

MINUTES
SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-OCT-07, AT 3:02 P.M.

Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair
E. Boulanger, At Large Member (joined electronically, disconnected at 4:54 p.m.)
D. Chen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
L. Frey, At Large Member (joined electronically)
J. Lesemann, At Large Member (joined electronically)
L. McCunn, At Large Member (joined electronically)

Absent: Councillor T. Brown
H. DesRoches, At Large Member
W. Wells, At Large Member

Staff: D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works (joined electronically 4:15 p.m.)
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning
R. Lawrence, Environmental Planner
C. Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-JUL-15 at 3:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

5. REPORTS:

(a) REIMAGINE Nanaimo: Climate Action and Environmental Technical Backgrounders

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, spoke regarding the importance of Committee feedback in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process.

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, noted that the technical backgrounders are included to provide greater detail and specifics, and Staff is seeking Committee feedback.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The technical backgrounders provide extensive information and the Committee requires more time to provide feedback
- Committee members are invited to provide feedback to Staff until the beginning of November
- The technical backgrounders are currently in draft format
- The lists provided in the technical backgrounders are potential options as well as a collection of ideas based on what similar jurisdictions are doing
- Legislative limits regarding limiting natural gas use in homes

(b) Environmental Responsibility Framework

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner. Highlights included:

- Environmental framework is a way to manage and assess the City's progression on key environmental priorities
- Draft environmental framework is available on the City of Nanaimo website for public access

Presentation:

1. Councillor Geselbracht provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the environmental responsibility framework. Highlights included:

- Good frameworks have the ability to be aspirational, organized around objectives and monitored
- “Doughnut Economics” is a model put together by economist Kate Raworth to visually depict planetary and social boundaries for sustainable development
 - The outer circle of the “Doughnut” includes nine key planetary limits that make up the ecological ceiling, and the inner circle includes twelve social boundaries that make up the social foundation
 - The model is based on the premise that social needs need to be met while not exceeding the planetary boundaries
 - Each category is associated with a trackable target

- Clear targets and performance indicators are not only important in communicating to the community, but also in prioritizing internal decisions and strategic direction

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Applying the “Doughnut Economic” model to fit Nanaimo in a regional context and providing an assessment of where the City of Nanaimo currently is
- How the framework is integrated in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process
- Baseline indicators currently exist that may be drawn upon
- The importance of finding the right targets that encapsulate what we are trying to achieve, as well as resources to monitor the indicators
- Raising awareness within the community to develop a shared purpose as well as a greater understanding of why decisions are being made
- Critical to have clearly defined agreed-upon goals
- Update on the public engagement working group
- The importance of having a better understanding of the perceptions and priorities of the community
- Mindful of the overuse of questionnaires as a tool for community feedback
- The organization of small focus groups to facilitate conversation with the community

(c) Climate and Environmental Gap Analysis

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner.

Presentation via Zoom:

1. David Reid, Lanarc, and Duncan Cavens, C2MP, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Clean growth is a term that suggests that climate change policies need to be integrated with other policies rather than on their own
 - Identifying the environmental gaps yet to be addressed and strategies to be considered
 - Provided an overview of the City of Nanaimo’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:
 - The City of Nanaimo is committed to reducing GHG emissions by 50% from 2010 levels by 2030, and reducing GHG emissions 94% from 2010 levels by 2050
 - Majority GHG emissions come from natural gas and oil used for heating homes and hot water
 - City of Nanaimo has many policies already in place compared to other municipalities
 - Despite policies, GHG emissions are still rising. This is largely due to the low cost of natural gas to heat homes, as well as population growth
 - Transportation is a large contributor to GHG emissions in Nanaimo
 - Two approaches to reducing GHG emissions are to increase efficiency and to switch to zero-carbon energy sources
 - Simply increasing efficiency is unlikely to decrease GHG emissions quickly enough to reach targets

- Consideration for the lifespan of urban elements
- Incentives to promote fuel switching to low carbon heating and hot water systems
- Charging infrastructures for electric vehicles
- Increasing investment in active transportation infrastructure
- Provided examples from the City of Campbell River Sea Level Rise Assessment study
 - Visual representations are powerful tools to communicate impact
 - Graphic summary tool to evaluate and compare different strategy options
 - Potential next steps in Nanaimo
- Provided an overview of drought management
 - The amount of Bulk water supply needed is determined by population growth and water consumption
 - Education on landscape design and best irrigation practices
- Provided overviews of changing heat patterns; rainwater management; and sediment, erosion and pollution control
- Nanaimo focused on efficiency in buildings in particular
- Focus on retrofitting buildings as 60% of buildings that will be here in 2050 have already been built

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Committee members are encouraged to send further feedback to Staff and chairs to be forwarded to David Reid, Lanarc
- Balancing population growth and forest protection in Nanaimo
- The REIMAGINE NANAIMO process is currently in the phase of reviewing background information and collecting ideas from the community and committees
- Next phase of the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process will include the modelling of growth scenario options. These will be provided to the community and to committees for further feedback
- The Official Community Plan is a high level document that does not go into every detail of the individual action plans
- Some goals may be more directional rather than hard targets

E. Boulanger disconnected at 4:54 p.m.

- Assessing what factors of the “Doughnut Economic” model apply to the City
- More in-depth discussion regarding frameworks to be had at the next Environment Committee meeting scheduled for November 4th

It was moved and seconded that Staff liaise with Environment Committee members to develop focus group stakeholder engagement around environmental objectives of the Official Community Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:04 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER