

DATE OF MEETING May 1, 2023

AUTHORED BY KASIA BIEGUN, PLANNER, COMMUNITY PLANNING

SUBJECT 2023 UBCM COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council's endorsement for an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) 2023 Community Excellence Awards, as required by UBCM.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the City of Nanaimo's application for *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined* to be considered for a 2023 UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Governance.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) provides BC communities an opportunity to recognize and celebrate excellence, leadership, and innovation through its annual Award of Excellence program. The awards are designed to profile promising practices and to encourage local governments to learn from the success of other members in order to undertake new programs or implement more fundamental changes in their own communities.

Staff are proposing to submit an application for a UBCM award for *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, in time for the deadline of 2023-MAY-19. Council endorsement is needed as part of the award application package. The submission is in the Excellence in Governance category, which "recognizes UBCM members that utilize governance processes and policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long-term thinking."

DISCUSSION

City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined was adopted by City Council on 2022-JUL-04. *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined* reflects the ideas and opinions of thousands of people who contributed their time and energy over two years, despite the effects and restrictions of a global pandemic. Innovative, extensive, and inclusive, the community consultation – called REIMAGINE NANAIMO – set a new standard for public engagement in Vancouver Island's second largest city.

The City of Nanaimo is also the first Canadian city to adapt the 'Doughnut Economics' model at a municipal level, to serve as a vision for the future and a framework for municipal planning. The Nanaimo framework is our vision and articulates its focus through five goals. These Five City Goals provide the organizing structure for policies and will guide the measurement and monitoring of progress in achieving the City's vision over the coming 25 years. *City Plan – Nanaimo Reimagined* further acts as our Official Community Plan (OCP), but with a layered approach that integrates multiple plans under a sustainability framework adopted for Nanaimo's unique needs.

City Plan recognizes the relationship between land use and plans for Parks, Recreation, Culture and Wellness; Active Mobility; Transportation, Climate Action and Resiliency; and Accessibility and Inclusion.

We believe Nanaimo to be the first Canadian city to implement the Doughnut Economic Model in parallel with an integrated long-term plan at a municipal level. For Council's information, the UBCM Award Program and Application Guide, and the Application Form can be found in Attachments A and B.

OPTIONS

1. That Council endorse the City of Nanaimo's application for *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined* to be considered for a 2023 UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Governance.
 - The advantages of this option: demonstrating Council's leadership by showing *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined* among BC municipalities and support their progression towards integrated long-term planning.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: None identified.
2. That Council not endorse the City of Nanaimo's application for *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined* to be considered for a 2023 UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Governance.
 - The advantages of this option: Staff time will not be used for preparing and submitting the award application.
 - The disadvantages of this option: *City Plan* will not be considered for this award.
 - Financial Implications: None identified.
3. That Council provide alternate direction. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- On 2022-JUL-04, Council adopted *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined*, which reflects the ideas and opinions of thousands of people who contributed their time and energy over two years, despite the effects and restrictions of a global pandemic.
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) recognizes and celebrates excellence, leadership, and innovation through its Awards of Excellence.
- Council endorsement is required as part of the submission for *City Plan* to be considered for the UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Governance.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: 2023 Community Excellence Awards Program and Application Guide.
ATTACHMENT B: 2023 Community Excellence Awards Application Form. |

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