

**MINUTES**  
SPECIAL MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
FRIDAY, 2021-JUN-18, AT 9:30 A.M.

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- Present:** Mayor Krog, Chair  
Councillor Armstrong  
Councillor Thorpe  
Brian Clemens, President, Board of Directors, Port Theatre Nanaimo  
Susan Clift, President, John Howard Society  
Grace Elliott Nielsen, Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre  
(joined 9:38 a.m.)  
Sean Gallagher, Nanaimo Arts Council  
Donna Hais, Board Chair, Nanaimo Port Authority  
Bruce Halliday, General Manager, Port Theatre  
James Hanson, Vice President, Clinical Operations, Island Health  
Ben Harrack, Vice President of BC Operations, Save On Foods  
Deborah Hollins, Executive Director, Nanaimo Family Life Association  
Debra Jacklin, Board President, Nanaimo Art Gallery  
Erralyn Joseph, Petroglyph Development Group  
Jenn MacPherson, President, Nanaimo/Duncan District Labour  
Council (joined 9:35 a.m.)  
Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way  
John Manning, Board President, Nanaimo Museum  
Charlene McKay, Board Chair, School District 68  
Paul Sadler, CEO, Harmac Pacific  
Ashwak Sirri, Board Chair, Nanaimo Hospitality Association  
Kim Smythe, President and CEO Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce  
(joined 9:50 a.m.)  
Cory Vanderhorst, Board Chair/President, Innovation Island  
Technology Association  
Keith Wilson, CAO, Nanaimo Youth Services Association  
David Witty, Board Chair, Nanaimo Airport Commission  
Chief Wyse, Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Absent:** Tyler Brown, Board Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo  
Deborah Saucier, President and Vice Chancellor, Vancouver Island  
University  
Angelika Valchar, Senior Director, Nanaimo Multi-Cultural Society
- Staff:** J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development  
A. Groot, Director, Facility & Parks Operations  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning  
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications  
D. Blackwood, Client Support Specialist  
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services  
S. Snelgrove, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Jenn MacPherson joined the meeting electronically at 9:35 a.m.

- Chief Wyse, Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN), provided a welcome.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Mayor's Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Krog advised:

- We are living through a time we haven't seen before and many folks have faced challenges and personal tragedies
- For the past year and a half we haven't been able to connect with one another in person or spend time with family
- In these very trying times there are children who haven't been able to attend school in person; elderly people who are worried about their health and struggling with isolation and loneliness
- The Mayor's Leaders' Table (Table) was formed from the Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience

Grace Elliott Neilsen joined the meeting electronically at 9:38 a.m.

- The purpose of the Table is to gather leaders in the community who have agreed to come together and want to talk about the future of Nanaimo and move forward in a positive way
- There is a sense now that the community is ready to move forward
- Recognition that residents have much to be grateful for as we live in a modern, liberal democracy with public education, public healthcare and arising out of COVID-19 there is a different and deeper understanding of our interconnectedness and relationships with each other
- Recognized the kinds of work that previously went unnoticed such as delivering health care and delivering essential services
- Recognition of our colonial past at a time when reconciliation must and is on all of our minds
- Due to the strong relationship the City enjoys with SFN there is a positive view of where we are going and where we are headed
- During the last year and a half there was the impression of a dramatic increase in street disorder and homelessness as everyone with access to shelter stayed home
- The City, through the work of the Health and Housing Task Force and provincially through mandate letters to Ministers, is addressing those problems
- The hotel rising behind the Vancouver Island Conference Centre is a symbol of progress, a symbol of where we are going and symbolic as SFN is working in conjunction with developers

- Priorities include working to make sure this part of Vancouver Island gets the much needed hospital
- Expanding the hospitality industry as people can begin to move around again
- Today is about being positive, examining where we have been, where we are and contributions moving forward
- Informed by findings and recommendations, align ourselves to collaborate with government to ask for infrastructure needed in Nanaimo
- Need to establish a working group to develop a plan to address youth attraction and retention
- Need to build collaboration among communities
- Encouraged participants to be candid, vocal and provocative, not afraid to say things that need to be said
- Mayor Krog noted he is confident this group will do good things for the people of Nanaimo and that we are all fortunate to live here and have the positions we do

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

2. PRESENTATIONS: (continued)

(b) Mayor's Leaders' Table Terms of Reference

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services. Highlights included:

- There is no "head" of the Table as it is a round table format
- Established to be consistent with Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience
- The most senior decision makers (CEO, Chairs) are at the Table to bring a collective voice from organizations
- Opportunity to delegate working group participation
- Group represents a cross section of industry, culture, arts, healthcare, education and non-profit

Kim Smythe joined the meeting electronically at 9:50 a.m.

- There will be established quarterly meetings
- The term of the Mayor's Leaders' Table is for one year and expected to be extended annually
- Two alternate councillors sit at the Table
- Non-voting representatives can be invited to attend for topics of shared interest
- Meetings are live-streamed and video recorded

(c) Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting Procedures and Presentation

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services. Highlights included:

- Local governments are the creation of the Province and there are laws that must be adhered to in order to be open and transparent
- Laws may seem bureaucratic but the purpose is to build trust with the public and uphold integrity
- Section 141/142 of the *Community Charter* is the legislation that applies to meetings
- There may be a need to go into a closed meeting if discussions are related to relationships, land acquisitions or discussions with other levels of government
- After matters are dealt with in a closed meeting they become public
- Hierarchy and explanation of legislation
- Proceedings outlined in committee operating guidelines
- "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272" covers all aspects of meetings which can be as formal or informal as the Table wishes to make them
- Role of Table members includes preparing for and attending Table meetings, completing tasks assigned by the Table or assigned by working groups and accountability for all actions taken in the name of the Table

(d) Mayor's Leaders' Table Working Group Terms of Reference

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services. Highlights included:

- The goal of the Table is to get outcomes and progress the work from the Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience
- The Table will move into three working groups and they may not be the final set of working groups
- Working group format gives more flexibility for workshops and debate
- Working group participation can be delegated
- Three working groups are:
  - "Infrastructure Ask" to determine what infrastructure is needed in Nanaimo and prepare a strategic, coordinated ask of senior levels of government
  - "Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy" to develop a strategy for retention and attraction of youth
  - "Doughnut Economic Philosophy" which is a new framework for making sure growth is conscious, planned, intentional and doesn't have unintentional negative consequences for marginalized groups or the environment
- Based on Staff's presentation each member can make a decision about what working group to move into
- Working groups will meet between quarterly Table meetings and meetings are suggested to be kept to two hours
- During breakout groups select a chair who has resources within their organization to host meetings
- Chair is responsible for making the call for agenda items and putting together an agenda package

- One senior staff member from the City of Nanaimo will participate in working group meetings for support
- Formal minutes are not required and an action log of items is sufficient
- Any Table member can let the Mayor know what they would like to discuss at the next Table meeting
- One delegated person from each working group should report at quarterly meetings to advise what’s happening

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor’s Leaders’ Table approve the Working Group Terms of Reference. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations:

1. Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, provided a presentation regarding Infrastructure Ask. Highlights included:
  - Intention for Infrastructure Ask is to build coherence around social and economic recovery from the pandemic
  - The working group will be guided by the question “What does Nanaimo need to thrive?”
  - Come together as community leaders to develop a list of infrastructure projects and then reduce them to 3-5 significant projects that Nanaimo can support to attract the interest of senior levels of government, industry and philanthropic organizations
  - Criteria for projects to be developed by the working group but may include how the entire community can benefit from the ask, can further steps be taken to understand our personal and collective roles in reconciliation and determine what projects could benefit reconciliation efforts
  - Focus on how the projects can build resilience, not only physical for environmental threats, but social and economic for the entire community
  - Encouraging participants to see what sources of funding are available and looking to senior levels of government for grants
  - Goals are to be ready for action, to have something tangible to bring forward that community can support and that can be jointly presented to senior governments
  - Ideally the group would develop basic scope sheets or project descriptions
  - Mayor’s Task Force on Recovery and Resilience developed recommendations to use as a starting point
  - Examples of potential projects include development of downtown sites, Nanaimo Port for a logistics hub, hospital as focal point for community, digital connectedness for Vancouver Island University, accelerating investment in the waterfront, transportation hub and technology readiness

2. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided a presentation regarding the Doughnut Economic Philosophy. Highlights included:
  - Philosophy is a way of framing what is termed as sustainability and a way of organizing sustainability
  - Doughnut Economic philosophy is reflective of the Brundtland report authored in the 1980s and adopted worldwide which discusses meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
  - About ensuring we can meet everyone's needs while respecting environmental limits
  - There is an idea that we have an ecological ceiling (outer circle) which is a limit we don't want to push beyond
  - The inner circle represents social foundations that are needed for residents of Nanaimo while ensuring global residents have enough to meet their needs
  - The inner circle contains Council's strategic plan which is framed within the theory and is grounded in social development goals
  - Ideally, if we successfully meet everyone's needs within the environmental limit, everyone thrives
  - Foundational elements are thinking and acting locally and globally while considering how our actions impact the local, national and global community, economy, and environment
  - This philosophy has been incorporated into the REIMAGINE Nanaimo strategic planning process which is moving into phase 2 "Get Involved"
  - Table encouraged to provide feedback on how we apply different elements of sustainability
  - Evolve versus grow as a way to frame how we can thrive
  - A way to start thinking about your actions within your organizations that affect us locally, regionally and nationally
  
3. Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, provided a presentation regarding Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy. Highlights included:
  - Last year the Economic Development Strategy was updated, a taskforce established and analysis took place to understand the current state of the economy and challenges faced
  - Key issue from the analysis was youth attraction and retention
  - Statistics show Nanaimo has a "missing middle" of youth
  - Examples of areas to focus on could include:
    - Courses offered by Vancouver Island University (VIU)
    - Determining what skills are desirable in the business community
    - How to retain younger people in the community
    - Having employment available so people stay in Nanaimo after graduating from VIU
  - There may be some overlap with other working groups such as Infrastructure Ask
  - Connected Coast initiative and providing high speed fibre internet through Telus

- Led by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, the group will identify strategy and actions to take to retain and attract youth

(e) Zoom Breakout Rooms – 15 Minutes

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services. Highlights included:

- Members invited to join the breakout room that interests them, during breakout have a discussion to identify the chair and determine the working group’s next meeting date, time and place
- Goal of working groups are to attain outcomes

The Mayor’s Leaders’ Table divided themselves into the following breakout rooms for discussion and determination of the deliverables.

1. Doughnut Economic Philosophy, next meeting to be determined
  - Kim Smythe, Chair
  - Bruce Halliday
  - Deborah Hollins
  - Erralyn Joseph
  - Signy Madden
  - Susan Clift
2. Infrastructure Ask, next meeting in July
  - Donna Hais, Chair
  - Councillor Thorpe
  - Ashwak Sirri
  - Brian Clemens
  - Charlene McKay
  - Dave Witty
  - Debra Jacklin
  - Grace Elliott Neilsen
  - James Hanson
  - John Manning
  - Sean Gallagher
3. Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy, next meeting July 16, 2021
  - Keith Wilson, Chair
  - Mayor Krog
  - Councillor Armstrong
  - Ben Harrack
  - Cory Vanderhorst
  - Jenn MacPherson
  - Mike Wyse
  - Paul Sadler

(f) Closing Remarks

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised:

- There are lots of ideas and possibilities and potentially a lack of clarity on how to move forward and come together; therefore, staff will facilitate
- Conversations are harder to have online and looking forward to getting together in person
- Timing of this Table meeting aligns with the provincial reopening plan
- This effort is about recovery not response and now we are in recovery mode
- Most things are structural and won't happen overnight
- The City is the facilitator and each member of the Table is a leader coming out of this process with one voice as a community
- Translate potential into action and results

Mayor Krog advised:

- Expressed appreciation to the Chief Administrative Officer for taking on the role and helping turn the City around at a time when it's reputation was low
- Thanked all for participating and noted that membership is limited to the most senior member of each organization and if a group needs to be included to advise the Mayor
- This group is comprised of people who care and are prepared to give up time for the City

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting date for the Mayor's Leaders' Table is Friday, September 24, 2021, 9:00–11:00 a.m. and the meeting method is to be determined.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 10:56 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER