

## MINUTES

SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
MONDAY, 2023-APR-26, AT 9:00 A.M.

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Present: Councillor I. Thorpe, Chair  
Mayor L. Krog  
Councillor S. Armstrong (joined electronically; disconnected 10:33 a.m.)  
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically; disconnected 9:45 a.m.)  
Councillor H. Eastmure  
Councillor B. Geselbracht (joined electronically 10:25 a.m.)  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
Councillor P. Manly (joined electronically)  
Councillor J. Perrino

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  
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources  
G. Whiting, Deputy Fire Chief (joined electronically)  
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development  
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development  
T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability (joined electronically)  
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation  
T. Webb, Manager, Communications  
K. Biegun, Planner  
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services  
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor  
A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

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The Special Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(a)(1) Council Priorities Workshop – Add workshop documents and PowerPoint presentation.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 5(d)(1) Remaining actions from 2023-APR-24 re: Draft Integrated Action Plan and Draft Priority Actions – A Green Nanaimo and A Connected Nanaimo.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. REPORTS:

a. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

(1) Council Priorities Workshop

Allison Habkirk, Registered Professional Planner, reviewed the changes made to the draft “City of Nanaimo Strategic Priorities 2023-2026” document, based on Committee feedback from the 2023-MAR-13 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The document is easy to understand and speaks well to the public;
- There was a missed opportunity to identify issues around health care related to possible involuntary care for mental health, addiction and homelessness issues, lack of available doctors, hospital expansion and radiation treatment facility; and,
- The next step would be to bring the draft “City of Nanaimo Strategic Priorities 2023-2026” document to Council for adoption.

(2) Governance and Priorities Committee

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

Presentation:

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The current Terms of Reference state that the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) is designed to look at current committees, and have discussions around adding or removing committees;
- Council provided feedback to Staff at the 2022-DEC-12 and 2023-FEB-13 GPC meetings for an updated Terms of Reference, which resulted in the following recommendations for discussion:
  - Ensuring space for in-depth discussion on Council-identified strategic priorities
  - Acting as a forum for reviewing and considering community feedback received through public engagement;
  - Forum to review Council’s Committee structure and recommend changes to Committee mandate and role;

- Other proposed changes included:
  - GPC agenda structure should align with City Plan, Council Strategic Priorities and Staff workplans that align with the budget; and,
  - An “Upcoming Topics & Initiatives” schedule to provide a public schedule of upcoming GPC topics and engagement opportunities.

Committee discussion took place regarding the GPC Terms of Reference and increasing the frequency of town hall meetings.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council:

1. Endorse the Governance and Priorities Committee terms of reference as attached to the staff report dated 2023-APR-26.
2. Endorse the proposed changes to the Governance and Priorities Committee agenda structure and ‘Upcoming Topics and Initiatives’ schedule as attached to the staff report dated 2023-APR-26.

The motion carried unanimously.

(3) Council Committees and Task Forces

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- Council Committees and Task Forces are a tool for Council to use to help accomplish priorities set during their four-year term;
- Highlights from the 2023-FEB-13 GPC meeting discussion included:
  - Council preferred to use the GPC rather than establish new committees;
  - Ensuring diverse membership is embedded into committee terms of reference; and,
  - Strong support for Town Halls for topics that align with public interest or concern.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Previous Town Hall meetings were not well attended or productive; however, they may be good for specific high-profile topics;
- It was recommended to dissolve the existing Environment Committee as similar topics would be covered under the Integrated Action Plan – A Green Nanaimo section;
- Establishing an Environmental Monitoring Committee to provide the City with environmental updates;
- If there is a need for more committees, Staff can come back to Council with further details;
- Although quarterly Town Halls are proposed, they can be cancelled if there is no topic for discussion;
- A clear purpose and mandate would be beneficial as to what the desired outcome of a committee would be;

- Establishing monitoring committees for each section of City Plan;
- Quarterly Town Halls would help the public know when there are opportunities to be engaged in discussion;

Councillor Brown disconnected from the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

- Establishing a Public Safety Committee with a goal of protecting the City's at-risk unhoused population;
- Staff could accompany the terms of reference with a report that identifies issues and options, and could draw examples from other municipalities; and,
- The Public Safety Committee could also look after public infrastructure to ensure it is designed with safety in mind.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to strike a Public Safety Committee and consult with Police, Fire, Bylaw and the Community Safety Officers to develop a Terms of Reference. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The implementation of an environmental monitoring committee would provide public opportunity to engage with a committee that is focussed on environmental issues;
- Additional committees require additional meetings and Staff time, and ultimately have financial implications;
- Staff will come back with a report outlining options for monitoring committees for all five goals of City Plan.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to strike an Environmental Monitoring Committee that would provide Council updates on environmental issues, progress and areas of focus. The motion was defeated.

*Opposed: Mayor Krog, Councillors Armstrong, Hemmens, Perrino and Thorpe.*

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare a report with options for establishing monitoring committees for each of the five goals of the City Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Geselbracht joined the meeting electronically at 10:25 a.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to implement quarterly town hall meetings, as needed, for emerging matters of interest to the public, and to dissolve the existing Environment Committee. The motion carried.

*Opposed: Councillor Manly.*

Councillor Manly disconnected from the meeting at 10:30 a.m., declaring a conflict of interest as he is the Executive Director of the Unitarian Shelter, which is a voting member of the Community Advisory Board.

(4) Nanaimo Community Advisory Board on Homelessness

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

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council appoint Councillor Geselbracht as a non-voting member to the Nanaimo Reaching Home Community Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Manly rejoined the meeting electronically at 10:32 a.m.

Councillor Armstrong disconnected from the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee recessed the meeting at 10:33 a.m.  
The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Councillor Manly disconnected from the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

b. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(1) Remaining actions from 2023-APR-24 re: Draft Integrated Action Plan and Draft Priority Actions – A Green Nanaimo and A Connected Nanaimo

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

- The Committee will continue discussions on the remaining actions from the draft Integrated Action Plan (IAP) and draft Priority Actions from the 2023-APR-24 Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, noted that there is opportunity to bring forward motions related to the “A Green Nanaimo” section prior to participating in the discussion for the “A Connected Nanaimo” section.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to write an information report on City Plan policy C1.1.8, (including a legal review) outlining whether a development permit area can be established to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by developing guidelines for machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings and other structures that limit the use of high carbon energy systems, such as natural gas. The motion was defeated.

Opposed: Mayor Krog, Councillors Perrino and Thorpe.

Councillor Manly rejoined the meeting electronically at 10:57 a.m.

Presentation:

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

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Connected Nanaimo” section related to Connected Communities and Integrated Walk, Roll, Cycle and Transit Network.

The Committee requested clarification on the cycle of completion if all items in the financial plan are identified as a priority.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Connected Nanaimo” section related to Recreational Trails.

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding Action #43 “Complete wellness walkways through Beaufort Park with trail surfacing upgrades, universally accessible features, and site furniture and comforts, as part of the Beaufort Park Plan implementation.” Highlights included:

- Making trails more inclusive often has environmental impacts, so improvements will be limited to areas that will have little to no environmental impact.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Connected Nanaimo” section related to Safe Mobility.

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding Action #50 “Utilizing emerging Artificial Intelligence technology, undertake a pilot project to test the capabilities of the system to predict collision patterns at intersections to enable staff to proactively make changes at potential high-risk intersections that have yet to generate high collision rates.” Highlights included:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology could be used to save lives rather than just prevent accidents;
- There may be grants available through ICBC to support the cost of the project;
- The project could have high cost implications, and AI would not prevent drivers from taking their eyes off the road and causing an accident;
- Trouble intersections are already known, and new technology will likely not identify any new ones;
- This new technology would fill in some of the gaps in the data the City already collects;
- The City has an ongoing budget in its operations system to keep the model running;
- The use of AI would use current software tools to help with the assessment of high-risk areas and preventative measures, and would save Staff time and effort;
- The cameras that have been installed are being noticed by residents, and the City needs to be transparent about what data is collected, where the data is stored and who has access to it;
- The City has protections in place to ensure the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* procedures are followed; and,
- AI would help identify the patterns of near miss accidents in intersections.

The Committee removed the word “Artificial Intelligence” from Action #50 and chose to keep it as a priority on the IAP priority actions list.

Zoom polls were launched related to draft priority actions of the “A Connected Nanaimo” section related to Complete Streets.

The Committee requested clarification on the definition of Mobility Arterial Street.

Committee discussion took place regarding Action #56 “Consistent with the proposed vision within the Newcastle + Brechin Neighbourhood Plan, study options for reallocating space within the existing Stewart Avenue cross-section to create AAA cycling facilities and shorten crosswalks along the corridor.” Highlights included:

- Upgrades to the northern section of Stewart Avenue would not likely be within the four-year scope as it would also involve BC Ferries; and,
- Concerns were expressed regarding complete streets in areas that constrict vehicle traffic.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The draft priority actions of “A Prosperous Nanaimo” section and “City Structure” section will be brought forward at the 2023-MAY-08 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting;
- A suggestion was made to have one GPC meeting per month in the evening or alternate between evening and daytime meetings to make it more accessible to all members of Council;
- One new initiative, approved earlier in the meeting, was for upcoming topics and initiatives to be set out and provided to the public in advance, as well as to have an opportunity to adjust GPC meeting times for topics of interest;
- Evening meetings would be more accessible to members of the community who work during the day;
- It would be preferred to discuss a potential meeting time change when all Council members are present; and,
- A staff report should come forward with potential implications and staff costs.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council request that one Governance and Priorities Committee meeting per month be held in the evening and alternate between daytime and evening meetings. The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Eastmure, Hemmens, Perrino and Thorpe.*

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one was in attendance to ask questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 11:51 a.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER