

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2021-JUL-26, AT 2:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor I. Thorpe, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor S. D. Armstrong
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor E. Hemmens

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
A. Groot, Director, Facility and Parks Operations
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications
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 2:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 6(a)(1) Waterfront Walkway – Departure Bay Update – Add Attachment ‘A’ Departure Bay Waterfront Walk, Cycle, Beach and Environmental Improvements.

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 from the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2021-JUL-12, at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) agenda planning documents and advised the Committee that the 2021-SEP-27 agenda will include the agenda topic Election Signage, and priority items for the 2021-OCT-25 meeting could be discussed at the September meeting.

6. REPORTS:

a. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

1. Waterfront Walkway – Departure Bay Update

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - In 2017 Council endorsed the implementation plan for the creation of the Waterfront Walkway
 - The Waterfront Walkway was first added to the strategic plan in 2012 and has been included in the 2016 and 2019 strategic plans
 - The Waterfront Walkway fits into many of the key community input themes recognized through feedback from REIMAGINE Nanaimo
 - An elevated walkway plan was created but due to costs and specialized equipment needs Staff realized that an on-beach option should be considered to reduce costs
 - At the conclusion of the feasibility study and the functional design engineers decided that a green shores approach would be best and would include habitat restoration
 - The conceptual design includes separated cycling and walking lanes, building of beach areas along the walkway, breakwaters to minimize erosion and lighting for winter and nighttime use
 - Public consultation was completed using the REIMAGINE Nanaimo platform with 2541 responses in three weeks and 5000 visits to the website
 - Findings from public engagement included:
 - Over 40% of respondents lived near the Departure Bay/Mid-Town area
 - Wide variety of age groups participated in the surveys with the most respondents from the 60-69 category
 - 1700 new participants took part since the last round of public engagement was completed on the project

- Important elements to be included are access to the beach/waterfront, greenery, separation between pedestrians and cyclists and picnic areas
- Elements of concern included impact on the environment, riparian rights, longshore maintenance, climate change and waterfront access
- 64% of respondents were in “strong support” of the project
- Public engagement results regarding funding for the project included:
 - Almost all respondents were in support of exploring grant opportunities to fund the project
 - Most respondents agreed with using reserves to fund the project
 - Over 50% supported going to a borrowing referendum or alternative approval process
- Next steps include:
 - Fall of 2021 – project to be presented to Council along with other key capital projects and explore funding and prioritization
 - Fall of 2022/Spring 2023 – if approved, borrowing referendum or alternate approval process will take place
 - Spring 2023 – if approved by the community Staff will initiate a property acquisition program, detailed design and document submission to the Province
 - Spring/Fall 2024 – tendering and construction of project

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Residents of Battersea Road
- The green shores be extended to the beach area by Battersea Road and the Kin Hut
- Provincial and Federal grants to assist in funding the project
- Funding through the Gas Tax Revenue
- Including more than one capital project in the referendum process

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, advised the Committee that the area around Battersea Road will be upgraded and repaved but the beach portion is not included in the green shores plan and there are numerous opportunities for Provincial and Federal grants that this project would qualify for.

Laura Mercer, Director, Finance, advised the Committee that Staff will research whether the Community Works Fund could be used; however, that fund requires that an asset be recognized at the completion of the project.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the Committee that:

- There are significant capital projects coming forward to Council in the Fall of 2021 including a new RCMP building, South End Community Centre and the Public Works operational centre upgrade/renovation
- A business case and financial analysis on all projects would need to be completed

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Committee that:

- There is a distinction between capital projects that are for operational purposes such as the RCMP and the Public Work Yard
- All these projects will require long-term borrowing which includes a referendum or alternative approval process
- The South End Community Centre and Waterfront Walkway are best suited for a referendum but cost, capacity and resources need to be identified before a referendum can occur
- Staff could provide more information to Council during the fall budget process on options for a referendum in the spring of 2022

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 2:29 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER