

**MINUTES**  
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
MONDAY, 2021-JUN-14, AT 1:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor Maartman, Chair  
Mayor L. Krog  
Councillor S. D. Armstrong (joined electronically, disconnected 4:42 p.m.)  
Councillor D. Bonner  
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically)  
Councillor B. Geselbracht  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
Councillor I. W. Thorpe  
Councillor J. Turley

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  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development  
A. Groot, Director, Facilities and Parks Operations  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning  
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk  
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services  
K. Gerard, 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 6(b)(1) – Policy and Bylaw Renewal Project Update – Add PowerPoint presentation titled “Bylaw and Policy Renewal Project Update”.
- (b) Agenda Item 4(a) – Minutes 2021-MAY-31 Governance and Priorities Committee – Replace with amended handout to note change to section 5(b)(1) – Councillor Maartman re: Permanent Recreational Vehicle Accommodation.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held virtually on Monday, 2021-MAY-31 at 10:01 a.m. be adopted as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

5. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding the Agenda planning documents and future meetings and advised the Committee that at the 2021-JUL-12 Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting the Committee will have the opportunity to review the priorities and make any changes or additions as well as view the status of current priorities listed.

6. REPORTS:

a. REIMAGINE NANAIMO

1. REIMAGINE Nanaimo – Scenarios Workshop and Public Engagement Update

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
- Today Staff will be reviewing the outcomes from the 2021-MAY-31 scenarios workshop, the public engagement strategy and next steps in the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process
  - Phase 2 involves taking all the information collected in Phase 1 and working through the different scenarios to provide the community options on achieving shared goals
  - All feedback and scenarios will work in tandem with the existing City plans including:
    - The Official Community Plan (OCP)
    - Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan
    - Climate Action Plan
    - Active Transportation Plan
  - The final draft of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo plan will include key strategic documents such as the Water Supply Strategic Plan and the Action Implementation Plan
  - Implementation plans will need to be reviewed every two to three years to ensure that the goals and targets are being achieved

- Key community input themes include:
  - Access to nature and outdoor recreation
  - Waterfront identity
  - A green approach
  - City living
  - Central hub identity
  - Inclusive and equitable
  - Mobility choice
  - Affordable City of Nanaimo
  - Supportive City of Nanaimo
  - Great jobs and businesses
  - Neighbourhood character
  - A thriving downtown
- Staff are using the doughnut model to flush out goals and indicators that work within the specified community input themes from public engagement
- The five draft strategic goals include:
  1. A Green Nanaimo – resilient and regenerative ecosystems
  2. A Healthy Nanaimo – community well-being and livability
  3. A Connected Nanaimo – equitable access and mobility
  4. An Empowered Nanaimo – diversity, culture and social integrity
  5. An Enabled Nanaimo – economic prosperity
- Staff are requesting that the Committee endorse the five goals which will ensure the City has a preliminary set of indicators
- The planning context will include an approximate population growth of 40,000 and employment growth of 18,000 jobs
- Staff need to ensure that the indicators are realistic and attainable through reliability, cost effectiveness and can be accomplished in a timely manner
- Working on indicators that Council and the community can influence and measure
- A Green Nanaimo includes subheadings for Water Resources, Waste, Soil and Waterway Health and Ocean Health
- Each of these are related to land use scenarios which can influence management and sustainability of these subheadings
- Each target is measurable to show the community if targets are being met

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Water resources and waste indicators
- Managing soil and waterway health and how the City can ensure reductions in the number of samples that fail to meet quality guidelines
- Baseline measurements to show if the City is meeting, exceeding or below targets
- Using the information provided and how the indicators can be used to make future decisions based on data collected

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised the Committee that:

- Staff rely on other departments tracking methods to show whether the City is are meeting, exceeding or below targets
- Data used in the draft indicators is based on existing population and then compared to future growth
- Important to balance growth with consumption

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concerns regarding community perception of the doughnut model
- Historically the OCP has always been the plan that is shaped by the community and ensuring that community feedback is the most important part of the process
- Including a question in the public inquiry section that asks the community if they want the doughnut model incorporated into the City plans and documents
- Focusing on the items that can be changed and influenced
- Important that this remain a public plan, without pre-determined outcomes and want to ensure genuine public engagement and feedback

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised the Committee that in Phase 2 engagement the public will have options of endorsing goals, scenarios and the doughnut model.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the Committee that the steps Staff have taken so far are fundamental to the process and will assist in refreshing the OCP and other policies and plans. Council is the steering committee for the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process and as such are requested to approve/endorse materials for public engagement.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Air quality is measured by the Province and biodiversity can be measured and maintained through the Parks, Recreation and Culture department
- Climate change targets are currently endorsed with up-to-date data available
- Ensuring that targets and indicators are manageable for Staff and have the ability to be monitored on a community wide scale
- There are many variables which make some targets hard to measure but after Phase 2 Staff will have more information to set actual targets

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concerns regarding how to measure each of the elements
- Baseline for draft targets and methods of measurements
- Policies or decisions that show how the goals or targets are being met
- Indicators and targets can assist Staff and Council in creating policies and strategic plans once the actual targets are set

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Elements and draft targets are not yet fully developed
- Once the actual plan is in place benchmarks for the elements will be set and measurable throughout the community which will enable Staff to maintain and manage the targets and show the implications of each of the goals
- Parks and Recreation program registration can be tailored to acquire information for statistics on demographics

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Current areas of green space and parks and how the City compares with other municipalities regarding amount of green space
- Monitor the City's ability to utilize ground water flows and maintaining these to reduce negative impacts on the environment and maximize ground water

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, advised the Committee that the City is an early adopter of storm/rain water management and this item is included in our Engineering Standards. Underground storage tanks on properties and parking lots are designed to intentionally flood so the natural waterway systems are not negatively impacted.

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, advised the Committee that methods for storm water management have shifted greatly in the last 30 years and the City uses more natural assets to ensure minimal effects on the environment and public safety.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- A Healthy Nanaimo – community well-being and livability provides elements regarding homelessness, housing affordability, vacancy rates and housing types
- The Point-in-Time count is an important and reliable indicator for the homelessness element
- Affordability, vacancy rate and housing types are all measurable with a known baseline for each
- Phase 2 will provide more feedback on housing types the public would like and Staff will be able to set actual targets

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Lack of food security
- Role of the City in providing healthy food options and affordability of food
- The City has taken steps to assist with food security including assisting Loaves and Fishes and purchasing 5 acres of land for food growth
- Practicality of the goals/targets and using the doughnut model as a vision for the community to attain the targets
- The Food Policy Council will provide ideas and programs to increase access to healthy and affordable food
- Researching the City of Vancouver model which was implemented years ago to promote and assist with farmers markets, community kitchens and organizations that supply food
- Utilizing Parks and Recreation programs that teach food preservation and implementing incentives for grocery stores to donate to local food organizations
- Public engagement on housing types and what the community wants to see in the future
- Measuring food security and what success and/or failure looks like

It was moved and seconded that the goals statement under “A Healthy Nanaimo – Community Well-Being” be amended to read:

“so everyone has opportunity to have access to healthy, safe, and affordable food and housing”

and that an indicator be development to increase local food security.

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Turley*

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Adding “a clean and safe community” under the community well-being and livability heading
- The City’s financial limitations and constraints in meeting the targets under this heading
- Safety and cleanliness are a budget line item and something that can be influenced and changed
- Concerns regarding the draft target for homelessness and if it is attainable
- Need to look at the reasons behind homelessness in order to solve this issue in Nanaimo and get to the root of the problem

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Safety was discussed at the 2021-MAY-10 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting including the concept of how to measure safety, and how perceptions of feeling safe are contradictory of actual safety
- Ensuring elements are included that can be measured while focusing on small goals versus the larger plans that are reviewed every ten years
- Council endorsed the Health and Housing Action Plan which Staff will monitor and tie into the doughnut model and future plans

The Governance and Priorities Committee recessed at 2:42 p.m.  
The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened at 2:54 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that under the “A Healthy Nanaimo – Community Well-Being and Livability” heading the draft target for Chronic/Episodic Homelessness that reads “elimination of homelessness by 2025” be removed. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Brown*

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- An Enabled Nanaimo – Economic Prosperity includes working age population, non-residential building permits, ample and diverse business opportunities with indicators and draft targets

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The draft target for the working age population and if COVID-19 has effected this target
- Non-residential building permits used as an indicator and if this title is misleading as it doesn’t focus on one type of business or entity
- Changing “non-residential building permits” to “economic structure index” to allow for measures by business sector and provide a more diverse economy scale

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, advised the Committee that acquiring the data used to finalize the indicators and targets for the economic structure index is approximately \$10,000 and Staff are attempting to look at ways to track this element at no cost.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Increased construction of commercial space can indicate more employment and businesses in Nanaimo; however, measuring all types of construction provides valuable information to growth and prosperity

- Economic prosperity and economic structure index both have value and should be included for the public to comment on
- This information could provide insight into diversity of businesses in Nanaimo and what is driving the non-residential building permits
- The actual targets and clarifying the goals of the community

It was moved and seconded that the indicator for Economic Prosperity “Non-Residential Building Permits” be replaced with the Economic Structure Index.

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended as follows:

It was moved and seconded that the indicators for Economic Prosperity include Non-Residential Building Permits and the Economic Structure Index.

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Geselbracht*

The vote was taken on the main motion as amended, as follows:

It was moved and seconded that the indicators for Economic Prosperity include Non-Residential Building permits and the Economic Structure Index. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the title “Economic Prosperity” be changed to “Economic Resiliency”.

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Armstrong, Maartman, Thorpe and Turley*

It was moved and seconded that the title “Economic Prosperity” be changed to “Economic Prosperity and Resiliency”. The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- A Connected Nanaimo – equitable access and mobility includes elements of transportation, active transportation and growth and traffic injury rates
- Targets and baselines for these elements are measurable and reliable will be integrated into the Active Transportation Master Plan
- Growth in Nodes and Corridors can be measured by GIS and the target for traffic injury rates is vision zero

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The draft indicator stating a 400m walk to services does not realistically capture the design flaws in our road systems, lack of sidewalks and highway crossings
- A measure of time is an easier and more understood way to measure distance and can better show the distance between households to the services needed



- Need to ensure language is clear and easily understood by the community throughout the public engagement process

It was moved and seconded that the wording of the draft indicator for the Access to Daily Needs element be amended to read:

“Number of households within a 400m or 15 minute walk to employment lands, essential services, schools, transit, recreation services, parks and healthcare.”

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Councillors Bonner, Brown, Geselbracht, Hemmens, and Maartman*

It was moved and seconded that the wording of the draft indicator for the Access to Daily Needs element be amended to read:

“Number of households within a 15 minute walk to employment lands, essential services, schools, transit, recreation services, parks and healthcare.”

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Turley*

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- An Empowered Nanaimo – diversity, culture, and social integrity includes elements and draft indicators for:
  1. Inclusion and diversity
  2. Arts, culture and heritage
  3. Participation in Parks and Recreation programs
  4. Public waterfront access
- Indicators and targets can be measured for the second and third elements but Inclusion and Diversity are difficult to measure and Staff are working through how to measure these and create targets

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Including reconciliation under the heading “An Empowered Nanaimo”
- Different perspectives on how a diverse community should look and how to measure and create targets for inclusion and diversity
- Achievement of a diverse and inclusive community could include everyone feeling welcome, accepted, heard and safe
- Fitting reconciliation and political voice into the doughnut framework with public engagement as both are factors of inclusion and diversity
- Access to parks and the waterfront for individuals in need of a mobility device
- Ensure that Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) is involved in the engagement throughout the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process and implementing Truth and Reconciliation
- The importance of public engagement on these issues and moving toward the goals identified once public engagement is completed

- The City's legal obligations in working with SFN on Truth and Reconciliation
- Suggestion of taking Inclusion and Diversity to the public with no draft indicators or targets

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Committee that the City is obligated through the Protocol Agreement Working Group to work with SFN on Truth and Reconciliation.

It was moved and seconded that Reconciliation be added to the title "An Empowered Nanaimo – Diversity, Culture and Social Integrity". The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Turley*

It was moved and seconded that the title read as follows: "An Empowered Nanaimo – Diversity, Culture, Reconciliation and Social Integrity". The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Political voice is an important element under social foundations
- Political voice is about knowing the people who represent you, how to reach them and how the City's engages and communicates with the community
- Ensuring that Council is relatable, understandable and has the communities best interests when making decisions
- Ways to provide more opportunity for people to voice their opinions and be heard
- Focus of Phase 2 will be land use scenarios and will have an impact on policies and plans that are being reviewed

It was moved and seconded that within the category of "Empowered Nanaimo" that "political voice" be added as a sub-category along with "diversity, culture and social integrity" and that an indicator be developed to track citizen's access/participation in City decision making. The motion carried unanimously.

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, advised the Committee of the following:

- The next public engagement session is focused on land use scenarios and separate session will be created for the Empowered Nanaimo elements including political voice
- Staff will work on framing this and return to the Committee for further discussion and a plan for the future engagement
- The public will be provided the opportunity to comment on the doughnut model and scenarios as they are presented

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Key communication to the public will include planning context with elements such as employment, and population growth

- Public input will help identify and set the draft goals and targets and how those translate to the land use scenarios
- In Phase 3 the most popular scenarios will be drafted and will be brought to the Committee for discussion and feedback before further public consultation
- Staff will work with Literacy Nanaimo to ensure that the indicators and scenarios are easily understood by youth in grades 8 through 12
- Phase 2 engagement is focused on youth through collaboration with School District 68 and Vancouver Island University
- Open survey to be provided to the public in the Summer of 2021 and closes in the Fall of 2021
- Zoom workshops will be created for the community and Staff to interact and explain the different land use scenarios
- Out and About advertising includes pop-ups, posters, signs in transit busses, workshops, meetings and discussion groups
- Stakeholder engagement will include discussions and input from Council Committees, emails and calls to stakeholder groups and shared information with community agencies

Committee discussion took place regarding ensuring businesses, business owners and seniors are engaged throughout the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, advised the Committee that youth were the lowest represented demographic in Phase 1 engagement and Staff are looking at ways to encourage youth to be a part of the process.

Councillor Armstrong disconnected at 4:42 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding key concepts and public endorsement of the doughnut model.

It was moved and seconded that language be added in doughnut messaging conveying environmental responsibility for our impact on our environment both locally and globally and to add language in doughnut messaging conveying social responsibility for the wellbeing of people both inside our borders and our impacts outside.

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Bonner, Hemmens, Thorpe and Turley*

b. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

1. Policy and Bylaw Renewal Project Update

Due to time constraints, the Policy and Bylaw Renewal Project Update will be moved to a future meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:53 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER