



## MINUTES

### GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 29, 2024, 1:00 P.M.  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC

- Members:
- Councillor I. Thorpe, Chair
  - Mayor L. Krog
  - Councillor S. Armstrong\* (joined 1:28 p.m.)
  - Councillor H. Eastmure
  - Councillor B. Geselbracht
  - Councillor E. Hemmens
  - Councillor P. Manly
  - Councillor J. Perrino
- Absent:
- Councillor T. Brown
- Staff:
- D. Lindsay, Chief Administrative Officer
  - R. Harding, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy CAO
  - L. Mercer, General Manager, Corporate Services
  - B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
  - S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
  - J. Holm, Director, Planning and Development
  - D. LaBerge, Director, Public Safety
  - T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability
  - L. Rowett, Manager, Current Planning
  - C. Wood, Manager, Social Planning
  - B. Hornby, Senior Community Safety Officer
  - N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor
  - J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

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

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

2. APPROVAL 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 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-MAR-11 at 1:00 p.m.
- 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-MAR-25 at 12:59 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. AGENDA PLANNING:

a. Upcoming Topics and Initiatives

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding topics and initiatives scheduled for upcoming Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meetings. Discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Unallocated pedestrian funds and if there is enough time to communicate with School District 68 before the GPC meeting
- School District 68 being aware that Council will be considering allocating funds to areas of concern around schools

5. REPORTS:

a. Prosperous Nanaimo:

1. Draft Monitoring Strategy

Introduced by Jeremy Holm, Director, Planning and Development.

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The monitoring strategy tracks progress towards City Goals as defined within the City Plan
- Staff have identified 21 areas of impact (19 of which are active) that relate to different goal areas in the City Plan
- Staff are proposing a four-year indicator report to support and track how things are progressing
- Reviewed the current status of the areas of impact and whether they are meeting, or not meeting, goals
- Advancements in GIS technology is helping to create additional data
- Staff plan to update data and release the monitoring data during the fourth quarter of each year and provide a more fulsome report every four years

Councillor Armstrong joined the meeting electronically at 1:28 p.m.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Collecting data from the Provincial and Federal Governments regarding air and water quality. Staff are not recommending monitoring these areas at this point as it is difficult to establish measures to determine if/how we are impacting those areas
- Absence of data and measureable indicators within the Empowered Nanaimo areas
- Suggestion that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness consider the topic of accessibility and inclusivity to suggest measurable indicators
- Staff have taken a two-step approach to the process of bringing the monitoring strategy before Council. The next step will be the communication/engagement process
- Staff are seeking more discussion regarding what monitoring committees would do
- Other municipalities are pursuing similar strategies; however, each municipality has different goals and is collecting different data

- Using the data collected through the Rick Hansen Foundation Audit reviews of Parks and Recreation facilities to monitor Connected Nanaimo goals
- The monitoring committee's purpose would be to communicate to the public about what the City is doing, what has been done, and what to focus on going forward. The committee would need to meet at least twice a year

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse in principle the draft Monitoring Strategy and engagement framework and direct Staff to proceed with next steps as outlined in the 2024-APR-29 Staff Report by the Manager, Sustainability. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Healthy Nanaimo:

1. Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan Evaluation and Strategy Alignment

Introduced by Dave LaBerge, Director, Public Safety.

Presentation:

1. Alana Best, Director, Public Sector Transportation, Deloitte Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
  - Deloitte Inc. was tasked with evaluating the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan (DNCSAP) to determine if the plan is meeting goals, is sufficiently resourced to achieve its goals, and ensuring it is aligned with other City initiatives
  - Reviewed feasibility of expanding the action plan beyond the downtown core
  - Met with Staff, community associations, and held interviews with individuals with lived experience
  - Reviewed measures that have been implemented, are partially implemented, in progress, and noted one that is incomplete
  - Received unanimous positive feedback regarding the success of the Community Safety Officers (CSO) and Clean Team

- Their first recommendation is to expand the number of resources, and the geographical location, surveyed by the CSO's and provided three potential scenarios to implement this expansion

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding a report from Staff outlining potential costs for the three scenarios and including information regarding additional costs for increased RCMP staffing.

Alana Best, Director, Public Sector Transportation, Deloitte Inc., continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- The second recommendation is to increase and enhance the Clean Team services to mirror the expanded capacity of the CSOs
- Reviewed recommendations related to governance such as hiring a Downtown Safety Coordinator, implementing an interdepartmental working group and developing a stakeholder committee
- Outlined overall findings and recommendations such as: identifying a vision or "North Star", bridging gaps and coordinating with other partners, building a baseline of data to measure against, and creating a communication strategy
- Next Steps recommended are to coordinate with public safety partners, create a governance framework and hire resources, develop key performance indicators and implement recommendations (particularly the CSO expansion)

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Downtown Nanaimo Business Association being involved in this review. Staff have been engaging with them regularly
- Praised the ongoing work of the CSO's and Clean Team
- Discussion regarding the engagement process and how interviews were conducted
- The need for increased resources and housing supports for the CSO's to send people to. Staff confirmed there are significant challenges due to the limited resources available

to the CSO's and they see more compliance when resources like warming centres and shelters are available

- CSO's are seeing improvements through collaboration with Island Health to address mental health and substance use issues and taking more of a compassion based approach
- Clarification regarding funding previously allocated towards the RCMP Downtown Engagement Team. The four RCMP positions have been filled and will be assigned to the downtown area in the summer
- Clarification that the intention behind the recommendation to promote the Vandalism Relief Grant Program is to continue to provide the grant program and expand it beyond the downtown core
- The need for a daytime warming centre and building out resources from there
- Implications related to changes around open drug use
- Engagement with neighbourhood associations saw strong support for increasing the CSO's and the Clean Team
- Concern regarding the potential tax increase next year related to the additional CSO and Clean Team staffing positions and the City taking on Provincial responsibilities

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to proceed with a cost analysis of the preferred scenarios found in the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan Evaluation and Strategy Alignment Report, dated 2024-APR-29, for the expansion of the Community Safety Officer and Clean Team programs and to prepare a business case for 2025 budget deliberations. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Perrino*

Councillor Armstrong disconnected from the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting recessed at 2:59 p.m.

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

2. Keeping of Poultry in Residential Areas

Introduced by Jeremy Holm, Director, Planning and Development.

Presentation:

1. Lainya Rowett, Manager, Current Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
  - On 2023-SEP-25, Council directed Staff to review provisions of the Animal Control Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw in response to several calls and inquiries for services related to the keeping of poultry on residential lots
  - Provided an overview of the history of regulations related to keeping poultry on residential lots
  - Staff compared Nanaimo regulations to other municipalities and found that Nanaimo regulations were similar and sometimes less restrictive
  - Staff reviewed opportunities for ways to increase food security and poultry keeping:
    - Increasing allowable poultry (>12 poultry on a lot)
    - Reducing allowable poultry (<12 poultry on a lot)
    - Maintain existing regulations with revisions for clarity

Councillor Armstrong joined the meeting electronically at 3:25 p.m.

- Should the GPC wish to increase poultry provisions the following issues should be considered:
  - Increased land use conflicts
  - Manageable flock sizes
  - Waste disposal
  - Increased odor and noise
  - Pests and predators
  - Spread of diseases
  - Lack of inspections
- Should the GPC wish to maintain the current regulations Staff recommend amending the existing definition of agriculture to provide more clarity

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Clarification that food inspections are not required for small flocks; however, disease can spread to commercial flocks if they are within proximity

- The prohibition of roosters
- Clarification that the intention of the regulations are related to personal consumption and do not relate to commercial poultry farming

Delegation:

1. Collin MacQuarrie spoke providing an overview of the negative impacts resulting from the Animal Control Bylaw not being enforced in his neighbourhood. There is currently a residential lot in this neighbourhood that is housing a large number of chickens for sales purposes. He noted concerns regarding noise and smell that are negatively impacting the neighbourhood.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Clarification that the number of chickens on the subject property is estimated to be 150 and would be considered a commercial operation on a residential property
- Neighbours are not able to enjoy their backyards due to smells
- The intention of the regulations are to limit the number of poultry on residential properties within reasonable bounds in order to reduce impacts on neighbours
- Clarification that prior to the current Animal Control Bylaw there was not a limit to the number of chickens allowed on properties over one acre in size; however, there was still a requirement under the Zoning Bylaw to align with the property designation as residential which would not allow for commercial production
- Staff noted that bylaw enforcement is complaint driven
- Potentially increasing the number of poultry allowed on smaller lots to increase food security
- Potentially providing allowance for legacy farms

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare amendments to the City of Nanaimo “Zoning Bylaw 2011 No. 4500”, as outlined in the Staff Report titled “Keeping of Poultry in Residential Areas” dated 2024-APR-29. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Geselbracht*



6. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:01 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

---

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

---

CORPORATE OFFICER