

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2022-SEP-26, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Acting Mayor, Chair Bonner
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor S. D. Armstrong
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht not here
Councillor E. Hemmens (joined electronically)
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley (arrived 1:02 p.m.)

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
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
J. Elliot, Director, Public Works
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
P. Rosen, Director, Engineering
L. Rowett, Manager, Current Planning
T. Lee, Real Estate Technician, Corporate and Business Development
K. Mayes, Planner, Current Planning
C. Wood, Social Planner, Community Planning
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
A. Chanakos, Steno, Legislative Services
A. Mac Coll, 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. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2022-JUN-27 at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Turley entered the Shaw Auditorium at 1:02 p.m.

4. REPORTS:

(a) COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

1. Street Entertainment Regulations

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

Presentation:

1. Kristine Mayes, Planner, Current Planning and Teresa Lee, Real Estate Technician, Corporate & Business Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- 2021-FEB-08 Street Entertainers Regulations were put forward by the Governance and Priorities Committee (The Committee) with an invitation to downtown local businesses to present and discuss concerns with the regulations for improvements regarding outdoor live music and entertainment
- Staff found that regulating outdoor entertainment is beyond the scope of the Street Entertainers Bylaw and it is regulated by the City's Zoning and Noise Control Bylaws
- The City's plan supports a thriving and creative downtown

Staff and Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The allowable noise regarding WorksafeBC for employees working in the vicinity of the entertainment and noise
- Calculation of decibels and consideration of the distance from where decibels could be measured
- Unsophisticated sound equipment is used by municipalities, and it cannot distinguish where the differing sounds come from
- Expert opinions would be needed on what type of equipment would be capable of testing decibels and the ability to distinguish the sounds
- The City has good neighbour agreements as part of the liquor primary licence with local establishments which generally mention noise control and oversee the actions of their patrons

Delegations:

1. Kim Smythe, Chair, Downtown Business Association, & CEO, Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the Business Improvement Area (BIA) downtown now entering their second year of operations, and soon they will be taking over the management of Diana Krall plaza to actively promote this area as a center for all organizations who would like to provide live entertainment and

activities. The Street Entertainment Regulations' recommendations should remain the way they are today as it is viewed to be the most positive way forward for the businesses downtown. Cultural and entertainment activities would remain downtown while supporting the evolution of live entertainment if the regulations remain the same.

Committee discussion took place regarding testing of the sound decibels of events downtown by the Downtown Business Association and the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce

2. Nathan Randall, Owner of Sound Heritage at 33 Victoria Crescent spoke regarding being an associate of the Victoria Crescent Association and how the City Plan was strongly supported by Sound Heritage, who is actively contributing to a thriving creative downtown through the live music events that they facilitate. The backyard of Sound Heritage is a prime property to facilitate events like "Backyard Fest" which is a two day community music festival that they organize. Sound Heritage is actively investing and pursuing grant opportunities to improve the backyard to be a family friendly safe space for music, arts and culture in the downtown area as it is a great space to facilitate events. The previous owner of Sound heritage had noise complaints when putting on events on the property, and the business would like to work collaboratively with City Bylaw Services and neighbours to host events and comply with the noise bylaw standards. Sound Heritage is open to conversations and solutions to allow for vibrant outdoor music events that enrich, not disturb the quality of life downtown.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Positive relationships with neighbouring businesses and residents of Victoria Crescent with no current Good Neighbourhood Agreement in place at this time
- Noise complaints will always be received by the City no matter the actual decibel of the sound
- Recommendations for citizens or organizations running events for the amplified acoustic music regarding settings of decibels
- Majority of large events are approved through special event licensing and coordinated by Staff
- Complaints during Covid-19 from Pacifica initially generated the discussion
- Design guidelines and considerations for new apartments buildings downtown to improve sound quality
- As design guidelines improve for energy efficiency, the sound quality will also improve
- A Qualified Sound Technician could be added to the regulation or bylaw to help control the noise level and quality of sound

2. Affordable Housing Projects 2023

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

- In June, 2022 Staff presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee regarding the affordable housing strategy and the current work being done
- The nine items brought forward to the Committee in June were to form the work plan regarding the affordable housing strategy for 2023, and it was ratified and brought forward to Council for consideration
- In July 2022, the motion brought forward from the Committee to Council was included in the consent items on the agenda and a subsequent motion was made and referred back to the Committee for discussion
- The nine items listed in the report are not in priority ranking

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Table 1 (c) in the Affordable Housing Projects 2023 report should have community consultation done sooner in the process and is an integral part of Staff's process for all nine items listed in the report with further discussion being required
- The intent of Item C was to pre-zone lands for supportive and affordable housing
- Densification and affordable housing had additional consultation with the community through the REIMAGINE Nanaimo City Plan process

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse the Staff recommended projects for 2023 to support and increase affordable housing in the City of Nanaimo as presented in the report dated 2022-JUN-27 by Christy Wood, Social Planner and Lisa Brinkman, Manager of Community Planning, with a prioritization of items A and C in the 2022-SEP-26 report Table 1 - Proposed Projects to Promote Affordable Housing in Nanaimo. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Prioritization of Items A and C in the 2022-SEP-26 report Table 1 - Proposed Projects to Promote Affordable Housing in Nanaimo has been mentioned by the development community and housing advocates to be important
- Item E regarding tenant relocation is related to the tenancy branch and should be funded by the Province and not local municipalities
- Item E in the work plan is to allow Staff opportunity to research what possibilities there are in regards to the Province and their requirements and what other municipalities are doing in B.C. for relocation of tenants
- Explore options to implement Phase 2 housing with BC Housing to help move individuals that no longer need 24/7 supports on to a new location to open up spots for those who do need 24/7 support

- Offering vacant city owned land for developers to build affordable housing for the City in exchange for additional height or floors to their current proposed development

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:56 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER