

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2020-JAN-27, AT 9:00 A.M.

Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Councillor S. D. Armstrong (arrived 10:10 a.m.)
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley (arrived 9:30 a.m.)

Absent: Mayor L. Krog

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
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources (arrived 9:27 a.m.)
L. Mercer, Director, Finance (vacated 12:08 p.m.)
Insp. L. Fletcher, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP (arrived 10:10 a.m.)
K. Fry, Fire Chief
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications
M. Koch, Parks & Open Space Planner
D. Blackwood, Client Support Specialist (vacated 9:11 a.m.)
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Sponaule, Steno, 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 9:01 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 following minutes be adopted as circulated:

- Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2019-NOV-25, at 1:00 p.m.

- Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2019-DEC-09, at 11:00 a.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

a. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

(1) City of Nanaimo Strategic Plan Workshop

Introduced by Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer.

Presentation:

1. John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, spoke regarding the following:
 - Overview of the plan for the meeting
 - Purpose of the meeting is to determine what Council's top three priorities are

D. Blackwood vacated the Boardroom at 9:11 a.m.

- How the Strategic Plan aligns and drives City business through various master plans
- Imagining the ideal city and what is needed in order to achieve that goal
- Limited amount of money, Staff and time to work with, need to decide if items will all inch forward at once, or move a few key items forward and maintain the rest
- Suggested concentrating on a few key items moving forward
- 80% of Staff's work is to "keep the lights on" (day-to-day work) the question is how to prioritize the leftover 20% of discretionary time

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Staff time and where Staff capacity is spread out or needing more direction
- Discretionary time usually falls more to manager/director level positions
- Reallocating resources to work on other projects

Each Councillor stated their top three priority themes:

- Derelict buildings downtown, the waterfront and 1 Port Drive

J. Van Horne entered the Boardroom at 9:27 a.m.

- Sidewalks, making pedestrians safe, review of master plan and development approvals
- Transportation and mobility for all ages and the environment

Councillor Turley entered the Boardroom at 9:30 a.m.

- Organization capacity
- Environment as articulated in the current strategic plan
- Liveability with a focus on transit and active transportation
- Mental health, addiction, and affordable housing
- Official Community Plan (OCP)
- Health and housing, supporting those who are struggling most within the community
- Economic development and ensuring there is capacity to act when opportunities arise
- Downtown and 1 Port Drive as a means to enhance peoples experience of the City
- More focus on liveability and economic health
- Liveability focused on recreational activities and facilities that promote an active and healthy lifestyle
- Development of economic health, appropriate staffing, attracting businesses and improving the downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA)
- Review of civic facilities in need of improvements/repair
- Access to the downtown waterfront and the long term vision for 1 Port Drive
- Public transportation and transit
- Active transportation plan with focus on cycling and multimodal opportunities
- OCP plus (OCP and master plans directed by the OCP)
- Broadening of economic development portfolio, development of industrial properties, economic development of the downtown core
- Safety and security, working with Bylaw Department to improve security
- Supporting arts and culture as a way to attract professionals to the community
- Preparing “shovel ready” projects for when funding becomes available
- Improved facilities for local groups/clubs and creating a facility for the indigenous community
- Environment, reviewing everything through an environmental lens
- Health and Housing Task Force (HHTF) working to develop regulations to implement change

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting recessed at 9:57 a.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Councillor Armstrong entered the Boardroom at 10:10 a.m.

Insp. L. Fletcher entered the Boardroom at 10:10 a.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Public safety and complaints about the downtown core
- Economic development and the waterfront
- Capital projects such as the RCMP building, Public Works building, and expansion or additions to recreation facilities

John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, summarized his initial interpretation of Council's priorities as nine themes: Downtown, Health and Housing, Transit, Environment, OCP plus, Organization Capacity, Economic Development, Active Transportation and Civic Facilities.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Ensuring resources are dedicated to projects
- 1 Port Drive relating to tourism, economic development and the downtown core
- 1 Port Drive and downtown themes being separated
- Development of South Downtown Waterfront Initiative
- Future Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting to discuss priorities
- Derelict buildings referring to buildings sitting vacant for lengths of time
- 1 Port Drive and the property's viability long term
- Opportunities to work with the Port of Nanaimo and Snuneymuxw First Nation

John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, suggested removing 1 Port Drive from the definition of Downtown and including the topic under the heading Economic Development.

Committee discussion continued regarding:

- Civic facilities being embedded in the work of current planning staff
- Implications of spending significant amounts of money on civic facility repairs/replacement
- A strong emphasis on one theme to move forward
- Facilities theme being part of the day to day work of Staff

B. Sims vacated the Boardroom at 10:44 a.m.

John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, continued his presentation as follows:

- Listed potential criteria for determining priorities: non-emergency safety issues, in strategic plan and/or master plan, breadth of impact, resource requirements, who is involved,

- consequences to existing work plans, consequence of not doing, urgency/sequencing/phasing and other
- Explained how Councillors will vote on the nine themes identified

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Downtown as a focus
- Implementation of shovel-ready projects and where this topic would fall within the themes identified

J. Van Horn returned to the Boardroom at 10:56 a.m.

- Reviewing all of the themes through an environmental lens
- Need for strong economic development in the community to ensure there is revenue to implement projects
- Proper land use planning and transportation being topics that are within the cities control
- Economic development providing the revenue needed to implement change
- Downtown core requiring focus to address safety and security concerns
- Safety concerns regarding aging facilities
- Safety concerns not being restricted to downtown and the effect on public perception and the overall economy
- Ways to increase safety and security
- Reviewing the term “public safety” versus “social disorder”
- Social disorder impacting public safety
- Transit theme including all things related to transportation
- Separating public safety as its own theme
- Renaming the theme “public safety” to “social disorder”

Councillor Thorpe vacated the Boardroom at 11:28 a.m.

- Based on emails the public’s number one concern in the community is crime
- HHTF was created to address social disorder issues

Councillor Thorpe returned to the Boardroom at 11:32 a.m.

- Road/traffic safety being included within the public safety theme
- Changing active transportation theme to include all aspects of transportation including transit
- Addressing the topic of public safety next year due to new Staff member covering this area
- Looking at social disorder as a community wide topic and not isolated to the downtown core

John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, requested clarification on whether there should be a new theme called social disorder and if the transit theme should be moved to become a topic under the theme active transportation, which would then be reworded as transportation.

Committee discussion took place regarding clarity on how these topic will be implemented and if they will be added to the strategic plan.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that this session is not intended as a rewrite of the strategic plan, but more of a building off of it to provide updated direction to Staff.

Inspector Lisa Fletcher, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, spoke regarding RCMP capacity and duties that police have performed in the past that are not necessarily police tasks. She spoke regarding social disorder being a community responsibility.

Committee discussion took place regarding public safety being added as a future GPC topic.

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting recessed at 12:08 p.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, summarized the earlier discussion points and resulting nine themes. Mr. Leeburn explained that Councillors will vote on their top three priorities from the nine themes.

B. Sims entered the Boardroom at 12:48 p.m.

Insp. L. Fletcher vacated the Boardroom at 12:53 p.m.

The committee members determined their top three priorities as follows:

Theme	Vote
Health and Housing	4
Social Disorder	4
Transportation	4
Downtown	3
Facilities	3
OCP plus	3
Economic Development	3
Organization Capacity	0
Environment	0

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Difference between Health and Housing and Social Disorder

Insp. L. Fletcher returned to the Boardroom at 12:59 p.m.

- Social Disorder provides more licence to address issues more broadly

The committee confirmed the themes that scored four votes accurately represented their priorities.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Impression that items not receiving any votes are being addressed already
- Lack of focus when addressing seven themes rather than three
- Suggestion to remove OCP plus and Facilities themes
- Discussion regarding a second vote
- Importance of displaying good governance
- HHTF an action item that could fall under the Social Disorder theme

John Leeburn, Sr. Consultant, Leeburn OD, noted that there was no overlap in the votes for the Health and Housing theme and the Social Disorder theme. Each Councillor had either voted for one or the other, but none had voted for both. Mr. Leeburn suggested this represents an issue to all Councillors and that each individual is coming at the theme from a different direction.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding next steps. Staff will prepare a modified draft to update the strategic plan with the revised priorities.

b. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Adding crosswalk safety topic
- Adding election signage topic

It was moved and seconded that the following topics be added to a future Governance and Priorities Committee meeting:

- Crosswalk safety
- Election signage

The motion carried unanimously.

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to ask questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:57 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER