

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2023-APR-24, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor I. Thorpe, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically; disconnected 3:25 p.m.)
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor P. Manly (joined electronically)
Councillor J. Perrino

Absent: Councillor S. Armstrong

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
G. Whiting, Deputy Fire Chief - Operations
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
P. Rosen, Director, Engineering
C. Davis, Manager, Parks Operations
T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
T. Webb, Manager, Communications
K. Biegun, Planner
E. Dixon, Planning Assistant
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
E. Bassett, Steno, Legislative Services
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. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Removed Agenda Item 6(a) Robyn Webb, BC Hydro, presentation regarding BC Hydro and Electrification.

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, on 2023-MAR-27 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, introduced the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) Agenda Planning. Highlights included:

- The 2023-APR-26 Special GPC meeting will include a discussion on Committees and the GPC's Terms of Reference;
- Changes to the GPC meeting schedule will be proposed at the 2023-APR-26 Special GPC meeting

6. REPORTS:

a. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

1. Draft Integrated Action Plan and Draft Priority Actions - An Empowered, A Green and A Connected Nanaimo

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

Presentation:

1. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, spoke regarding the draft Integrated Action Plan (IAP). Highlights included:
- The "A Healthy Nanaimo" section was discussed at the 2023-MAR-27 GPC Meeting;
 - A Special GPC meeting is scheduled for 2023-APR-26 to continue discussing any remaining items from today's meeting;
 - The first annual Neighbourhood Association Engagement Event will take place 2023-APR-26, and it is anticipated that this event will bring up additional priority actions for Council's consideration; and,

- The Committee was encouraged to make any amendments or additions to the IAP.

Kasia Biegun, Planner, introduced the process for the Zoom polls for the “Empowered Nanaimo” section of the IAP priority list.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to truth and reconciliation.

The Committee requested clarification regarding Action #109 “Explore partnering opportunities in areas related to skill development and training with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN)”.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #111 “Work with SFN, the Provincial Government, and the Regional District of Nanaimo to enable SFN members living on reserve to participate in City elections.” Highlights included:

- Policy doesn’t commit the City to anything other than approaching the Provincial Government and exploring options; and,
- There is already work underway, and it would be premature for the City to actively get involved.

The Committee removed Action #111 from the IAP priority actions list.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #112 “Work with SFN, towards the transfer of 100 Comox Road property adjacent to Swy-a-lana Park.”

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to equity and inclusivity.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #118 “Allocate staff resources to create a Recreation Coordinator position to focus on equity and inclusivity for City programs and facilities.” Highlights included:

- Staff are currently working on an internal style guide to standardize gender inclusivity and gender neutrality in municipal communications, which will be applied to items going forward; and,
- Preference that new positions come to Council in the form of business cases.

The Committee removed Action #118 from the IAP priority actions list.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to access for all.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concerns regarding agreeing to some of the actions without knowing the cost implications;

- Agreeing to keep actions in the IAP will direct Staff to explore options and not commit Council to proceed, as items will still go through the budgeting process;
- The priority action list uses symbols to indicate actions reflecting motions passed by previous Councils, and actions already included in the 5-year Financial Plan;
- Concerns regarding the process of the Committee reviewing these actions due to the level of specific detail; and,
- Identifying priorities for the next four years provides a road map for the community.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to culture.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #129 “Prepare a strategy that raises the awareness of the role culture plays through culture grants in supporting the production and delivery of arts and culture activity” and Staff suggested adding the word “communication” in front of “strategy” to clarify the action.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #135 “Upgrade the Lions Pavilion to improve the acoustics and audience views” and it was noted that work would be done in conjunction with the Nanaimo Lion’s Club.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to archeology and heritage.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- An archeological overview assessment is a methodology used to do a broad assessment of areas of known or high archeological potential.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to public art projects and programs.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #146 “Integrate a public art feature into the Midtown Gateway project along Boxwood Drive.” Highlights included:

- Art features in roundabouts could be a distraction to drivers;
- Clarifying the wording of the action by including “Boxwood Road roundabout”;
- An art feature in the area would be nice, as it is a gateway into the City for people driving off of the Nanaimo Parkway; and,
- Prefer to see public art in areas where people can interact with it and view it up close.

The Committee removed Action #146 from the IAP priority actions list.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #149 “Integrate a public art feature into the Harewood Turf Field”. Highlights included:

- Concerns for budget implication; however, there are creative opportunities for different types of public art that may not have a high cost.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to community events, festivals, tournaments and gatherings.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to parkland and park amenity.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “An Empowered Nanaimo” section related to waterfront use and protection.

The Governance and Priorities Committee recessed the meeting at 2:37 p.m.
The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Kasia Biegun, Planner, introduced the Zoom polls for the “Green Nanaimo” section.

Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, informed the Committee that the City received a BC Hydro grant to develop a higher step code requirement. An industry consultation workshop has been scheduled for 2023-MAY-09, and Staff plan to bring a report back to Council in June with policy recommendations.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section regarding greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #5 related to updating development permit requirements. Highlights included:

- Very large and multifaceted topic;
- This action, if identified as a priority, would direct Staff to explore options in more depth and come forward with draft wording;
- Request for a Staff information report related to City Plan policy C1.1.8;
- Concerns regarding placing more burden on builders in pursuit of environmental goals;
- Request that Action #4, related to completing an inventory of energy use and GHG emissions of all community buildings, be amended to include the phrase “immediately develop a financing and rebate program to accelerate the replacement of high-carbon energy systems with low-carbon energy systems”;
- Intent of the motion is to tighten the language by setting a timeframe;
- Budgetary implementations of the action and looking to the Province to impose requirements;
- Adjusting the program to help people who can’t afford upgrading to low-carbon energy systems; and,
- Appreciation for the intent of the motion; however, there are concerns regarding the financial implication.

It was moved and seconded that priority action 4 of “A Green Nanaimo” be replaced with “Complete an inventory of energy use and Greenhouse Gas emissions of all community buildings, to identify building energy upgrade opportunities and challenges by building type, and immediately develop a financing and rebate program to accelerate the replacement of high-carbon energy systems with low-carbon energy systems.” The motion carried.

Opposed: Mayor Krog, Councillors Perrino and Thorpe

Councillor Brown disconnected from the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, spoke regarding the inventory of energy use and GHG emissions of all community buildings and noted that funding has been received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to do a more detailed inventory, focusing primarily on homes.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section regarding climate adaptation and hazard management.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #10 “Develop a Sea Level Rise Management Plan”. Highlights included:

- The City intends to use existing data and work that has been done through the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) related to sea level rise risk management.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section regarding urban tree canopy, natural areas and greenways.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Adding a priority action related to updating the urban tree canopy management strategy, conducting a tree canopy assessment, and updating tree protection bylaws;
- Trees are a massive infrastructure component of the City and they provide wind protection, temperature regulation, stormwater regulation and habitat;
- Current tree management strategy is over 10 years old;
- Many of the objects in the existing urban tree canopy management strategy still need to be achieved; and,
- The size of the tree canopy assessment would depend on the level of detail.

It was moved and seconded that the following be included as a priority action of “A Green Nanaimo” under Urban Tree Canopy, Natural Areas and Greenways: “Update the urban tree canopy management strategy, conduct a tree canopy assessment, and update tree protection bylaws and development guidelines to bring urban tree management into alignment with City Plan objectives.” The motion carried.

Opposed: Councillors Perrino and Thorpe

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section regarding water, sewer and stormwater services.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section regarding solid waste management.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Trunk Sale and Reuse Rendezvous are popular events in the City;
- Two deconstruction demolition bylaws have been successfully implemented in North Vancouver and Victoria;
- 58% of materials going to landfill are recyclable, and construction demolition waste has been identified as a major contributor;
- The RDN has been proactive on this, and they have put out a guidebook on this topic;
- This is a difficult time to impose a deconstruction bylaw on the construction community, and it will add a further burden to the cost of housing in our community;
- The RDN has a fee and penalty structure for the separation of demolition material;
- Agree with the intent of the bylaw; however, would request more information before making a decision; and,
- A bylaw would take a few years before it could be implemented, and therefore would not be immediately actioned.

It was moved and seconded that the following be included as a priority action of “A Green Nanaimo” under the Solid Waste Management Section: “Develop and implement a construction recycling, deconstruction, and demolition bylaw. The bylaw will include measures to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill from construction and demolition activities, and promote re-use of construction material in Nanaimo.” The motion carried.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Perrino and Thorpe*

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding developing a zero-waste public events program to improve efforts to reduce waste.

It was moved and seconded that the following be included as a priority action of “A Green Nanaimo” under the Solid Waste Management section: “Develop Zero Waste Public events program as part of a waste reduction effort and experiential community education program.” The motion carried.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Perrino and Thorpe*

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section related to brownfield sites.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Green Nanaimo” section related to artificial lighting and dark skies.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Amending Action #32 to broaden the scope of the action to include street lighting in the dark skies assessment;
- Concerns regarding public safety and acknowledging that light discourages criminal behaviour;

- Current action would look at parts of the City that don't require extremely bright lights, and a large part of lighting will be omitted if street lighting is not included; and,
- Current process for lighting within the City includes installing warmer lighting in residential areas and brighter lighting on main roads for safety.

It was moved and seconded that priority action 32 of "A Green Nanaimo" be replaced with "Complete a dark skies assessment of all city parks, facilities and infrastructure, including street lighting, and develop an action plan to implement dark-sky best practices. The City assessment would include an analysis of light pollution and its sources, current lighting policies and new policies for consideration, priority dark sky locations, recommendations for lighting fixtures, and implementation timelines." The motion was defeated.
Opposed: Mayor Krog, Councillors Hemmens, Perrino and Thorpe

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The draft priority actions of "A Connected Nanaimo" section will be deferred to the 2023-APR-26 Special Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:37 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER