

MINUTES
MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, 2022-MAR-04, AT 9:00 A.M.

- Present:** Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor I. Thorpe
Ashwak Sirri, Board Chair, Nanaimo Hospitality Association
Balraj Mann, President, Young Professionals of Nanaimo
Ben Harrack, Vice President of BC Operations, Save On Foods
Brian Clemens, President, Board of Directors, Port Theatre
Bruce Halliday, General Manager, Port Theatre
Carolyn Holmes, Nanaimo Art Gallery
Cory Vanderhorst, Board Chair/President, Innovation Island
Technology Association
David Witty, Board Chair, Nanaimo Airport Commission (arrived 10:05
a.m.)
Deborah Hollins, Executive Director, Nanaimo Family Life Association
Donna Hais, Board Chair, Nanaimo Port Authority
James Hanson, VP, Clinical Operations, Island Health
John Horn, Executive Director, Nanaimo Region John Howard
Society
Keith Wilson, CAO, Nanaimo Youth Services Association
Kim Smythe, President and CEO, Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
Paul Sadler, CEO, Harmac Pacific
Sean Gallagher, Nanaimo Arts Council
Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way
Tyler Brown, Board Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo
- Absent:** Councillor S. D. Armstrong
Charlene McKay, Board Chair, SD68
Chief M. Wyse, Snuneymuxw First Nation
Deborah Saucier, President and Vice Chancellor, Vancouver Island
University
Erralyn Joseph, Petroglyph Development Group
Grace Elliott-Nielsen, Executive Director, Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal
Society
Jenn MacPherson, President, Nanaimo/Duncan District Labour
Council
John Manning, Board President, Nanaimo Museum
Mikaela Torres, Executive Director, Nanaimo Multi-Cultural Society
Nanaimo Foodshare Society representative
- Staff:** J. Rudolph, 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
T. Webb, Communications Consultant
N. Sponaugle, Legislative Communications Clerk

S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
S. Snelgrove, Recording Secretary

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

The Mayor’s Leaders’ Table Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Move Agenda Item 5(a) REIMAGINE Nanaimo Presentation to follow Agenda Item 6(c) Working Group Reports.

3. ADOPTION 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 Special Mayor’s Leaders’ Table Meeting held electronically on Friday, 2021-DEC-03 at 9:03 a.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. WORKING GROUP REPORTS:

- (a) Infrastructure Ask

Introduced by Donna Hais, Chair. Highlights included:

- Working group is reviewing infrastructure project information sheets received from organizations across Vancouver Island and the community
- Received 28 submissions with two groups declining to provide information
- Assessments have begun and a template was developed to assess projects which will happen in three stages
- Stage 1 includes ensuring alignment with Reimagine Nanaimo and providing broad community benefit
- Stage 2 is a review of social, environmental, and financial capacity
- Projects were reduced from 28 to 18 which will move on to stage three of the assessment
- Stage 3 is significantly more complicated with research needing to be completed and meetings with organizations to receive clarity on projects submitted
- Ratings include social, economic, cultural, risk based, community impact and synergistic ratings
- Matrix is well put together to assess projects
- All projects considered are worthwhile and exciting

- Hoping to create partnerships throughout projects and conversations
- Projects will have broad based impact on community
- Want to make sure projects put forward in report for implementation tie back to other working groups
- Will ask the working group to have a document ready to bring back to the table for consideration on how to strategically implement what the infrastructure working group is bringing forward and marry that strategy with what other groups are doing
- Organizations are putting in a lot of time and effort to submit their projects and are looking for support moving forward
- When the working group returns to the Mayors’ Leaders’ Table they will bring forward what they hope the strategy moving forward will be
- Specific projects will be discussed in June

(b) Doughnut Economic Philosophy

Introduced by Kim Smythe, Chair. Highlights included:

- Through meetings, six recommendations regarding doughnut economic awareness have been developed
- Recommendations relate to:
 - City staff awareness for the doughnut economic philosophy
 - Develop an awareness program for City entities
 - Establish a doughnut economic coalition within the Nanaimo community to support and promote the economic philosophy
 - Develop a doughnut business and non-profit recognition program within the community
 - Create a doughnut focussed outcomes-based budgeting process for 2023 onwards
 - Align doughnut economic philosophies across the region
- Further meetings will be held to flesh out recommendations prior to presenting them in June

(c) Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy

Introduced by Keith Wilson, Chair. Highlights included:

- Preliminary results from the youth attraction and retention survey note housing and employment are the top issues related to young people moving or staying in Nanaimo
- There were 130-135 survey respondents
- 38% listed education as “some post secondary in progress or not completed” an additional 53% responded that they have post secondary education
- Results are not representative of those with less than post secondary educational experience
- Responses indicate 71% have an “amazing, positive or neutral” perception of the City of Nanaimo
- Comments received around perception of the City related to homelessness, mental health issues and reducing crime
- Affordable housing is an underlying theme
- City scored well for lifestyle

- Comments received around lifestyle included improve south Nanaimo and more trails and bike path infrastructure could easily improve lifestyle
- Empirical data not surprising but will be useful when providing guidance for service provision for this age cohort
- Several themes throughout responses will be addressed to appeal to age groups in the future and will be part of the report in June
- Full report and recommendations will be ready for the June meeting

6. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Reimagine Nanaimo

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development. Highlights included:

- Currently in phase three which is developing the draft plan
- Project undertaken as studies show Nanaimo will grow to 140,000 people and the City needs to plan for what Nanaimo needs in terms of employment lands and future land uses
- Draft City Plan replaces the 2008 Official Community Plan (OCP) which the City is required to have and integrates the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan as well as others
- Outcome is a document that integrated several plans to makes it easier for people moving here and the development community to understand the collective vision
- Staff will return to Council with an integrated action plan which is an important piece that stays fluid and is updated annually
- Economic development is considered throughout document
- Document serves as the City's Accessibility and Inclusion Plan which stems from the Provincial government adopting the *Accessible BC Act* which has requirements for local governments
- Highlighted sections of the plan including:
 - Green Nanaimo section which relates to greenhouse gas emissions, climate adaptation, urban tree canopy, healthy watershed and others
 - Connected Nanaimo section relates to looking at how people can have alternatives to owning a private vehicle, concept of complete streets and others
 - Healthy Nanaimo section relates to policies around increasing and protecting affordable housing, intergenerational living elements as Nanaimo leans towards an older demographic, as well as a top priority of housing affordability and community safety and wellbeing
 - Empowered Nanaimo section relates to the work of the Engagement Task Force, Truth and Reconciliation and how to become a more equitable community
 - Prosperous Nanaimo relates to a thriving and resilient economy and recognizes that in order for any one element to work, a foundation of housing affordability, attractive environments and ability for people to get to and from work is required
- Document has an integrated, layered structure with visuals and icons linking related areas

- Land use designations are building off the 2008 OCP
- Nanaimo is long and linear, the City has existing clusters of growth and the City is determining how to get critical mass near urban centres to see them thrive
- Working toward having primary urban centres downtown and secondary urban centres throughout the City

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Young people leaving as they can’t afford to buy a house in Nanaimo
- Focussing on not just youth attraction but retention
- Needing support from the Provincial and Federal governments to protect certain elements which are not set by the City such as property prices rising, living wages, etc.

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

- Focussing on the downtown as a hub and core for attracting culture facilities, dense forms of development or high rises
- Significance of downtown versus other commercial centres emphasized in the plan
- Neighbourhood centres intended to be smaller hubs where residents who don’t live as close to urban centres can have a modest amount of services within a walkable area of their homes
- Working with the School Board to align school programming/recreation space at school sites to serve a wider community
- Short on certain forms of industrial lands and looking at protecting those areas
- Corridor concept considers how to connect between centres and have good pathways for transit as well as modest and higher densities along key transportation routes
- Noted where higher rise buildings fit within the plan
- Nanaimo is a fairly low density community and even with an additional 40,000 people over the next 25 years it will still be a midsized lower density city
- Working with the Regional District of Nanaimo to understanding transit planning and future needs
- Introduction of wellness and recognition that parks and recreation go beyond leisure and into wellness
- Growing need for more recreation amenities in the southern area of the City such as in Chase River
- Recognizing how important relationships are in terms of achieving the goals of plan
- Launched engagement March 1st and it will close on April 8th
- Requesting members, through their networks, promote engagement and complete the survey
- Statistically valid survey results will provide an independent analysis of the sample of community
- Informal referrals have started and various forms of engagement used, such as through Parent Advisory Committees and TikTok videos
- Noted next steps including returning to future Governance and Priorities Committee and Council meetings, bylaw readings, formal referrals, a special

public hearing and after the plan is adopted, adoption of the draft action and implementation plans by Council

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Positivity in the community with significant growth and events starting to take place
- Good integration of the Doughnut Economic Philosophy
- Visual presentation of documents appears highly readable

Dave Witty joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

- Appreciate the work the City is doing to lay the groundwork for Nanaimo’s next chapter
- Land use plan surrounding Cable Bay Trail containing a buffer area on the west side between the trail and the industrial lands

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Working Group Membership List

It was noted that Deb Saucier is a member of Youth Attraction and Retention Working Group.

(b) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Friday, June 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Meeting method (Zoom or in person) to be determined closer to the meeting.

Mayor Krog spoke in appreciation of the work completed to date and noted upcoming projects such as the start up of the Prosperity Corporation, the work of the Social Planning Organization, downtown hotel completion this fall and transportation improvements. He spoke regarding affordability being an issue and the Provincial announcement regarding complex care beds not being sufficient.

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

There was no one in attendance to ask questions.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 10:14 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER