

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2022-MAR-28, AT 1:00 P.M.

Staff: Councillor S. D. Armstrong, (Chair)
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically, vacated 4:11 p.m.)
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley (joined electronically)

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
J. Le Masurier, Deputy Fire Chief - Administration
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
L. Wark, Director, Recreation
C. Davis, Manager, Parks Operations
K. Lindsay, Manager, Emergency Program
T. Webb, Communications Consultant
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services (joined electronically)
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
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 7(a)(1) REIMAGINE Nanaimo – Healthy, Empowered and Prosperous - Replace PowerPoint to include slides regarding the Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Recommendations from 2022-MAR-23 and add delegation Nancy Mitchell, Newcastle Community Association.
- (b) Move Agenda Item 7(b)(1) Environmental Responsibility and Environment Committee Recommendations to precede REIMAGINE NANAIMO.

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 in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2022-MAR-14, 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 upcoming Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) Meeting items and noted that Housing Affordability will be coming forward in June and the Street Entertainers Bylaws will be coming to a July meeting.

6. REPORTS:

a. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Environment Committee Recommendations

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and noted that all recommendations regarding REIMAGINE NANAIMO will be brought forward to the 2022-MAY-09 GPC meeting.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The recommendation regarding natural gas connections from the 2022-MAR-09 Special Environment Committee Meeting
- Funding from Fortis BC and if funding would be jeopardized if the motion went ahead as stated at the Special Environment Committee meeting
- Meeting goals set by the Governance and Priorities Committee (the Committee) and Council regarding Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and meeting those goals by limiting natural gas connections for future developments

b. REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

1. REIMAGINE NANAIMO – Healthy, Empowered and Prosperous

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO.

Presentation:

1. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Staff will be providing clarity and a review of policies and actions contained in the three goals areas a Healthy Nanaimo, an Empowered Nanaimo and a Prosperous Nanaimo
 - The monitoring strategy will note the progress on different goals and the effectiveness of the actions
 - Integrated action plans that come from the City Plan (the Plan) are specific and adjustable to meet desired goals
 - Reviewed the layers of integration and how the different City plans are connected and can be monitored
 - Provided a review regarding the doughnut model and how the five city goals, policies and actions are layered throughout the model
 - Defined policies and actions and how ensuring language used allows for goals to be met, contains specific directions but remains flexible to adapt and change based on community needs and priorities set by Council

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Policies under the Affordable Housing subheading and how these fit into the actions plans
- Timelines and prioritization for action plans
- Goals set by Council dictate the policies which intentionally use broad wording so they are flexible and interchangeable
- Council drives the prioritization, different actions will be clearly laid out and each goal will show specific targets and scenarios on how the City can achieve each goal
- Similar process to strategic planning where an incumbent Council can decide on priorities for specific actions
- Staff will be providing a list of goals to the Committee and Council for prioritization on an annual basis

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO, advised the Committee that action plans are separate from the bylaw so they are flexible and can be changed without a bylaw amendment. The annual review of the action plans will show the completed goals, prioritization of goals and will allow for review.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Ensuring Council sets priorities, actions and goals based on public feedback
- Actions that are included in the draft Plan versus actions not included in the draft reviewed today

- Actions and policies blended in the plan and editing the document to reflect policies
- Using language that clearly states what the City is trying to achieve and more specific actions based on the overall strategic directions
- Challenging to what will be executed without seeing the action plan

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed Goal 3 – A Healthy Nanaimo including sections C3.1 to C3.6
- Directions include integrating the 2018 Affordable Housing Strategy and the 2021 Health and Housing Action Plan
- Requested Committee feedback regarding the Affordable Housing policies

Committee feedback included:

- Section C3.1.3 and C3.1.19 better suited to an action plan than a policy direction
- Definition for affordable housing and if we are using the 50% or 30% threshold
- Suggestion was made to review of all policies in the draft Plan and provide feedback on which seem to be better suited to an action instead of a policy
- Mandate and jurisdiction of local governments in ensuring affordable housing is developed
- Ensuring the policy clearly states what we want to do versus what we are doing
- Continue to advocate to the Province and Federal government for affordable housing
- The term “policy” causing confusion as a policy is typically longer than one sentence and provides detail

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Planning, advised that the definition for affordable housing use the 30% threshold stated by BC Housing. The goal for today is to ensure that the document addresses community feedback and identify policies that will be used to create the actions.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed section C3.2 – Intergenerational Living and stated that the current approach and directions include links to the 2019 Nanaimo Age Friendly Plan
- Intergenerational living provides for equitable access for all ages and abilities, recognizes that we are one community and includes references to children and youth as well as seniors
- Staff requested feedback regarding section C3.2

Councillor Turley disconnected at 2:40 p.m.

Committee feedback included:

- The need and want for level entry, patio style homes for seniors and people with accessibility challenges
- Local governments' limited role in the types of homes built and low density housing increasing urban sprawl
- Integrating public safety into different sections of the documents as it is a concern that effects the whole community in many different ways

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed section C3.3 – Food Security
- Reviewed section C3.4 – Community Safety and Wellbeing and recognized that this is a high community priority
- Staff requested Committee feedback regarding Safety and Wellbeing

Committee feedback included:

- No feedback was provided regarding section C3.3 – Food Security
- Specific and strong wording is lacking regarding safety and security
- Ensuring that language used does not commit the City to solving homelessness and social disorder but clearly shows what we can and are doing to assist in these issues within our jurisdiction and mandate
- Holistic approach is needed
- Setting specific and realistic short and long-term goals
- Suggestion was made to change the title to better reflect community concerns
- Wellbeing suggests recreation and health versus safety
- Focus on youth counselling, restorative justice and chronic offenders
- Ensuring that integrated policies, action and land use planning recognize public safety and security

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to change the title of section C3.4 to Community Safety and Security and add additional policies reflecting community safety. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Brown and Geselbracht*

The Governance and Priorities Committee recessed at 2:57 p.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee move the delegation, Nancy Mitchell, Newcastle Community Association, to follow section C4.6 – Archaeological and Heritage. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed Community Wellbeing and stated that there will be a shift to integration of Recreation, Culture and Wellness with a strong emphasis on moving beyond the leisure approach
- The policies and actions will be used as a guide to programming and recreation services
- This section speaks to recreation and wellness as a type of service and a solution to reach the goal of a healthy Nanaimo
- Staff will return with a needs assessment for which areas of Nanaimo would be best suited for a new recreational facility
- The integration of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan into the City Plan will ensure a community wellbeing approach is achieved
- Partnerships with School District #68 and other parties to share space and maximize community benefit

Committee discussion took place regarding section C3.6.39 and ways to increase percentage of students continuing on to post secondary education through partnerships with School District #68.

Councillor Turley reconnected at 3:21 p.m.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed Goal 4 – An Empowered Nanaimo containing sections C4.1 to C4.10
- The document will include the Territorial Acknowledgment and will have a separate section in Goal 4
- Reconciliation is woven throughout the entire Plan and many policies speak to the partnership between the City and Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN)
- Reviewed section C4.2 – Equity and Inclusion stating the current approach and the Plan's proposed directions and desired outcomes
- Staff worked with the Provincial Directorate for Accessibility to ensure accuracy in the policies
- Suggested wording proposed by the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness will be included in the draft Plan

Committee discussion took place regarding addressing, in the preamble section of the Plan, that society does not yet provide equal opportunity and the Committee suggested using stronger language to show a commitment to social equality.

Councillor Brown disconnected at 3:26 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to include, for consistency, a reference to different genders in the Desired Outcomes policy section C4.2 – Equity and Inclusivity. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Brown reconnected at 3:27 p.m.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed the current approach and the draft Plan directions for Political Voice and Engagement – no Committee feedback was provided
- Goal of a more informed and aware community while ensuring engagement is completed through equitable and accessible methods
- Reviewed the current approach and draft directions for section C4.4 – Access for All
- The aim is to meet the goals and targets set out in the *Accessible British Columbia Act*
- Requested feedback from the Committee regarding Political Voice and/or Access for All

Committee discussion took place regarding accessible documents.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed the current approach and draft Plan direction for Culture, Archeological and Heritage sections

Delegation:

1. Nancy Mitchell, Newcastle Community Association, provided the Committee with a verbal presentation regarding the history of the Newcastle neighbourhood, historical significance of the area in relation to SFN and ensuring this area is preserved much like downtown and the Old City Quarter.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Requested input from SFN regarding the proposed motion and recognition in the Plan
- Other areas or buildings in Nanaimo that could be included in the heritage section and setting a precedence of inclusion in the City Plan
- Ensuring that infill is completed in all areas of Nanaimo that match the character of the existing neighbourhood
- Staff are working with SFN on sites of culture and heritage but not specifically the Newcastle area

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council add the following to the draft City Plan under section C4.6 - Archeological and Heritage:

“Recognize the Newcastle neighbourhood as the original location of an important Snuneymuxw village as well as containing built heritage sites dating back to when the City of Nanaimo was established; and ensure that infill in this heritage area is sensitive and mindful of its historic character”.

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Turley*

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed the current approach and directions regarding the section on Arts, Culture, Programs and Events
- Community wellbeing contains links to reconciliation, equity and inclusion, place making and prosperity
- Public art and community events will be integrated throughout the community and made accessible and equitable to all community members
- Reviewed the current approach and directions for Parkland and Park Management and Waterfront

Committee discussion took place regarding accessibility and improvements for parks and trails, and future plans to allow for more parks and trails to be accessible to all.

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, noted that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness has been very helpful regarding accessibility of parks and trails.

Councillor Brown disconnected from the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Bill Corsan Director, Corporate and Business Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed Goal 5 – A Prosperous Nanaimo including the current approach and the City Plan directions
- Goals are based on the 2020 Economic Development Strategy which were repurposed for the draft City Plan
- Goals of this section include:
 - Strong downtown core
 - Land use planning that encourages growth and prosperity
 - Developing a talented and strong workforce that will match future demand
 - Ensuring a green economy

- Ensuring existing businesses receive support and are successful before initiatives to attract new business opportunities are undertaken
- Section C5.4 – Innovation and Technology includes building a strong technology sector and being recognized as a smart city
- Section C5.5 – Place Making and Investment Attraction includes creating a positive image for Nanaimo, continue the partnership with SFN and develop new partnerships to attract investments
- Section C5.6 – Tourism includes continuing Council’s work regarding creating a tourism society to create strong tourism marketing plans

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Refining the terms in section C5.4 to ensure the public can understand the language
- Ensuring the City has enough land and facilities for light industrial and small scale manufacturing
- A thriving and healthy economy allows the City to accomplish goals in all other areas
- Attracting the right type of businesses for the needs and wants of Nanaimo and the environment

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Reviewed the feedback/engagement process and future GPC Meetings
- The 2022-APR-11 GPC Meeting will focus on Land use and Neighbourhoods
- First and second readings are proposed for the 2022-MAY-30 Regular Council Meeting
- Public Open House will take place at Beban on March 29th
- Public engagement for Phase 3 ends on April 8th

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one was in attendance to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:32 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER