



MINUTES

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 13, 2024, 1:00 P.M.
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC

- Members: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor S. Armstrong
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor P. Manly
Councillor I. Thorpe
- Absent: Councillor T. Brown
Councillor J. Perrino
- 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
P. Rosen, Director, Engineering
C. Negrin, Manager, Subdivision/Deputy Approvals Officer
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

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 6(a)(1) Geotechnical Guidelines Review – Add PowerPoint Presentation titled “An Introduction to Updated and New Geotechnical Guidelines”.
- (b) Agenda Item 6(b)(1) Allocation of Unallocated Pedestrian Funds – Add the following delegations:
 1. Kelsey Chandler and Kaylee Baker
 2. Barry Lyseng

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 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-APR-29, at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 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. Highlights included:

- The Monday, 2024-JUN-10 GPC meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, 2024-JUN-12 due to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) convention
- A review and discussion of Alternative Approval Process policy options is scheduled for the 2024-JUN-12 GPC meeting
- A Public Works Yard discussion on options for funding is scheduled for the 2024-JUN-24 GPC meeting
- Future GPC topics include the City Plan Monitoring Committee(s), School Zone Policy Update and Incentives that Support City Plan
- Tentative GPC topics include the E-Mobility Strategy Phase 1 and Development Permit Area (DPA) 8 Form and Character Design Guidelines

It was moved and seconded that the Alternative Approval Process topic scheduled for the 2024-JUN-12 Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting, be rescheduled to an evening meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS:

(a) Green Nanaimo:

(1) Geotechnical Guidelines Review

Introduced by Jeremy Holm, Director, Planning and Development.

Claire Negrin, Manager, Subdivision/Deputy Approvals Officer, noted that the purpose of the Geotechnical Guidelines Review is to update and modernize existing guidelines as well as to develop a new set of guidelines for geotechnical assessments above abandoned mines.

Presentation:

1. Carl Miller, Senior Principal Geotechnical Engineer, WSP, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Provided an overview of some of the difficulties associated with the previous geotechnical guidelines
 - The updated guidelines are intended to assist in legislated reports for private land development
 - The guidelines help support the development approval process leading to better success in the completion of development permit applications
 - Areas of geotechnical design criteria include natural hazard, seismic design, level of landslide safety and consideration of changed conditions
 - Provided an overview of report content requirements that would not normally be found in geotechnical reports
 - The Guidelines for Geotechnical Assessments Above Abandoned Working Mines fall under the scope of the overall City guidelines
 - Assessment of mining induced geological hazards is a specialized area of practice

- The City's NanaimoMap shows the outlines of mines and includes a healthy buffer due to potential inaccuracies
- Historical information is provided in the guidelines
- There are many hazards related to the type and depth of mining
- Preliminary risk assessment shows areas of high risk to allow forewarning before developing in the area
- Section 6 of the guideline outlines the City's expectations of the assessment process and of reporting needs

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The guidelines are intended to be sent to geotechnical engineers and will be readily available on the City's website for anyone who is interested
- There was extensive public consultation for the Development Permit Areas through the City Plan Review
- From a development perspective, the awareness of mining activity and review of potential hazard is not new, but rather the guidelines are for clarity and alignment with professional practice

Carl Miller, Senior Principal Geotechnical Engineer, WSP, spoke regarding areas in town where there would be elevated risk and noted that there are areas of uncertainty considering that historical mining has not always been well documented.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Request that the reference to Newcastle Island be updated to its proper name, Saysutshun
- WSP is currently doing a hazard review for the Regional District of Nanaimo and are encouraging them to incorporate the mining aspect
- The settling on Old Victoria Road

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse the following guidelines, as attached to the Staff Report dated 2024-MAY-13, associated with the preparation of geotechnical reports and the

assessment of mine-related geotechnical hazards in support of development applications within the City of Nanaimo:

1. Guidelines for the Preparation of Geotechnical Reports; and,
2. Guidelines for Geotechnical Assessments Above Abandoned Mine Workings.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Healthy Nanaimo:

(1) Allocation of Unallocated Pedestrian Funds

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

- The recommended project for the 2024 Unallocated Pedestrian Funds is the Albert Street Crossing Improvements
- Due to a successful grant application there is an opportunity to reallocate some funds from the 2023 Unallocated Pedestrian Funds
- Staff received positive feedback from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness on improving accessibility at transit stops

Presentation:

1. Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Provided an update on the status of 2022 and 2023 unallocated pedestrian projects
 - The recommended project for the unallocated pedestrian funding is Albert Street crossing improvements at Selby Street and Dunsmuir Street
 - Improvements will bridge a link between Vancouver Island University (VIU) and Downtown Nanaimo
 - Projects for future consideration include accessibility improvements at transit stops and the Third Street sidewalk expansion
 - Provided an overview of priority capital projects

Committee discussion took place regarding the projects that require consultation with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, continued the presentation and spoke regarding projects that are of community interest; however, not suited to the Pedestrian Unallocated Funding Program. These includes:

- Pedestrian improvements from 3190 Hammond Bay Road to Lagoon Road

Committee discussion took place regarding the opportunity to restripe the shoulder on Hammond Bay Road when restoring the road from the Regional District of Nanaimo sewer project.

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, continued the presentation and spoke regarding projects that are of community interest. Highlights included:

- Adding Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) on Hammond Bay Road at Oakridge Drive
- Pedestrian mobility around Bayview Elementary School
- Sidewalk infill around the Park Avenue Elementary School
- Adding RRFBs and a new crosswalk at École Quarterway School

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Consultation with School District 68 (SD68) in identifying schools of priority for pedestrian improvements
- Factors that are considered in the output of scores for the Pedestrian Prioritization Tool
- Scoring metrics are both reactive and proactive
- The risk of going overbudget is lower than it has been in previous years
- Factors involved in addressing the five-stop intersection in the Bayview area

Delegations:

1. Kelsey Chandler and Kaylee Baker spoke regarding the urgency of pedestrian and cyclist safety in the vicinity of École Quarterway School due to high traffic volume, speed and congestion, and they requested a more comprehensive analysis of the area. They spoke regarding the current zoning, road classifications and the City-owned right-of-way crossing the Legion property 1630 East Wellington Road. They requested that the Committee reconsider the recommended funding allocation of the Pedestrian Unallocated Funds and for more transparency in the breakdown of Pedestrian Prioritization Tool scores.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Crossing guards for morning and afternoon pick-ups have been cancelled as students do not feel safe
- Council relies on both objective data and concerns from the community

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, explained the scoring system of the Pedestrian Prioritization Tool and noted that more detail can be found on the City's website.

2. Barry Lyseng, Stephenson Point Neighbourhood Association (SPNA), spoke regarding SPNA's priority action relating to pedestrian mobility improvements on Hammond Bay Road discussed during the 2023 Neighbourhood Association engagement event. He expressed concern with the Staff report's reflection of the SPNA's ask, and requested further discussion with Staff.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Staff could not accommodate an acceptable lane width to provide a pedestrian corridor along Hammond Bay Road without moving the center line
- The Neighbourhood Association meeting was to provide the priorities of each of the neighbourhoods which were endorsed by Council as part of the integrated action plan
- Reporting back to the Neighbourhood Associations regarding their requests at the next Neighbourhood Association Engagement Event

The Committee recessed the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

The Committee reconvened the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- There are not many solutions for reducing traffic speed in the area of Nicol Street and Needham Street, and acknowledging that pedestrian safety is not MoTI's goal
- There are a number of vulnerable individuals downtown crossing Albert Street to reach the safe consumption site
- The Pedestrian Prioritization Tool provides an unbiased professional approach to determine priorities
- The Staff recommendation references bump-outs; however, these should not have a negative impact on vehicle traffic
- The cost to add RRFBs at École Quarterway School
- The benefit of improving Albert Street for its connection between VIU and downtown
- Spreading the pedestrian funding to support minor improvements in multiple locations
- Consultation with first responders regarding the impact of narrow roads on emergency vehicles
- There are limited resources allocated to pedestrian improvements
- Staff capacity challenges and difficulty in filling technical positions
- Narrowing roads is a way to slow down traffic and increase the perception of safety
- After funding is allocated, the detailed design will provide a better understanding of what improvements can be done
- Seeking to support all modes of transportation

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council allocate \$300,000 of the 2024 Pedestrian Unallocated Funds and reallocate \$182,500 of the 2023 Pedestrian Unallocated Funds for a combined total of \$482,500 toward Albert Street Crossing Improvements from Milton Street to Dunsmuir Street. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Eastmure and Geselbracht*

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

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

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 3:59 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER