

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
MONDAY, 2022-JAN-24, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor S. D. Armstrong

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief
Administrative Officer
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
P. Rosen, Director, Engineering
D. Fournier, Manager, Municipal Infrastructure
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
K. Biegun, Planning Assistant
K. MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner
C. Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
K. Lundgren, 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(e)(1) – Add PowerPoint presentation titled "REIMAGINE Nanaimo - Emerging Directions Review".

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 electronically on Monday, 2022-JAN-10 at 1:00 P.M. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- 2022-FEB-14 Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) Meeting includes REIMAGINE Nanaimo as well as a governance update
- After February, there are nine GPC meetings before the election
- After the election, GPC meetings are booked for orientation and training purposes
- Council meetings were held electronically in January, and there is consideration for a hybrid approach for February
- Hybrid approach would consist of meetings being hosted at the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, with half of Council joining electronically and half attending in person
- The 2022-FEB-14 GPC meeting and the 2022-FEB-16 Finance and Audit Committee meeting to be held entirely electronically

6. REPORTS:

(a) COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(1) Bus Shelter and Bench Strategy Update

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

- Provided an update on the potential Bus Shelter and Bench Strategy in partnership with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and BC Transit (BCT)
- Staff met with both RDN and BCT and neither are currently in a position to develop a strategy in the short term
- Staff will proceed with a 24 month extension on the existing contracts to allow time to develop a more fulsome strategy

Committee discussion took place regarding the requirement to use the provincially approved supplier, Monarch Structures.

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, clarified that Monarch Structures is only required in order to be eligible for grant funding, and proceeding with another supplier restricts access to supplemental funding.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Operational cost for City owned structures compared the revenue generated through the existing contracts
- Opportunity to take an innovative approach

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare a report with costing for a non profit bus shelter strategy, co-owned by the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo by September 2022.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Challenges in meeting the deadline of September 2022 and ensuring Staff have adequate time to prepare the report
- Potential to incorporate a business case as part of the 2023 departmental business plan
- Working with the Province ties the City to using their contractors and design guidelines
- Opportunity to work collaboratively with partnerships to reduce cost and create community owned amenities
- Looking at local production rather than going through the Province
- Extending the current contract 18-24 months to allow for a more definitive decision as the agencies do not currently have the resources

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, advised the Committee that the expectation over the next 12-14 months is to collaborate with the RDN and BCT to explore options to deliver a program aligning with Council's vision. Options will look beyond the Monarch Structures product as well as identify required resourcing. He cautioned that timing should be taken into consideration to avoid being left without benches and shelters for the community.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Broadening the scope of the staff report and direction
- Removing the language of "non profit" in the motion and a goal to maximize innovation
- Motion may not be necessary, and trusting that Staff will return with fulsome options and recommendations

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended by removing the words "non profit", replacing "co-owned" with "co-created", removing the words "by September 2022" and adding the words "in accordance with sustainable procurement principles". The motion carried.

Opposed: Councillor Thorpe.

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

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare a report with costing for a bus shelter strategy, co-created by the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo in accordance with sustainable procurement principles. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Thorpe and Turley.*

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, clarified the process and timeline. He added that Council can expect a spectrum of alternatives and significant conversations to be had around maintenance and management of the amenities.

(b) REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

(1) REIMAGINE Nanaimo – Emerging Directions Review

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

- Presentation is a continuation of the discussion at the 2022-JAN-10 GPC meeting
- Public engagement launches on 2022-FEB-14 and is open until the end of March

Presentation:

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Staff are requesting the Governance and Priorities Committee's (GPC) feedback on six key topics:
 1. Neighbourhood Plans
 2. Infrastructure
 3. Community Wellness
 4. Truth and Reconciliation
 5. Island Highway Character
 6. Large Format Retail and Stand-Alone Commercial

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the emerging direction of Neighbourhood Plans. Highlights included:

- There are currently seven neighbourhood plans
- Emerging direction is to integrate the key policy concepts from the existing neighbourhood plans into the City Plan
- Existing neighbourhood plans will still be maintained as guidelines and reference documents, but not be part of adopted bylaw
- Actions in the existing neighbourhood plans to be integrated into the action plan
- Outlined a number of universal policies included across all plans

- Shifting priorities cause plans to quickly become outdated and new approach allows priorities to be updated in a more timely manner
- Results of the feedback poll regarding Neighbourhood Plans were:
 - 4 out of 8 Councillors agreed with the draft plan
 - 4 out of 8 stated they had questions

Doris Fournier, Manager, Municipal Infrastructure, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the emerging direction in Infrastructure. Highlights included:

- Sustainability, affordability and resiliency should be considered for all infrastructure to ensure long-term financial viability
- Ensuring piping capacities when making choices for land use to expand urban centres
- Linkage between servicing capacity and growth
- Growth in areas with infrastructure capacity restrictions will not proceed until there is confirmed funding and plans
- Results of the feedback poll regarding Infrastructure were:
 - 5 out of 7 Councillors agreed with the draft plan
 - 1 out of 7 stated they had questions
 - 1 out of 7 had concerns about this emerging direction

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the emerging direction of Community Wellness. Highlights included:

- Previous approach was focused on generating revenue from recreation, while the current trend is recognizing recreation as an essential service
- Emerging direction integrates Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) policies into the City Plan
- Pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to open space
- Partnerships and collaboration essential to new wellness infrastructure and services
- Collaboration with School District 68 is key in supporting joint use of space
- Incorporating policies regarding inclusiveness and accessibility across multiple policy documents into one location for corporate guidance
- Results of the feedback poll regarding Community Wellness were:
 - 4 out of 8 Councillors agreed with the draft plan
 - 4 out of 8 stated they had questions

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the emerging direction of Truth and Reconciliation. Highlights included:

- Emerging direction includes policies integrated into the City Plan and Integrated Action Plan with a focused section on “An Empowered Nanaimo”
- Ongoing conversations with First Nations will continue during Phase 3

- Results of the feedback poll regarding Truth and Reconciliation were:
 - 6 out of 8 Councillors agreed with the draft plan
 - 2 out of 8 stated they had questions

Kasia Biegun, Planning Assistant, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the emerging direction of Island Highway Character. Highlights included:

- Community concerns regarding appearance and impression of the Island Highway
- Island Highway managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)
- Recognizing the Island Highway as a key transit and transportation corridor
- Emerging direction is to integrate policy for the Island Highway to evolve into a more urban street character
- Results of the feedback poll regarding Island Highway Character were:
 - 4 out of 8 Councillors agreed with the draft plan
 - 4 out of 8 stated they had questions

Kasia Biegun, Planning Assistant, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the emerging direction of Large-Format Retail Accommodation and Stand-Alone Commercial Accommodation. Highlights included:

- Emerging direction supports large-format retail in all urban centres, provided it is consistent with the walk, cycle and transit orientated nature envisioned for these areas
- Less supportive of large surface parking and other vehicle-oriented formats
- Integrated approach successful in other communities
- Results of the feedback poll regarding Neighbourhood plans were:
 - 5 out of 8 Councillors agreed with the draft plan
 - 2 out of 8 stated they had questions
 - 1 out of 8 had concerns about this emerging direction

The Governance and Priorities Committee recessed the meeting at 2:23 p.m.
The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding Neighbourhood Plans. Highlights included:

- Distinct and unique characteristics within neighbourhood plans and hesitancy with integrating all together
- Support for providing efficiency

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, informed the Committee that neighbourhood plans will still exist as guidance documents. Integration through the City Plan allows implementation of actions and having all priorities listed in one place. The guiding documents will be attached to City Plan and be referenced but not actually form part of the bylaw.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Important to recognize the Official Community Plan (OCP) as a broad document
- Recognizing that some policies may be more important to one neighbourhood than another
- Ensuring that Neighbourhood Associations feel confident that their voices will be heard
- Determining if a neighbourhood plan is outdated or not

Dale Lindsay, Deputy CAO/General Manager, Developmental Services, spoke regarding the potential role of the documents going forward as opposed to the role they play now.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, spoke regarding integrating all different desires into one place to combine and coordinate priorities. She added that the majority of neighbourhoods do not want to absorb a considerable amount of growth and that growth is focused in core primary and secondary centres.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Appropriate level of resourcing given the level of growth
- Neighbourhood plans may be updated more easily if they are not part of the bylaw
- Shifting responsibility to Neighbourhood Associations to reach out to the City to update their plan
- Concerns that removing neighbourhood plans from the bylaw lessens accountability

Committee discussion took place regarding Community Wellness. Highlights included:

- Integrated action plan will pull in all actions from different plans and prioritize them

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, spoke regarding interdepartmental collaboration such as between Parks, Recreation and Culture and Engineering.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Financial aspect of recreation
- Emphasising the need to restore culture and concerns regarding Truth and Reconciliation being in its own vessel rather than be integrated in all sections of the plan

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, clarified that there is a separate section dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation; however, it is also embedded throughout all sections of the plan.

Committee discussion took place regarding Island Highway Character and clarification on the stretch of the Island Highway being focused on.

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, spoke regarding conversation with MOTI and intentions to make sections between Terminal Avenue and Nichol Street more urbanized.

Committee discussion took place regarding Large Format Retail and Stand Alone Commercial. Highlights included:

- Consumer attitudes and challenge in making changes to purchasing habits
- Supporting community by buying local
- The reality that most consumers choose to shop at big box stores
- Concerns regarding less support for vehicle-oriented formats and drive thrus
- Support for the policy as this is the direction that things need to go

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, spoke regarding the changing values of land dictating building forms as the city grows.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Support for a more efficient use of space and ways of creating different type of building structures
- The stage in which infrastructure is looked at, and how it relates to the large projects coming forward
- Storm Water Utilities

Doris Fournier, Manager, Municipal Infrastructure, spoke regarding equity in storm water charges currently at an early stage in development.

Committee discussion took place regarding acknowledging that Truth and Reconciliation should reflect all Indigenous people, including Inuit and Métis, that make up the population of the City.

Lisa continued the presentation and provided an overview of the next steps. Highlights included:

- Phase 3 Engagement Launch on 2022-FEB-14 until 2022-MAR-28
- Engagement Summary 2022-APR-11
- 1st and 2nd reading May 2022 and Public Hearing June 2022

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Barry Lyseng, re: Agenda Item 6(e)(1) REIMAGINE Nanaimo – Emerging Directions Review.
- Nancy Mitchell, re: Agenda Item 6(e)(1) REIMAGINE Nanaimo – Emerging Directions Review.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER