



## **MINUTES**

### **GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, February 12, 2024, 1:00 P.M.  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC

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| Members: | Councillor S. Armstrong, Chair<br>Mayor L. Krog<br>Councillor B. Geselbracht<br>Councillor E. Hemmens<br>Councillor P. Manly<br>Councillor J. Perrino<br>Councillor I. Thorpe   |
| Absent:  | Councillor T. Brown<br>Councillor H. Eastmure   |
| Staff:   | D. Lindsay, Chief Administrative Officer<br>L. Mercer, General Manager, Corporate Services<br>B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works<br>T. Doyle, Fire Chief<br>B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development<br>W. Fulla, Director, Finance<br>S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services<br>P. Rosen, Director, Engineering<br>D. Burgos, Manager, Corporate Communications and<br>Community Relation<br>J. McAskill, Manager, Facility Asset Planning<br>J. Rose, Manager, Transportation<br>S. Robinson, Active Transportation Project Specialist<br>B. Thomas, Assistant Manager, Transportation<br>N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor<br>K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary |

\* Denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272"

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 7(b)(2)(4) Update on Primary and Secondary Active Transportation – add a PowerPoint presentation titled "Active Transportation Overview 2024".

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 following Minutes be adopted as circulated:

- Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC on Monday, 2024-JAN-22 at 1:00 p.m.
- Minutes of the Special Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC on Monday, 2024-JAN-22 at 7:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. AGENDA PLANNING:

(a) Upcoming Topics and Initiatives

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding topics and initiatives scheduled for the upcoming Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meetings.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) 1 Port Drive - Background Information

Bill Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of 1 Port Drive. Highlights included:

- The City purchased the property in March 2013 for \$3.4 million

- The site did not have much development potential, and various steps have been taken to make it ready for development
- The South Downtown Waterfront Area has mixed ownership

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding the opportunities with the City-owned water lot.

Bill Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development, continued the presentation:

- Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) village site
- Overview of the history of the industrialization of the waterfront
- The City's rationale for acquisition included: waterfront redevelopment, access, and a long-term vision for the community
- Large amount of work has been done since purchasing the property including the waterfront walkway, demolition of derelict docks, termination of leases and licenses, demolition of Seaspan Wharf, archaeological impact assessment, and Seaspan right-of-way transfer agreement
- The Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan was adopted in 2018 and has been embedded into the City Plan

Committee discussion took place regarding community feedback on 1 Port Drive and the community consultation done in 2018.

Bill Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development, continued the presentation:

- The Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan objective and Dr. Witty's guiding framework
- Draft concept plans were done as part of the Master Plan which have since evolved
- A geotechnical study, detailed site investigation, and environmental investigation were undertaken
- The Regional District of Nanaimo sewer line runs through the property and would need to be taken into consideration for the area design
- The Interim transit exchange will be relocated
- Next steps include preparing a rezoning application, continuing discussions with SFN, and returning to Council with options

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Cruise ships will continue to dock at the cruise ship pier

- Housing units anticipated for the site
- Significant community consultation was done in 2018 for the Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan
- Timeline for Council to receive the report with options on next steps would depend on conversations with SFN
- Staff suggest continuing with the rezoning application
- Dedicated SFN square is a piece of land that will be preserved and will not be a development site

7. REPORTS:

(a) Green Nanaimo:

1. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Cost Recovery Bylaw

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

Jennifer McAskill, Manager, Facility Asset Planning, spoke regarding the new public charging infrastructure. Highlights included:

- Currently the City's electric vehicle charging infrastructure is for use by anyone, free of charge
- Initial costs were supported through partnership with RDN through the CleanBC Communities fund
- Staff have seen an increased uptake in usage, and the demand is expected to continue to increase
- Proposed bylaw transitions funding to a fee-for-service model
- Penalties are included in the bylaw to encourage equitable use of the charging stations

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Consideration for generating funding towards infrastructure to help maintain roadways
- Municipalities around Vancouver Island predominantly offer free use for municipal chargers, and many private businesses charge for use
- The City is required to maintain the operation of the chargers for at least five years

(b) Connected Nanaimo:

1. Speed Limit Reduction Motion Update

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, informed the Committee that the provincial pilot project for the Speed Limit Reduction project has not materialized; and therefore Staff cannot action on a previous motion passed by Council 2020-SEP-28 directing Staff to participate.

2. Active Transportation:

1. Update on Primary and Secondary Active Transportation

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

Presentation:

1. Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, provided a PowerPoint presentation and an update on primary and secondary active transportation networks. Highlights included:

- The City is at capacity limits to build a more robust road system; therefore, the City Plan accommodates an increase in trips by walking, biking and transit
- Active transportation data collection helps identify areas of need and pattern changes
- Provided an overview of the level of completion for primary and secondary active transportation routes and identified pedestrian and cycling gaps
- Identified the areas of Nanaimo where future projects that are already in the plan will fill gaps

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding consideration around designing streets with sidewalks built only on one side.

2. E-Bike Share

Sadie Robinson, Active Transportation Project Specialist, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- In 2023 Evolve E-Bike Share approached the City with an opportunity to establish their electric-bike (e-bike) share program

- Once established, the E-Bike Share program will be trialed for the remainder of the year
- E-Bike Share locations are being considered at transit exchanges, primary active mobility routes and urban centers
- Evolve has a companion app for payment and providing the location of available bikes
- Evolve monitors the fleet and undertakes the maintenance of the bikes
- At the end of year, Staff will report back to Council on the project

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Received feedback from similar companies that theft has not been a big issue in these programs
- Ensuring all connections are done, even if in an interim way, to allow these bikes to be effective and used safely
- Bike trips can only start and end inside the e-bike parking stations
- Evolve's staff will maintain the e-bikes including ensuring the batteries remain charged

### 3. School Zone Policy Update

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the School Zone Policy Update. Highlights included:

- Staff recommend adopting a new policy that will allow for consistency with the *Motor Vehicle Act*
- School zones are the speed reduced area and have definitions on how they relate to the school; while school areas are areas near schools but outside the school zone
- Certain roads are not school zones and 30km/h speed limit signs cannot be enforced
- Suggest a systemic approach to removing the speed limit signs in school areas

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Ensuring that there is a good communication plan in place
- Staff seeking suggestions on how to approach the sign change
- Preference that people slow down around school areas
- Staff have not heard any recent complaints regarding the school zone speed limit signs that are not enforceable
- Concern for children's safety around schools, but also a need to be in alignment with the *Motor Vehicle Act*
- The School District would have an important role to play in notifying the school neighbourhood
- Opportunity to look at traffic calming on City roads

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council repeal the existing School Zone Signing Guidelines Policy COU-118 and adopt the new School Zone Signing Policy COU-240 as detailed in Attachment B of the report titled "School Zone Policy Update" dated 2024-FEB-12. The motion carried.  
Opposed: *Councillor Geselbracht*

#### 4. Micromobility Update

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project. Highlights included:

- Staff received Council support to join the provincial eScooter pilot project in 2021
- To continue to be part of the pilot project, the City is required to update the "Traffic and Highways Regulation Bylaw 1993 No. 5000" to regulate electric scooters

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Province has drafted preliminary recommendations that include personal protection equipment, education and training

- That the draft bylaw be reviewed Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to bring for Council's consideration an amendment to the "Traffic and Highways Regulation Bylaw 1993 No. 5000" to regulate micromobility devices. The motion carried unanimously.

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received four questions from the public regarding agenda items.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 2:30 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER