

MINUTES

MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING

BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2023-JUL-27, AT 8:34 A.M.

- Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Donna Hais, Chair of Board of Nanaimo Port Authority
Richard Horbachewski, Associate Vice-President, Community Partnerships, Vancouver Island University
Bob Moss, Tectonica Management
Dave Witty, Past Chair Nanaimo Airport Commission
- Absent: Erralyn Joseph, Councillor, and Assistant Negotiator, for Snuneymuxw First Nation
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer at Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School District 68
- Staff: R. Harding, Acting CAO/General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
K. Ing, Director, IT/CIO
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

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

The Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. ADOPTION 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 Special Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC on Thursday, 2023-JUN-08 at 8:30 a.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. AGENDA ITEMS:

(a) Update re: Nanaimo Regional General Hospital

Introduced by Donna Hais, Chair of Board of Nanaimo Port Authority. Highlights included:

- At the 2023-JUN-08 Special Mayors’ Leaders’ Table meeting, the top priority project was the construction of a new tower at the hospital;
- A 2013 Island Health report noted that Nanaimo’s Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was in a worse infrastructure state than any ICU in Canada;
- A new ICU has since opened, with the old ICU, located in the current tower, being used for beds;
- The current tower no longer meets building code standards;
- A \$270M bill was recently announced from Premier Eby for a new cancer centre;
- Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) is a tertiary hospital, and services everyone north of the Malahat;
- NRGH has 345 beds to service 450,000 people, while the City of Victoria has 844 beds over three hospitals to service 420,000 people;
- Victoria also has both tertiary and quaternary hospitals, and the only tertiary program in Nanaimo is for kidney care;
- The new cancer centre will have four radiation beds, but there is no promise of oncologists to serve the centre;
- With only 12 beds in the new ICU for 450,000 people, hospital staff don’t have proper infrastructure to work from;
- NRGH’s emergency room is the busiest on Vancouver Island, seeing over 400 patients a day;
- Due to the City’s aging population, Nanaimo is in need of a catheterization lab (cath lab); however, one would likely not be built until 2040;
- Nanaimo is lacking the proper infrastructure to attract doctors and specialists to available jobs;
- In early August, a press release and media campaign will be released to approach the Province and advise that Nanaimo is being discriminated against for health care; and,
- A letter will be released in early September asking every major group, organization, and level of government north of the Malahat to sign a letter for the Province, identifying the lack of access for patients outside of Victoria requiring special care.

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- It was recommended that Donna Hais, Chair of Board of Nanaimo Port Authority, provide a presentation at an upcoming open Council meeting, with all Mayors’ Leader’s Table members present for support; and,
- New hospital infrastructure could provide opportunities for NRGH to become a teaching hospital.

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor’s Leaders’ Table provide a letter of support to the Province for a Catheterization Lab and Patient Tower at Nanaimo Regional General hospital.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor’s Leaders’ Table recommend that Council:

- a. Provide a letter of support to the Province for a Catheterization Lab and Patient Tower at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital;
- b. Direct Staff to assist with the promotion of a media campaign for both the Catheterization Lab and Patient Tower;
- c. Send letters to surrounding municipalities asking for their support by writing to the Province requesting a Catheterization Lab and Patient Tower at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital; and,
- d. Advocate whenever possible for the building of a Catheterization Lab and Patient Tower at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Community Fiber Optic Network

Introduced by Kerry Ing, Director, IT/CIO.

- There is currently 30km of fibre cables across the City to provide connectivity to the community and partners;
- The City’s fibre infrastructure was mapped out, and it was then determined where fibre would need to be installed to provide better high-speed connectivity between City facilities, as well as provide some redundancy; and,
- Focus has been on providing greater bandwidth to City facilities, and not outreaching into the broader community.

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The majority of fibre installation would align with capital projects occurring along the proposed fibre optic route;
- It would be beneficial to have a fibre connection between the hospital, Vancouver Island University (VIU) and City infrastructure, for future economic development opportunities;
- Satellite is not at a point where it could be a reliable primary source for connectivity; however, it could be a good secondary or tertiary option; and,
- The City needs to ensure it has carrier redundancy for fibre networks through carriers such as Telus or Rogers.

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor’s Leaders’ Table recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare a report, in consultation with community partners, and referencing the recommendations provided by the Infrastructure Working Group, that provides options for expanding and integrating the City’s fibre network. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) South End Community Centre

Introduced by Richard Harding, Acting CAO/General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- The south end is currently underserved in recreational services;

- The proposed building would be a regional service, and would serve more than just the south end;
- Staff are working to create a true community centre with a variety of services, including traditional recreation amenities and cultural spaces, as well as working with partners to add services such as primary health care;
- Staff are currently looking at four potential partners to work with:
 - Vancouver Island Regional Library
 - School District 68
 - Island Health
 - RCMP
- Key themes for the project include Community Collaboration, Flexibility, and Environment;
- The community centre will work with a Joint Use Agreement Operating Model;
- The RCMP have a satellite office set up at Oliver Woods Community Centre, and it would be beneficial to offer a similar space in the south end;
- The approximate size of the facility would be around 60,300 sq.ft, which is about double the size of Oliver Woods Community Centre; and,
- Council gave direction at the 2023-JUL-24 Regular Council meeting for potential sites to work with.

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor’s Leaders’ Table support the creation of a South End Community Centre. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Advocacy Strategy Development

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- Creating an Advocacy Strategy involves the following steps:
 - Define the issue
 - Set goals and objectives
 - Identify target audience
 - Engage partners
 - Create effective advocacy communication
- Example target audiences could include the Province or MLA’s;
- Key partners could include Snuneymuxw First Nation, Regional District of Nanaimo, Island Health, or other Vancouver Island and BC municipalities; and,
- Examples of advocacy communication include letters, resolutions, news releases or meetings.

Table discussion took place regarding moving a motion of support for the South End Community Centre, providing a presentation on housing at the 2023-SEP-15 Mayor’s Leaders’ Table meeting and adding a new standing item on the Agenda for reconciliation imperatives.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Next Meeting Date 2023-SEP-15

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 10:30 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER