

MINUTES

SPECIAL MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING

BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2023-JUN-08, AT 8:33 A.M.

- Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Donna Hais, Board Chair, Nanaimo Port Authority
Richard Horbachewski, AVP External Relations, VIU
Erralyn Joseph, Councillor, and Assistant Negotiator, Snuneymuxw
First Nation (joined electronically 8:43 a.m.)
Bob Moss, Tectonica Management (joined electronically)
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School
District 68
Dave Witty, Past Chair, Nanaimo Airport Commission (joined
electronically)
- Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor (joined electronically)
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

(a) Mayor's Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Krog introduced City staff and welcomed the committee members. He acknowledged that all members of the Mayor's Leaders' Table are leaders in the community and have a reputation for getting things done. He noted the purpose of the Mayor's Leaders' Table (MLT) as listed in the Terms of Reference and provided some examples of potential projects:

- Need for a new hospital;
- A South End Community Centre;
- Upcoming Fast Ferries potentially helping to develop the community; and,
- Some substantial projects require collaboration with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) and working further toward reconciliation.

Mayor Krog asked members to introduce themselves through a round table discussion. Each member introduced themselves and noted past and current experience/expertise that they bring to the table.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that he will be retiring in the coming month, and that a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is anticipated for the Fall. Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, will be the primary support person for this committee. The new CAO will take on the role of encouraging and supporting this committee behind the scenes. He suggested keeping things simple and limiting the target to only a few of the largest items if possible.

Erralyn Joseph joined the meeting electronically at 8:43 a.m.

(b) Mayor's Leaders' Table Terms of Reference, Housekeeping, Frequency, Time

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, noted that Council has adopted the previous MLT's recommendations. He also noted that the Mayor had reviewed the purpose of the Mayor's Leaders' Table and pointed out that the Terms of Reference (TOR) had been deliberately kept high level.

Within the TOR the Mayor has the ability to expand (or change) the mandate of the committee and can adjust the term of the committee, or frequency of meetings if he finds it necessary. Generally, these meetings are planned to be conducted quarterly; however, it may be beneficial to schedule some additional meetings to get things started.

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, explained that motions made by this committee would be recommendations to Council for approval.

(c) Review/Summary of Previous Mayor's Leaders' Table Report

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the previous MLT and some background information. Highlights included:

- Previous MLT had a broad base of members;
- There were three working groups: Infrastructure Ask Working Group, Youth Attraction and Retention Working Group, and the Doughnut Economics Working Group;
- 2023-JUN-05 Council adopted their Strategic Framework which identified Council's priorities as:
 - Develop action plans based on the City Plan;
 - Continued focus on social health and public safety;
 - Maintaining and growing current services;
 - Making significant progress on key capital projects; and,
 - Reaffirm Council's commitment to open, honest, and transparent communication.
- Infrastructure Ask Working Group:
 - Tasked with developing a short list of projects: Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) patient tower, Equitable housing, Community fiber optic network, NRGH Cancer Centre, South End Community Centre; and,
 - Wanted to align with the City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined Goals.

- Doughnut Economics Working Group:
 - Raised awareness and promoted adoption across the community of the Doughnut Economics Model;
- Youth Attraction and Retention Working Group:
 - Did an extensive poll with young people within the community;
 - Results from the poll were cohesive with other feedback received from the community as a whole which included topics of: Public Safety, Housing, Development, and Community Health.
- Reviewed the entire list of potential projects proposed by the Infrastructure Ask Working Group; and,
- Noted there were other projects that were also important and not to lose sight of those.

(d) Roundtable Discussion

Committee members expressed what they hope to see accomplished through this committee. Highlights included:

- Enhancing partnerships and increasing services to align with City growth;
- Previous Mayor Frank Ney leveraged other forms of government to support the growth of Nanaimo;
- School District 68 (SD68) being incorporated with the City, Vancouver Island University (VIU), and other partners;
- Vancouver Island is home to nearly a million people and Nanaimo plays a critical role in providing services as a central hub for the entire island;
- The Province and Federal Government have ignored the importance of Nanaimo's geographic location for the health and wellness of the island as a whole and we need to change what we consider to be our community from Nanaimo specifically to Vancouver Island;
- This committee provides a unique opportunity to address the challenges faced over the past decade;
- In the past our greatest disadvantage has been ourselves due to conflicting messages and working in silos;
- Making partnerships tangible and changing the conversation with other levels of government to leverage our requests and ensure Nanaimo is the place where investment is happening. The services we are providing are more impactful than they would be anywhere else in the province;
- Nanaimo is not ready for the priority projects to take off because the supporting resources/infrastructure are not in place (For example a new hospital would need to consider a medical school and there could be implications on housing for additional residents which would then require increasing RCMP staff, etc.);
- Conversations need to be creative and outside the box while impacting more than one group;
- Finding ways to integrate VIU into the broader community and taking advantage of the ways that VIU could support the labour market, medical fields, and our aging demographic;
- This committee offers collaboration and opportunities to build across various interests and needs and "get things done";
- The importance of having Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) participating on this committee and working together to improve our community;

- Getting things done and delivering on some of the objectives already identified by focusing on very specific actions;
- Seeing the Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation get up and running and give it the independence it requires to tackle key projects associated with economic development and growth;
- Pushing higher levels of government to take action on the affordable housing issue by providing them with read-to-go projects and clarifying why those projects need to be supported to impact the health and wellbeing of the community;
- Enhancing the relationship between SFN and the City and how we work together; and,
- SFN’s collaboration and partnership on many of the priority projects identified.

Mayor Krog noted that the committee will need to agree on specific objectives and target those to promote and advocate for. He noted the constant topic of street disorder, and while the City is reliant on senior levels of government to address that topic, there may be ways that the City can ameliorate the situation.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Next Meeting Date

Mayor Krog suggested an additional meeting date be scheduled prior to the 2023-SEP-15 meeting. The committee agreed to schedule an additional meeting date in mid to late July.

Committee discussion took place regarding developing an advocacy and communication strategy to get projects and concepts into people’s minds.

Donna Hais would like to provide an update during the next MLT meeting regarding the NRGH.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 9:32 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER