



## **MINUTES**

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

Friday, March 21, 2025, 8:30 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  
Erralyn Joseph, Councillor, and Assistant Negotiator, for  
Snuneymuxw First Nation\* (joined at 8:49 a.m.)  
Bob Moss, Partner, Tectonica Management  
Dave Witty, Past Chair Nanaimo Airport Commission
- Absent:** Richard Horbachewski, Chief Advancement Officer and AVP  
External Relations, Vancouver Island University  
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public  
School District 68
- Staff:** B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
N. Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer  
K. Lundgren, Zoom Moderator  
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

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

The Mayor's Leaders' Table (the Table) Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

- (a) Add new Agenda Item 6(a) Discussion re: Potential City Position, Director of Housing, and reorder subsequent agenda items.

#### **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:**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Mayor's Leaders' Table Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Friday, 2024-DEC-13, at 8:33 a.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS:**

(a) Coordinated Strategic Planning for Nanaimo's Key Institutions

Donna Hais, Member, Mayor's Leaders' Table, reviewed the diagram titled "Who is Nanaimo" (the diagram) included in the agenda package and noted the following:

- There is no clear definition, or identity, within the community about "who is Nanaimo" or what the goals are and there is a need to build social licence to create community buy-in and ownership
- That the Port of Honolulu refers to itself as a hub and how Nanaimo is also a hub with similar attributes and unique qualities which cannot be found in other local municipalities
- The Port of Nanaimo has the greatest potential for growth and impact on gross domestic product (GDP) of any port in Canada
- The contributions of various organizations listed on the diagram and how they impact the community. Highlights included:
  - The Nanaimo Port Authority is involved in supply chain and transportation which can provide opportunities for food security through its logistics hub and provides enhanced transportation options over and above ferry services which could increase the opportunities for businesses to relocate
  - Vancouver Island University (VIU) provides business programs to grow the local businesses sector
  - The Nanaimo Airport is enthusiastic to join the discussion and share their new Master Plan. They are directly tied to transportation and tourism
  - The Nanaimo General Hospital (the Hospital) is a tertiary hospital; therefore, it is tied to VIU. There is a desire to work with VIU towards a cancer technician training program. Noted ongoing discussions with the City regarding the potential for family doctor facilities in the proposed South End Community Centre
  - School District 68 (SD68) is conducting innovative partnerships with Island Health through the hospital campus

to create daycare seats which was previously identified as a deterrent in attracting new doctors to Nanaimo

- The Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce is planning to propose policy during the upcoming BC Chamber Annual General Meeting and Conference regarding federal funding that is now available to provinces to create health care solutions, and will also be spearheading discussions regarding establishing a Provincial “Port First Policy”
- The City is involved in the housing conversations impacting the community (in collaboration with the Nanaimo Systems Planning Organization (SPO)) and is collaborating with community groups regarding the proposed South End Community Centre
- Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) are working on several projects and expressed a desire to hear from the Nation regarding their ongoing and upcoming initiatives
- A desire for a cohesive voice to represent both the not-for-profit sector and the Arts and Culture sector to more cohesively align them with the overall diagram

Donna Hais, Member, Mayor's Leaders' Table, outlined the desired next steps:

- Filling in gaps and adding organizations not yet included in the diagram
- Putting forward a motion to Council seeking their support for the process of coordinating a strategic plan (including how it will be funded)
- Delegating an organization like the Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation (NPC) to work with the Mayor's Leaders' Table, and City staff, to prepare a draft strategic plan (or charter) outlining steps for implementation

Erralyn Joseph, Member, Mayor's Leaders' Table, joined the meeting electronically at 8:49 a.m.

Table discussion took place regarding the preference for a charter versus a strategic plan to empower action. A charter would outline who we are as a community and what our goals are. The document would be signed by all the collaborating organizations and stakeholders.

Dave Witty, Member, Mayor's Leaders' Table, offered to find examples of charters from other Cities to share with members of the Table.

Presentation:

1. Colin Stansfield, Chief Executive Officer, Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation, provided an on-screen presentation. Highlights included:
  - The importance of connectivity and working in collaboration to present a unified vision to higher levels of government
  - Taking advantage of current opportunities for resource optimization and enhanced competitiveness
  - The NPC has the capacity to take on drafting a strategic plan/charter initiative and suggested a "living systems" approach

Table discussion took place regarding capitalizing on current opportunities through a coordinated effort and it was requested that Petroglyph Development Group be added to the diagram noting their connections to transportation, trade, tourism, hospitality and other sectors.

(b) Review and Discussion of Mid-Island Strategic Vision (Charter)

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, provided an overview of the handouts provided in the agenda package and advised that Staff had collected publicly available documents from organizations discussed during the previous Table meeting and summarized that information into one document as a starting point for discussion. They noted the coherence that already exists between organizations and identified the following common themes: sustainability, environmental responsibility, community well being and inclusivity, economic development and innovation, collaboration and partnership, reconciliation and cultural respect.

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The evolution of the Mayor's Leaders' Table and how its current role could bring previous pieces (e.g. Relmagine Nanaimo) together to implement a strategic plan (or charter) for the community
- It was considered too early to determine a mission statement at this stage
- It was requested that the Table provide suggestions to complete the diagram discussed earlier in the meeting

- Feedback from Table members will be provided to Donna Hais, Member, Mayor's Leaders' Table, to forward to Colin Stansfield, Chief Executive Officer, Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation, to update the diagram

Table discussion continued regarding the need to gather more input and gain a better understanding of the potential framework for a charter before presenting the concept to Council. A desire was expressed to have a charter completed and signed by the end of 2025.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **(a) Discussion re: Potential City Position, Director of Housing**

Bob Moss, Member, Mayor's Leaders' Table, put forward a suggestion that the City consider establishing a new Director of Housing position to identify specific housing projects and initiatives that need to be moved forward. The proposed position would work with community members and lobby other levels of government for support.

Table discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Comparable work that is currently being done by senior City Staff
- Concerns regarding the cost associated with creating a new position and public perception/opposition to further taxation and spending
- The City is seeing a reduction in the number of building permits being issued
- The Vancouver Sun reported that the Provincial Government is considering abandoning one aspect of their 2023 housing plan "Homes for People" related to incentives to build secondary suites due to a lack of interest and concern from landlords around dealing with challenging tenants
- It was noted that in Europe many countries provide different types of government housing, whereas, in Canada the Federal Government stopped providing social housing in the 1990s
- The City may need to consider creative ways to fund the proposed position such as redirecting financial resources or seeking funding from the Province
- The importance of creating impactful jobs in the community to increase the mean income for individuals struggling to make ends meet and how the lack of housing infrastructure is deterring businesses from moving to Nanaimo

- Asking Dale Lindsay, Chief Administrative Officer, and/or Jeremy Holm, Director, Planning and Development, to explain what is currently in place to avoid duplication of efforts
- The Nation has found that it requires a substantial number of resources to see change within a lifetime and the Nation is struggling to catch up with the number of housing requests it receives. SFN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BC Housing and is working with the City and BC Housing on several housing initiatives
- Petroglyph Development Group is working with VIU to develop a land use concept and preliminary feasibility ideas for upwards of 5,000 units on the SFN territory commonly referred to as the “DND” lands; however, major infrastructure is required to move that initiative forward

(b) Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting date for the Mayor's Leaders' Table is 2025-MAY-16.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded at 10:01 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER