



MINUTES

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 24, 2025, 1:00 P.M.
Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre
80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC

- Members:**
- Councillor E. Hemmens, Chair
 - Mayor L. Krog
 - Councillor S. Armstrong
 - Councillor H. Eastmure
 - Councillor B. Geselbracht
 - Councillor P. Manly* (joined at 1:01 p.m., disconnected at 1:13 p.m.)
 - Councillor J. Perrino*
- Absent:**
- Councillor T. Brown
 - Councillor I. Thorpe
- Staff:**
- D. Lindsay, Chief Administrative Officer
 - B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
 - S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
 - L. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning
 - T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability
 - K. Biegun, Planner
 - M. Pearson, Legislative Communications Clerk
 - L. Young, Recording Secretary

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

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.

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

3. 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-DEC-09, at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Manly joined the meeting electronically at 1:01 p.m.

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.

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding the potential to move the topic of “Controlling Sale of Invasive Species” to an earlier GPC meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee direct Staff to add the “City Plan Review Project” as a scheduled topic on the 2025-JUL-14 Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) City Plan

(1) City Plan Monitoring Engagement

Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, provided an overview of the report in the agenda package.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The potential to hold an annual engagement event where members of the public could learn about specific areas of City Plan, engage with Council and Staff, and provide informed feedback
- Details of the annual check-in with key participants and partners have not been determined yet; however, Staff can bring a report to the Committee regarding external engagement options
- Suggestion that the annual check-in with key participants and partners be open to the general public

- The draft monitoring strategy that was announced 2024-APR-29 has garnered local and international interest

Councillor Manly disconnected from the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Committee and Staff discussion continued, including that the City is currently in the data gathering phase and will not have substantial data until 2027; therefore, Staff recommended a four-year cycle for broad public engagement.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse in principle the proposed City Plan monitoring process as outlined in the Staff Report dated 2025-MAR-24. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Prosperous Nanaimo:

(1) Woodgrove Area Plan

Lisa Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning, introduced the report and advised that, while Kasia Biegun, Planner, is leading the Woodgrove Area Plan project, this is an interdepartmental project involving Community Planning, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and Engineering.

Presentation:

1. K. Biegun, Planner, provided an on-screen presentation advising the following:
 - While there is a lack of non-market (subsidized) housing units in the Woodgrove area, there is slightly more rental housing stock than owned properties, and 54 percent of all housing units in the Woodgrove Urban Centre are two- or three-bedroom units
 - Pedestrian infrastructure is currently more robust than cycling infrastructure in the Woodgrove area
 - There are no parks and open spaces, recreation and culture facilities, or schools within the Woodgrove Urban Centre
 - The Woodgrove area storm sewer system is a mix of City-owned and private infrastructure, and is heavily developed with approximately 90 percent impervious surface area

- Community engagement started on 2025-MAR-21 with a survey available on Get Involved Nanaimo webpage, and so far 400 responses have been received
- Staff are holding consultation meetings and engaging with youth in nearby schools

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The survey is available for all Woodgrove area users to complete, including residents that live outside of the Woodgrove area, such as the Regional District of Nanaimo and the District of Lantzville
- The Woodgrove area will likely reach sewer/water capacity within the next two decades; however, there are currently several Development Cost Charge projects underway that will improve sewer capacity as well as plans for water supply to the north end which will support growth
- Concern regarding the inability to select “none of the above” as an option on several of the Woodgrove Area Plan survey questions
- Communicating with the public regarding the City’s role in providing municipal services
- Staff are reviewing large mall sites in other municipalities to identify what policies and guidelines can be adopted to transform the Woodgrove Urban Centre
- Concerns regarding a lack of park space in the Woodgrove area and its impact on young families
- Staff have been collaborating with students from Breda University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands to utilize some of their ideas regarding alternative modes of transportation and building forms
- The desire for the Woodgrove area to be safer for pedestrians
- Staff have been in discussion with the owner of Woodgrove Centre regarding the Woodgrove Area Plan and intend to share the project results with them

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

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

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:34 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER