

DATE OF MEETING NOVEMBER 23, 2020

AUTHORED BY SHELLEY LEGIN, GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES

SUBJECT MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE – NEXT STEPS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To accept the report as information and determine immediate next steps regarding recommendations.

BACKGROUND

At a press conference on 2020-MAY-05, Mayor Leonard Krog and Councillor Tyler Brown announced the Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience (Task Force) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the community. Specifically, the Task Force was struck to address economic impacts, community resiliency and to provide recommendations for recovery to be considered by the Mayor and Council. At the City Council meeting on 2020-NOV-02 the Task Force presented the recommendations detailed in the final report to Mayor and Council.

DISCUSSION

The recommendations outlined in the report are grouped into six focus areas (in brief):

- **Nanaimo BUILDS:** A community pride, citizen-directed campaign to generate enthusiasm for the rebuilding of all sectors of Nanaimo's community, including education, recreation, culture, business and community support for those most vulnerable.
- **Mayor's Nanaimo Leaders Table:** To be established immediately and under Mayor Leonard Krog's leadership, the leaders table will collaborate to determine a priority list of capital infrastructure for Nanaimo for coordinated "asks" to multi-levels of government. The leaders table will also help to establish a working group/youth council consisting of representatives from SD68, VIU, venture and technology incubators, youth services, cultural organizations and major employers to develop a plan to address youth (18-34 years) attraction and retention. It is intended to further build collaboration among key entities in Nanaimo.
- **Prioritize STRATEGIC Investing:** Create a process/criterion to prioritize the strategic investment recognizing Nanaimo as the Heart of the island "north of the Malahat" to develop the best means to improve the economic and social position of the City.
- **Reconciliation & Anti-racism:** Publicly launch an anti-racism awareness program that promotes diversity and inclusivity and furthers Reconciliation.
- **Prepare for Future "Event":** Prioritize Nanaimo's emergency preparedness and resiliency measures with appropriate actions, levels, and accessibility to funding that is necessary to address possible future events.

- **Support for Small Business:** Work with the small business community to leverage lessons learned regarding economic resilience, which includes reviewing taxation and funding methods to reduce financial burdens. Develop transportation and digital infrastructure strategy to help sustain small business.]

Consideration and implementation of each recommendation as deemed appropriate by Mayor and Council will occur over the ensuing months.

In response to the deemed “immediate” recommendation of establishing the Mayor’s Leaders Table, next steps need to be discussed and determined, including; composition of the Table, alternate chairs, Terms of Reference and general positioning within the overall governance framework.

A second recommendation that could receive immediate support and implementation is the citizen-directed campaign to generate enthusiasm from all citizens to assist in resilience and recovery through positive dialogue and engagement with each other and the world. This recommendation referred to by the working title “Nanaimo Builds” would benefit from direction by Council to staff to provide an overall plan for the campaign.

CONCLUSION

Taking immediate next steps demonstrates respect, diligence and follow-up on the important work of the Task Force. Following the implementation of the initial recommendations as discussed, the balance of recommendations will be brought to Council for consideration in the coming months.]

SUMMARY POINTS

- At a press conference on 2020-MAY-05, Mayor Leonard Krog and Councillor Tyler Brown announced the Mayor’s Task Force on Recovery and Resilience (Task Force) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the community.
- At the City Council meeting on 2020-NOV-02 the Task Force presented the recommendations detailed in the final report to Mayor and Council.
- In response to the deemed “immediate” recommendation of establishing the Mayor’s Leaders Table, next steps need to be discussed and determined, including; composition of the Table, alternate chairs, Terms of Reference and general positioning within the overall governance framework.
- A second recommendation that could receive immediate support and implementation is the citizen-directed campaign to generate enthusiasm from all citizens to assist in resilience and recovery through positive dialogue and engagement with each other and the world. This recommendation referred to by the working title “Nanaimo Builds” would benefit from direction by Council to staff to provide an overall plan for the campaign.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Building Healthy and Connected Community – Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Report |

Submitted by:

Shelley Legin
General Manager, Corporate Services |

Concurrence by:

Jake Rudolph |
Chief Administration Officer