



## **MINUTES**

### **MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE MEETING**

Friday, December 13, 2024, 8:33 a.m.  
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre  
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair  
Donna Hais, Chair of Board of Nanaimo Port Authority  
Richard Horbachewski, Chief Advancement Officer and AVP  
External Relations, Vancouver Island University  
Bob Moss, Partner, Tectonica Management  
Dave Witty, Past Chair, Nanaimo Airport Commission\*

Absent: Erralyn Joseph, Councillor, and Assistant Negotiator, for  
Snuneymuxw First Nation  
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public  
School District 68

Staff: B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
N. Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer  
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor  
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

#### **1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

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

#### **2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

- a. Agenda Item 5(a) Verbal Discussion re: Mayor's Leaders' Table – Next Steps - Add PowerPoint presentation.

#### **3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

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

#### **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Friday, 2024-JUN-14, at 8:31 a.m.

#### **5. AGENDA ITEMS:**

a. Verbal Discussion re: Mayor's Leaders' Table - Next Steps

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Provided a summary of the history of the Mayor's Leaders' Table (the Table) including topics or issues previously considered by the Table
- Reviewed the purpose of the Table as outlined in the Terms of Reference
- There are some overlapping priorities and mandates between the newly formed Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation and the Table
- Requested clarity regarding topics the Table will focus on going forward

Mayor Krog noted a number of capital projects within the community that require provincial support and other topics or initiatives that the Table could promote.

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The impact various members of the Table have had on the community
- The work of Fair Care Alliance has just begun, and they have plans to continue working towards improvements and expansion of the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital
- New agreement underway between the Port of Nanaimo and Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN)
- Creating a strategic vision for the City of Nanaimo, which will extend through the community of Central Vancouver Island
- The current City Plan is a land use plan and needs to be incorporated into a larger strategic plan
- Recent meeting with Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance, regarding opportunities uniquely available to Nanaimo due to the Port Authority, Vancouver Island University (VIU), the airport, a tertiary hospital and other unique services/assets

- The need for a strategic plan that is specifically for Nanaimo and outlines core values and mission statements, then allowing the Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation to bring in the necessary pieces to fill gaps
- Upcoming Healthcare Economic Study will highlight the economic impact of healthcare and having a tertiary hospital in Nanaimo
- The Port of Nanaimo is more accurately described as the Port of Vancouver Island and their strategic plan speaks to: core relationships with local First Nations, carbon footprint, and increasing sustainability/reliability
- The recent provincial promise of a new hospital tower is still only a promise with no action or timeline
- Upcoming meeting with presidents of medical staff associations across Vancouver Island to discuss the needs of patients in their areas
- Expanding conversations to coordinate various strategic plans between organizations such as the City, the Port of Nanaimo, VIU and others, in order to speak to the Province and the Federal Government as Central Vancouver Island (being led by Nanaimo as the central location of the infrastructure pieces)
- Desire to see the expansion plans for the Nanaimo Airport and potential discussions regarding rail on Vancouver Island
- The previous Table came forward with five infrastructure pieces. The Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation is working on items that fit within those pieces, but could use further direction from the Table
- Desire to invite local organizations to present to the Table to identify their top priorities and what they need to be successful
- Opportunities have been missed in the past due to a lack of coordination between organizations and the power that can be achieved by working together as a team
- VIU has the largest number of domestic students in a number of years, but they are seeing a decline in international students and would appreciate support when speaking with the province about the positive impacts international students bring to a community
- VIU is the only university north of the Malahat Highway and there is an opportunity to speak with the province to recognize the potential impact, and benefits, VIU brings to the region and the island
- Consider focusing more on Pacific Rim trade which may provide great opportunities for Nanaimo

- Concern regarding focusing too heavily on the planning and overlooking the bricks and mortar of accomplishing tasks
- Tackling the larger issue around housing/homelessness and addressing economic issues such as challenges attracting new employees
- Focusing on the key tools needed for implementing the strategic plan and potentially needing to reallocate resources
- Changing the terminology from a coordinated strategic plan to a charter
- Nanaimo driving the Provincial and Federal Governments to the table and leading by example for other communities
- Noted the Provincial Government's perspective shift on housing issues as a result of the recent election
- Recent discussion with Honourable Terry Yung, Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services, who is planning to visit Nanaimo soon to gather feedback and learn about opportunities
- The disconnect between the media coverage and the actual number of unhoused residents across Vancouver Island communities
- Moving forward with the concept of a charter by comparing strategic plans (or relevant documents) from various organizations to gain a better understanding of where Nanaimo intersects and what is needed
- The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is below its goal within their mandate and may be looking for suitable applications. It was suggested a list of opportunities could be compiled by the Table
- Ensuring fair collaboration and inclusion when reviewing various strategic plans and ensuring no group is left out
- Potentially compiling an electronic list of who will be contacted to present to the Table in the new year and scheduling a longer meeting to accommodate the presentations
- Next steps should include exploring the concept of a charter and reviewing examples

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, noted challenges of having too many voices at the table. They suggested inviting the following organizations to present their strategic plans to the Table: VIU, SFN, Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation, Fair Care Alliance, Port of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Airport, the Nanaimo and District Hospital Foundation, and School District 68.

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Potential opportunities to meet with members of the Chamber of Commerce as a point of contact for several other groups
- Suggestion that time be set aside at each meeting to talk about specific actions the City can take to implement actions

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, noted that much of the necessary background research has already been collected. He suggested ensuring alignment between the mandates of various organizations and then using that information to draft a cohesive charter.

Table discussion took place regarding a charter providing the City with more strength when addressing the Province.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Mayor's Leaders' Table is currently 2025-FEB-07; however, Staff will provide members with alternative dates due to scheduling conflicts.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded at 9:42 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER