

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2023-FEB-13, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor S. Armstrong, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically)
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor P. Manly
Councillor J. Perrino
Councillor I. Thorpe (arrived at 1:33 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
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
L. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning
D. Johnston, Manager, Recreation Services
T. Webb, Manager, Communications
C. Wood, Social Planner
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services (joined electronically)
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
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. 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 Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street on Monday, 2023-JAN-23 at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

a. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

1. Building Safer Communities Fund - Update and Consultation with Council

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

Presentation:

Lisa Brinkmen, Manager, Community Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The City of Nanaimo has been allocated \$1.8 million from Public Safety Canada until March 2026 to develop and implement a strategic plan to address gun and gang violence
- At the 2022-JUL-04 Regular Council meeting, Council endorsed the use of year one funds to produce a strategic plan
- Staff have entered into an agreement with Public Safety Canada, hired a project coordinator, and selected a consultant

Damon Johnston, Manager, Recreation Services, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- The building safety communities project is a collaboration between the Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) and Planning Departments
- In the Fall of 2022, the City engaged the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention to develop a Gun and Gang Violence Prevention Strategy (the Strategy)
- A staff coordinator position, to support the development and implementation of the Strategy, has been filled
- Community consultation is expected to be completed by the end of February 2023, and a draft strategy will come to Council for review in March 2023
- If the Strategy is approved, implementation would begin the summer of 2023

Christy Wood, Social Planner, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Gun and gang violence is not something that is going to be solved through enforcement, but rather by looking upstream at the risk factors and underlying causes
- In addition to consultation with community members and key stakeholders, Council will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strategy
- The Strategy will look at strengths in the community, concerns/issues youth are facing, and present opportunities to enhance existing programs

- An evaluation and monitoring plan will measure if the Strategy has been successful

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The concept of the Strategy is to capture what is working well and identify risk factors to help guide programs
- School District 68 is an important and integral partner to this process
- The funding will go towards supporting existing programs/organizations in the community
- The Strategy will also include a best practice summary and look at what other communities are doing as well as local data

Christiane Sadeler, More Better Solutions, spoke regarding the ongoing community and stakeholder consultations, and noted that if there are specific areas in Nanaimo that are feeling the harm of poverty, they would be featured in the report as areas to focus on.

Committee and Staff discussion continued. Highlights included:

- The use of the funding is limited by the parameters of Public Safety Canada and the funding can be used to enhance or expand programs
- Being cognisant that gangs don't always come from poorer backgrounds
- Understanding the type of crimes and retrieving statistics on youth crime from the Nanaimo RCMP detachment

b. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- Provided an overview of the current Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) structure
- The GPC was established in 2019, to provide opportunity for more in-depth discussions and was intended to be a more informal forum

Councillor Thorpe entered the Shaw Auditorium at 1:33 p.m.

- Staff are proposing an engagement strategy that would collect and community input in advance of GPC meetings, incorporate the Community Engagement Task Force recommendations; and utilize Bang the Table platform as a method for community engagement
- Zoom polls were created for this meeting to obtain Committee feedback

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' preferred time of day for GPC meetings (daytime, evening or alternating).

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Daytime meetings limit the opportunity for the public to attend; however, they allow for more Staff in attendance
- Suggestion that GPC meetings be held on an as needed basis, and providing flexibility to hold evening GPC meetings for certain topics to accommodate public attendance
- Bang the Table platform and eTown Halls are options for community engagement
- Reducing the frequency of GPC meetings as they are very resource intensive
- Support for flexibility in meeting time

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' preferred frequency of GPC meetings (bi-weekly or monthly).

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Prefer meetings to entail less Staff preparation and more Committee discussion
- Have seen less public attendance at Council meetings since COVID-19 and there seems to be a preference from the public for online engagement
- Ensuring there is adequate time for robust debate on deserving topics
- Support for monthly GPC meetings with a second date held if an additional meeting is required
- Suggestion for monthly full day GPC meetings
- Once Council priorities are determined, Staff will have a better idea of the number of meetings necessary

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' preferred location of GPC meetings (Service and Resource Centre (SARC) Boardroom or Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)).

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- GPC meetings were originally held in SARC to allow for more informal sessions
- Both locations have the same live streaming capabilities
- Upgrades were recently done to the SARC boardroom; however, there are still technical issues to work out
- Cost difference between the two locations should not be a deciding factor
- The VICC accommodates more people, has better technology, offers the Douglas Rispin Room for In Camera meetings if needed, and has a more professional look

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for having a public schedule of GPC agenda topics posted six months in advance, based

on Council's Strategic Priorities. The majority of the Committee members were in support.

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for the proposed engagement strategy (collecting community feedback on topics before they are placed on the GPC agenda). The majority of the Committee members were in support.

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding the use of the Bang the Table platform to collect feedback from the community. The feedback could then be brought to the GPC at the time the topic is being discussed.

2. Mayor's Leaders' Table Reimagined

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, informed the Committee that the Mayor's Leaders' Table proposed new terms of reference was being provided to the Committee for feedback.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse the Mayor's Leaders' Table terms of reference as attached to the staff report dated 2023-FEB-13. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) was established in 2019 to promote social and political equity
- The Committee fulfills the new legislated requirements for organizations to have an accessibility committee
- The proposed new membership structure would include thirteen members:
 - Two members of Council,
 - Five appointed on behalf of non-profit organizations,
 - Five members at large,
 - One youth representative (age 15-25),
 - Indigenous representation; and,
 - at least half of the members would be persons with disabilities
- ACAI would be required to review and update the accessibility action items of the City Plan every three years

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for the proposed hybrid membership model (half appointed by non-profits, half members-at-large).

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concern that 13 members is too many as there has been difficulty fulfilling quorum in the past

- Prefer not to have a non-profit membership requirement due to potentially limiting the ability to fill those spots
- If non-profit membership is not a requirement, they should still be encouraged and actively solicited to appoint someone to apply
- The scope of the ACAI and potential inclusion of a public safety topic

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for the purpose and mandate of the ACAI, as outlined on the current terms of reference. The majority of the Committee members were in support.

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for expanding the ACAI's mandate to include: "Review City Plan goal of an Empowered Nanaimo and identify opportunities to support the related policies". The majority of Committee members were in support.

Committee discussion took place regarding difficulties in the past with the ACAI having time to cover the number of topics coming forward from both Staff and the Committee.

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for the concept of Working Groups being established under the ACAI.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Working groups would not require a recording secretary or Corporate Officer
- Working groups would be made up of committee members to focus on a smaller initiative, which would then be brought back to the table at the ACAI meetings

4. Other Committees, Task Forces and Next Steps

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- The Finance and Audit Committee has been a very successful standing committee with a clearly defined mandate
- The Environment Committee is still in place and gave an environmental lens to the City Plan
- At the 2022-DEC-12 GPC meeting, there was discussion around having a quarterly eTown Hall as well as other engagement options
- Requested Committee feedback, and whether there are other committees that Council wishes to consider

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Parks and Recreation Commission was no longer required as groups that previously spoke at the Parks and Recreation Commission now speak directly to Council at Finance and Audit Committee meetings
- Suggestion for having an eTown Hall on the topic of arts and culture

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for the concept of ensuring diverse membership (including a youth representative) being embedded into the terms of reference for Select Committees.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concern that embedded diversity may risk leaving out other groups that are not represented
- The application process and using a variety of channels to advertise recruitment

A Zoom poll was launched related to the Committees' support for the concept of scheduling quarterly eTown Hall meetings.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- eTown Halls have not been successful in the past
- eTown Halls are effective when the topic coincides with something that brings people out to speak, and an eTown Hall around public safety would attract a number of people

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, informed the Committee that Staff will return with options based on the feedback received.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Avoiding numerous committees by utilizing the GPC to address key policy areas of the City Plan and advertising/inviting the public /groups to speak at GPC meetings on specific topics
- Concerns regarding pushing the GPC to do too much and limiting time for debate and discussion
- Suggestion to establish committees based on the five major sections of the City Plan

Councillor Armstrong advised that she would be bringing forward a motion, regarding establishing a Public Safety Committee, to a future meeting.

5. Council Representative Appointment to the Municipal Insurance Association of BC

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council appoint Councillor Thorpe as Council Representative to the Municipal Insurance Association of BC until the end of the Council term to represent the City's interest at any meeting of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC. The motion carried.

Opposed: Councillor Brown

It was moved and seconded that Council appoint Councillors Armstrong and Geselbracht as alternate representatives at the Municipal Insurance Association until the end of the Council term to represent the City's interest at any meeting of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC. The motion carried unanimously.

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

6. PROCEDURAL MOTION TO PROCEED IN CAMERA:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter*:

Section 90(1):

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality; and,

The motion carried unanimously.

The Governance and Priorities Committee moved In Camera at 3:15 p.m.
The Governance and Priorities Committee moved out of In Camera at 4:10 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:10 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER