

TASKFORCE CONCLUDED. MINUTES UNADOPTED

MINUTES

SPECIAL MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE MEETING
DODD NARROWS ROOM A/B, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
FRIDAY, 2020-OCT-16, AT 1:08 P.M.

- Present: Mayor Krog, Chair
J. Byrne, Regional Managing Partner, Vancouver Island, MNP
D. Hais, Board Chair, Nanaimo Port Authority
S. Madden, Executive Director, United Way
D. Saucier, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University (joined electronically)
- Absent: Councillor T. Brown
I. Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, Petroglyph Development Group, Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications
S. Snelgrove, 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 1:08 p.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 Special Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Meeting held in the Dodd Narrows Room A/B, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Friday, 2020-SEP-25 at 8:36 a.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Krog announced that the Task Force would not be moving In Camera.

Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services, outlined the agenda for the meeting.

4. REPORTS:

(a) Final Review/Edits of Building Healthy Community V5.0 Document

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services.

Task Force discussion took place regarding changes to the draft document. Highlights included:

- Previously adding the word “Healthy” to the title page
- Extending the Task Force into October
- An overview of the document was provided including:
 - Work plan phases
 - Working effectively on report generation since August
 - List of written submissions is not included in the document
 - Received input on consultations undertaken by the Economic Development Task Force and Health and Housing Task Force
 - How the Task Force was informed during the process
 - Note on scope generated to help public understand homeless issue in Nanaimo and funding jurisdiction of the Province
 - City is working diligently with agencies and provincial government with respect to social issues
 - Two housing funding streams from the federal government will be announced by the end of October:
 - One stream is for municipalities and the other is for non-profits
 - Municipalities can apply for funding to build rapid housing
 - The City pursues grants if available funding is appropriate
 - Hasn’t been determined if any restrictions are placed on municipalities giving money to non-profits
 - Only direct funding from federal government to municipalities currently is Gas Tax funding
 - Definitions & Assumptions section point 3:
 - Trying to capture recommending changes not actually changing mandate
 - Want to be conscious that when discussing new ideas/initiatives don’t want to add tasks to already existing workloads that are overloaded for City staff
 - City may be facilitator, acknowledge in preamble that shifts in existing process may not require additional work for staff, a new initiative will require additional work, resources should not solely flow from City, resources could com from other places
 - Change to something such as “...and augmenting the mandate and priority ...”
 - Guiding Principle #1:
 - Current wording may not be practical where it notes “inclusive and dependent on support and participation...”
 - Looking to ensure collaboration and engagement with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN)
 - Reconciliation as an overarching principle in the document and recognition of SFN’s role

- Change to wording such as “...are inclusive and envision/involve discussion and participation of...” or “...are inclusive by inviting participation with respectful engagement with SFN...”
- Guiding Principle #2:
 - Important to recognize the City has started this process
 - Include “Mayor and Council have made significant progress”
 - Inclusion of Snaw-Naw-As and recognition of overlapping nation territory
 - Urban indigenous conversation and mindful of wording used
 - Using wording to show a joint effort such as “together the City and nations have worked to improve their relations”
- Recovery Recommendation No. 2 (e):
 - Options to include members specifically, by position in community, or say representative of Nanaimo community
 - Application process for members and challenges bringing forward strategic change when members focused on one issue
 - Need to determine outcome of leaders table
 - To include at a minimum leaders of SFN, School District 68, Vancouver Island University (VIU), Airport, Nanaimo Port Authority, Chamber of Commerce, hospital/health, social agencies, labour, and other key organizations (such as hospitality, forestry, transportation and tourism)
 - At first meeting determine what sectors are missing
- Recovery Recommendation No. 2 (d):
 - Adjust to “...be informed by a consolidated findings...”
 - Collaboration and alignment equals success
 - To be informed by findings and recommendations from various task forces and committees to create an aligned and collaborative ask for multilevel government support
 - Potentially remove (d) and make part of Terms of Reference for Mayor’s Leaders Table
 - Option for lab format with no fixed members and depending on issue may have different people sitting at the table
 - Might be core group to keep consistency then be flexible with other members
- Recovery Recommendation No. 2 (c):
 - Potentially move to key deliverable and make “big ask” a key deliverable
- Recovery Recommendation No. 3 (f):
 - Potentially change to “Transit exchange within an integrated transportation hub” to connect modes of transportation, inclusive of a transit exchange
- Resilience Recommendation No. 2 (b):
 - Add word technology to “surveillance technology implementation”
 - Nanaimo Regional General Hospital listed as COVID-19 hospital north of the Malahat which stopped all elective surgeries and the catch up time is two years
 - Beban Social Centre will contain a 40 bed pop-up hospital as it has the right airflow and generators will be stored in Sea Cans

- and brought in when required, also located close to St. John Ambulance
- During the pandemic supplies were not available to those in the field who were front end workers and the chief of surgery requested a public call for masks
- Resilience Recommendation No. 2 (a):
 - Add qualifier to the end “...stores for City Staff and social agency use.”
 - Partner with agencies to rotate stores to avoid expiration prior to use
- Resilience Recommendation No. 2 (c):
 - Strengthen to ensure City of Nanaimo emergency centre is appropriately equipped for various types of states of emergency
 - VIU has presented a capital plan to the Province for a replacement gym and using it as an emergency staging centre if earthquake or a similar event were to happen
 - People could be housed at the gym over the short term, provides some capacity in the south end to shelter people who have damaged homes and access given for students
- Resilience Recommendation No. 2 (d):
 - The City ran a table top exercise of a simulated wildfire in Linley Valley in the middle of the pandemic and ran a virtual Emergency Operations Centre
 - A severe weather event will take place during COVID-19
 - All potential scenarios are impossible to plan for
 - Potentially not include this section as plans do exist and are public
 - Make sure pandemic policy is updated to reflect the current situation
 - Province stopped paying for emergency response in July but the emergency still exists
- Discussion re: Mayor’s Leaders Table:
 - Potentially include as part of mandate that they reassemble on an emergency basis
 - Different levels of government working together on debriefings and when all groups are unified there is more integration with responders
 - Could have term of reference that brings in resiliency stream of discussion and dialogue
 - Leaders should be people in the community who know what is happening
- Water main break highlighted need for core services to be provided and relied on
- Resilience Recommendation No. 4 (b):
 - remove “hotel tax revenues”
- Resilience Recommendation No. 4 (c):
 - Suggest a review of the effectiveness of the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program and provide guidance and advice to senior government to ensure that future responses to unemployment are effective

- Challenges in construction industry as it was deemed an essential service and work was available but workers chose to take CERB
- Connect with federal government to request a review of the CERB program and provide guidance and advice to ensure future responses don’t exasperate ability for small business to retain workers
- Federal response of CERB may not have addressed underlying issues and for some may have been a disincentive
- Program needs to be more nuanced
- Suggest Council submit a letter to federal government regarding concerns
- Service sector discussion:
 - Addressed at a higher level
 - Small business community could cover service sector including hospitality in recommendation 4
 - Note on scope captures service sector

The Mayor’s Task Force Meeting recessed at 2:47 p.m.
The Mayor’s Task Force Meeting reconvened at 2:57 p.m.

- Items Considered heading:
 - Item 1 Connect VIU to downtown – covered by item 3(d) in document
 - Item 2 – remove

(b) Discussion re: Adding Info-graphics and Images to Document - Tone

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services:

- Tone and images of document include glossy photos of people in community, amenities, representative of community, infographics make document consumable by the public
- Task Force’s document meant to provide recommendations to Council as guiding thoughts for further debate and consideration

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Include photos of natural and built assets
- Enthusiasm for belief in growth of community should be reflected in photos
- Have discussed “building” in many forms and could be thematic thread throughout
- Potentially include photos of Buttertubs Drive seniors housing project
- Photo and quote from task force members also may have simple video footage presented in optimistic, grounded dialogue
- Include more people than buildings
- Overriding principles could be highlighted
- Highlighting key recommendations and if they should be emphasized via communications plan or visually
- Media focus on campaign to build enthusiasm about community
- Importance of directed press releases with info graphics

(c) Discussion re: Presentation to Council

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services.

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Presentation will take place at the November 2, 2020 Council meeting with the group in attendance
- Ideal to have one speaker initially and have all members present for questions
- Framing as a focused vision for Nanaimo servicing the population and how to make Nanaimo the service centre of the Island in its economic and social needs where everyone is thriving
- Thinking proactively and identifying drivers and key pieces to be identified in the short and mid-term to start, to position Nanaimo as the heart of the Island north of the Malahat
- Providing context between linkages i.e. how a business person is connected to the homeless issue and investment in one area is connected to other pieces
- Hope for the general public to get excited about where they live
- Connections between tertiary hospital affecting VIU
- Infrastructure and digital highway hub
- Putting the word “connected” in document
- Opportunity to pull in connected concept in a real way
- Need to put ownership on the community: Not about what the City will do but what residents will do and what we will all do together
- Quotes from each member for press releases are needed
- Potentially quote testimonials in the document
- Staff will send template to members for review prior to publication
- One spokesperson to respond to questions, everyone else gets voice in quotes or at request of Mayor can speak to media
- Council will receive PowerPoint at the Council meeting via presentation
- Donna Hais will present and the Task Force members will stand at podium to answer questions after presentation
- Tight turnaround time for edited document as Staff need it back Wednesday
- Public involvement via social media
- Position as Mayor’s Task Force not Council
- Chance to emphasize things that will give people optimism at this time
- City often criticized on social media and framing this as not solving everyone’s problems
- Framing context of how the Mayor’s Task Force fits with the Health and Housing Task Force and Economic Development Task Force
- This committee is a crossover with partnerships and alignment

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 3:32 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER