimo Art Gallery continues to work with Snuneymuxw First Nation to bring people together to learn through art, current exhibit features 11 Indigenous artists
- The Nanaimo Museum works with Snuneymuxw First Nation and Metis elders/knowledge keepers to develop new programs and update exhibitions, they have a number of school programs and promote local

- Indigenous artist through promotion and sales of their artwork in the gift shop
- Recently the Nanaimo Museum has been working on the introduction of a repatriation policy to revitalize Coast Salish art on Vancouver Island

Committee discussion took place with the presenters. Highlights included:

- Plans for COVID-19 recovery programing:
  - The Port Theatre:
    - Has reopened with a maximum capacity of 50 audience members
    - COVID-19 devastated their revenue but they have taken advantage of the Federal Wage Subsidy Program and cultural spaces money to install video streaming
    - Determined to continue operating as much as possible
    - Hosting the Spotlight Series which has separate Federal and Provincial funding
    - Prepared to continue at this level through 2021 with hopes of larger audiences after 2021
  - The Nanaimo Museum:
    - Revenues have also been reduced to almost nothing but they have stable funding
    - Have shifted their focus to provide impactful programing remotely
    - Currently focused on school programing
    - Have implemented timed entry to the facility
    - Reviewing operation and focusing on opportunities and training
  - The Nanaimo Art Gallery:
    - Closed for a number of months but has reopened with reduced hours
    - Struggling with programing due to limited space
    - Looking to expand the space
    - Current physical distancing requirements limit participants to six in a program which does not break even
    - Implemented mask policies in the galleries
    - Trying to accommodate people working without sharing spaces
- Status of the Sports Hall of Fame:
  - The Nanaimo Museum manages the Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame and they are discussing options to adjust timeframes with the Canadian Sports Heritage Association. They anticipate putting forward calls for nominations soon
- Potential for these organizations to survive 2020 being reliant on the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB):
  - The Nanaimo Museum has reduced spending and will be able to cover wages if CERB runs out with possible exception of part-time staff
  - The Nanaimo Art Gallery is no longer taking advantage of CERB, but have some emergency funding from Canadian Heritage
  - The Port Theatre has not laid off any full-time staff and plan to use the Federal Wage Subsidy through to June 2021, may need to use some of their surpluses but are trying to minimize that to save money for future stimulating work

- Noted some of the current programs/services available: Symphony from your Sofa, Boarder X exhibit, and the Nanaimo Museum gift shop
- Working with partners to apply for grants available through the federal government, related to urban Indigenous organizations and on reserve organizations
- Funding Applications:
  - The Nanaimo Museum is working with partners to apply for grants and have access to funds from the Canadian Heritage Association
  - The Nanaimo Art Gallery is applying for some Vancouver Foundation funding
  - The Port Theatre receives funding through the Department of Canadian Heritage to present the Spotlight Series, will not break even with 50 seat capacity, would not be managing without the City's funding or federal funding
- Process for artists to host exhibitions at the Nanaimo Art Gallery – exhibitions are curated three years in advance
- Potential need for increased digital infrastructure to reliably connect with schools and the community
- Amount of programming available online, challenges of monetizing online services, and managing resources efficiently
- Restrictions/limitations of infrastructure that is currently available

(3) Evolving our Programs to Create Impact

(a) Program Review of Cultural Grants

Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Noted the “Hub City Walls” mural program is open for submissions for 2021
- City investment in culture is provided through three funding streams:
  - Culture and Heritage Operating Grants - \$312,318 for 2021, available for those who provide ongoing services in the community and funds their core expenses, funded 23 applications for this grant in 2019, currently five groups that receive three year funding from this grant
  - Culture and Heritage Project Grants - \$44,407 for 2021, available for one time or reoccurring cultural initiatives, when the Culture Plan was approved in 2014 Council increased this fund by 10% for five years, last increase was 2019, 20 applications received in 2019 and 17 were funded, demand has increased for this grant
  - Downtown Event Revitalization Fund - \$150,000 for 2021, established to encourage events that enhance downtown, 25 applications in 2019 and 24 projects were funded

- Issues that warrant research are adjusting to reflect equity and accessibility
- Staff want to review eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, reporting, and budget requirements for applicants

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Community engagement regarding the selection of community artwork
- Opportunities during COVID-19 to review practices
- Feedback from the community regarding the current process
- Clarification that Staff are asking to conduct a review of the previous 2014 process/model to assess if it is still applicable and will include community input within the review
- Concept of allowing the community to vote on community art pieces
- Previous public engagement regarding public art was done through the Culture, Heritage and Social Planning Committee and submissions are currently reviewed by Staff
- Staff want to review best processes and practices of other municipalities
- Feedback received regarding the recent mural artwork downtown
- Including the permissive tax exemptions in the per capita calculations for grants
- Relationship between Arts and Culture and the REIMAGINE NANAIMO review
- Staff plan to review how grants are allocated rather than a complete financial review
- Ensuring the list of values articulated in Council's Strategic Plan align with the grant process
- Clarification that the proposed review is on the three funding streams provided through the Culture Department

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse a review of the three grant funding programs administered by Culture & Events (Culture & Heritage Operating Grants, Culture & Heritage Project Grants, and Downtown Event Revitalization Grants), including research on best practices and dialogue with community stakeholders, and return with recommendations to improve and evolve processes to continue to meet the needs of the Nanaimo cultural community. The motion carried unanimously.

(4) Art in Public Spaces

- (a) Update on RFP No. 2489 Call for Artists for Permanent Art at Maffeo Sutton Park

Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Current Poet Laureate position is vacant

- Staff have received feedback from the literary community that the honorarium for the Poet Laureate position is not reflective of the work involved
- Staff are reassessing the Poet Laureate program to make it more flexible and inclusive

Provided a video titled “Concerts in the Parking-lot 2020”, regarding five concerts held at local Nanaimo senior facilities in lieu of the Concert in the Park events during COVID-19.

(b) Art in Public Spaces Working Group

Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events, provided images of some of the public art currently on display throughout the community in 2020.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Potential for increasing the honorarium for the Poet Laureate program
- Ownership of the Poet Laureate’s material – artists retain the rights to their work and the City has an agreement to use the material
- Expanding support for music and art in the community
- Clarification regarding intended mandate of the proposed working group
- Creation of a task force and the need to review committee structures
- Clarification that recommendation would allow Staff to create the framework to create this working group and return to Council for a decision
- Subject of committees potentially coming before Council in January
- Public participation in the proposed working group

It was moved and seconded that the Governance Priority Committee recommend that Council endorse the creation of an Art in Public Spaces Working Group to be facilitated by Culture & Events Staff. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion took place regarding \$50,000 not previously allocated to a public art piece that may potentially be available and the City collaborating on a totem pole project with the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre.

(5) Building Capacity and Engaging with Art and Culture Communities in Nanaimo

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Introduced by Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events.

Presentation:

1. "Song for Nanaimo" by Sonnet L'Abbe, songwriter.

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting recessed at 3:06 p.m.  
The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting reconvened at 3:19 p.m.

b. REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

(1) REIMAGINE NANAIMO Strategic Conversation - Arts and Culture Communities

Julie Bevan, Manager, Culture and Events, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Planning strategic conversations regarding five identified themes
- Ten focus group sessions are planned to explore the five identified themes in depth
- Five identified themes:
  - Sustainability: funding, skill and resource sharing
  - Reconciliation and decolonization: advancing ethical changes
  - Our people: growing and retaining talent
  - Spaces for culture: needs for the future
  - Collaboration, partnerships and building community
- Themes were generated from a cultural plan for Nanaimo, research, and dialogue with local leaders/organizations
- Looking for actions the City can take to help the community flourish

Committee discussion took place regarding the meaning of the term decolonization.

(2) REIMAGINE NANAIMO Phase 1 Update

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Overview of the REIMAGINE NANAIMO project as a review of six strategic plans:
  - Official Community Plan
  - Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan
  - Active and Sustainable Transportation Plan
  - Climate Action Plan
  - Economic Development Strategy
  - Water Supply Strategic Plan
- Currently in the middle of phase one and gathering ideas
- Had to adapt engagement approach due to COVID-19 and focus more on online engagement
- Main platform being used is “Get Involved Nanaimo”
- Analytics for “getinvolvednanaimo.ca” as at 2020-SEP-18:
  - Total visits 5,200
  - Total registered 671
  - Participated in survey 700
  - Stories submissions 7
  - Ideas submissions 44



- Community map posts 167
- People are now becoming more aware of the program through various marketing efforts
- Parks Recreation and Culture Department hosted 31 pop-up stations in local parks for in person public engagement

Committee discussion took place regarding the potential for further pop-up stations during the fall and winter. Staff are looking into the possibility of holding pop-up stations in malls.

- Challenged Council and Staff to talk to at least ten people about REIMAGINE NANAIMO to spread awareness
- Community welcome meetings held August 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> engaged community representatives
- Encouraging community/stakeholder groups to engage with their contacts and provide feedback on REIMAGINE NANAIMO
- Using the engagement done by the Health and Housing Task Force
- Currently in the process of doing a statistically valid survey by mail with a return deadline of October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Provincial Election may impact the survey responses
- Survey return target is 500 and to ensure the most accurate representation Staff have set aside 100 surveys to send to areas that do not provide an adequate number of responses to the initial survey
- Creative Community contest is intended to create initiative for people to share their inspiration for a future Nanaimo in their own way
- Staff have also used traditional advertising through newspaper and radio advertisement
- Media coverage is encouraged wherever possible to boost awareness and participation
- Staff are hoping to increase engagement numbers in the coming months

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Commended Staff for undertaking this large project
- Using social capital to support the REIMAGINE NANAIMO project
- Feedback/input from local teachers
- Councillors engaging on “Get Involved Nanaimo”
- Criticism heard on social media about the survey and that the survey is only one method of engagement
- Committees helping to engage and guide the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process
- Considering the soul of Nanaimo

c. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Status of “Phase Two Neighbourhood Engagement” topic
- Reviewing election signage
- Providing results of task forces such as the Health and Housing Task Force
- Budget discussions and potentially adding extra finance meetings
- Concerns regarding sufficient time to review the large topics scheduled for 2020-OCT-26
- Sanitation issues being reviewed before budget sessions
- Having a discussion regarding committee structure

It was moved and seconded that the topic “Committee Structure Review” be added as a future Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda topic. The motion carried unanimously.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Correspondence from Dennis McMahon, dated 2020-SEP-30, re: Arts and Culture

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:04 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER