



MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at City Hall in Conference Room A and Electronically (Hybrid),
141 West 14th Street, North Vancouver, BC on September 13, 2023

The City of North Vancouver respectfully acknowledges that this meeting is held on the traditional and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Members Present

C. Dempster
K. Balcom
D. Hendricks
S. Luce
D. Anderson

Councillor D. Bell
Councillor T. Valente

**participated electronically*

Y. Al-Nakeeb
S. Tornes

Absent

A. Rahbar
M. Mathieson

Staff Present

Shreeya Tandon, Committee Clerk
Renee de St. Croix, Manager, Long Range and Community Planning
Mike Friesen, Manager of Environmental Sustainability
Heather Evans, Community Planner, Long Range, Community Planning
Anu Garcha, Planning Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

S. Tornes, suggested adding territorial acknowledgement to the agenda, and also going forward to all meetings in future.

(Carried unanimously)

The Agenda for September 13, 2023 was adopted as circulated.

At 6:07 R. St. Croix read the territorial acknowledgement

At 6:10pm Councillor Bell enters

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2023 were approved as circulated

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

4. Council Update

C. Valente reported significant update since July, highlighting the drafts presented in the meeting addressed major issues from the summer break.

C. Bell concurred noting that the last update occurred in July, and then next shall be on Sept 25th, he also introduced another topic related to the future of the Official Community Plan (OCP).

R. St. Croix clarified that OCP is not an item on the agenda, however the same shall be a part of future discussions.

5. Staff Update

R. St. Croix reported the following updates:

- The update of zoning bylaws is underway, with a major consultation in late spring and ongoing detailed work. They plan to present the existing zoning bylaw to the council and provide regular updates.
- Closely monitoring signals from the province regarding housing and will adjust their plans accordingly. There's a focus on various aspects of housing within the community well-being context, with more updates expected in November or December.
- There's a lot of ongoing work in transportation, aligned with the mobility strategy, moving towards implementation. They are introducing two items tonight, seeking input, and conducting public surveys.
- Regarding the Comprehensive Official Community Plan (COCP), they have budget considerations for the next 10 years and anticipate some components will require zoning bylaw updates. They will provide a hierarchy slide to clarify how everything fits together.

6. Draft Climate and Environment Strategy

Anu Garcha presented the following highlights:

- The draft Climate and Environment Strategy - The strategy began in summer 2020 and now involves a second round of community feedback, with one more round before it goes to the council for approval.
- This strategy will shape the future policies, focusing on what matters to the community. In April 2020, the City of North Vancouver also adopted the Mobility Framework, which is an important part of the planning efforts.
- This Strategy will help to guide our future policy framework. The future policy framework will be lead by the OCP, as the legislated and overarching vision setting document in the City.
- The Strategies will form the basis of a people and place based approach, creating a City Plan series, to better direct how we take action on these key topic areas.

- The objectives are to improve the quality of life, the strategy will support comfortable and efficient buildings, more active public spaces, better and more connected areas, lower vehicle emissions, less pollution, etc.
- By 2050, we expect that climate change will be affecting our region through even warmer temperatures, even drier summers, more extreme precipitation and weather events, and a sea level rise of 50 centimeters
- These changes have resulted in increased heat related morbidity and mortality, increased wildfires and risk of respiratory illness, degraded environments for the city's flora and fauna, reduced drinking water supply, insufficient infrastructure and damages related to infrastructure failure, and if we do not act now, it will worsen.
- The plan recognizes the importance of data informed decision making and working from our existing impact. The focus is on the policy framework at this juncture, but the final strategy will include targets, metrics, and indicators to measure our progress and guide our implementation.

The four main pillars of the strategy are:

- a) **Less Grey, More Green:** The direction is that we will restore, protect, and enhance natural areas, and biodiversity, on public and private property. This direction provides guidance on the quality and health of our urban environment, covering topics such as the urban forest, habitat and biodiversity, permeability, storm water management, and noise and air quality.
- b) **Climate Resilient Buildings:** The direction is to transition to a resilient building stock through improvements to new and existing buildings. This will cover areas such as the energy efficiency and emissions of new and existing buildings, the Leveraging of development approvals processes to achieve better outcomes, embodied carbon, and the City's community energy system.
- c) **Connected Neighborhoods:** The direction is to build compact and mixed-use communities that support zero emission modes of transportation. The addresses providing easier access to our daily needs, including green space, facilitating the switch to electric vehicles, and expanding and adapting our active transportation and transit networks.
- d) **Empowered Choices:** This direction is to foster a low-impact and circular economy that empowers our community to move to a zero carbon and zero waste future. This covers the smarter use of existing resources, reducing our waste, and supporting our residents and businesses in making more sustainable choices.

The members noted and discussed the following points:

- Emphasis on reducing noise and air pollution increasing from the development that is occurring, and will in future including construction, and traffic noise.
- Securing existing natural resources, and planting additional plants, and trees.
- Requirement for supportive policies to aid the execution of the action plans
- Integration of preservation of water quality on all levels
- Different metrics such as e-mail, surveys, water resilience, electric cars, community gardening tools, and other factors to be used to measure the progress.
- Need for clear vision, outcome and simultaneously difference to be drawn between mitigation, adaption, and addressing environmental conservation, including noise pollution.
- Absence of equity considerations in the strategy
- Importance of supply chain planning
- Simultaneous focus on clear and specific metrics, transparency, accountability, and inclusion of experts and representatives.

- Emphasis also drawn on the perspective of school board and it's large spaces of land, and the importance of partnerships, and considering the usage of green spaces beyond just percentages.
- Consider alternative, and environment friendly options in place of Lonsdale Energy Corporation (LEC)
- Breakdown of the presented strategies in smaller units to avoid overarching.
- Need for water conservation, strategies for it's sustainable usage and water metering equity.
- Necessity for handling land waste and community waste.

*Mr. D. Anderson, and M. Friesen
exited the committee meeting at 7:14pm*

7. Draft on Community Wellbeing Strategy

Heather Evans presented the following points:

- Considering the lively discussion held during the previous council session, the necessary steps have been taken to rectify identified errors and make several adjustments based on the conversation. The version of the Strategy under consideration today reflects these changes
- North Shore is projected to have approximately 63,000 more residents and 29,000 more jobs by 2050. Loneliness and Isolation are affecting our health. It increases the risk of early death from all causes by 50%, a health impact equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.
- The City works with over 150 partners and provides approximately \$4 Million in various forms of supportive funding to provide services and programs and to support community initiatives. There are six paths to move forward, and within such pathway is a policy direction and objective:
 - a) **Complete Communities:** The complete community's aims to improve quality of life and overall health outcomes by building neighbourhoods where daily needs are met within a 15 minute walk or roll of every home. This includes objectives to
 - Plan at the neighborhood scale
 - To deliver a range of community benefits and amenities – parks, arts, etc.
 - improve our public realm
 - and increase access to our daily needs like green space, work space and other land uses closer to home
 - Create safe and resilient neighborhoods – stewardship, volunteering, emergency preparedness.
 - b) **Housing for all:** 33% of City households are in unaffordable housing and 19% of households are in Core Housing Need Supporting those who are or are at risk of being unhoused. The objectives are:
 - Providing more non-market housing
 - Increasing options for middle income earners
 - Providing more missing middle housing forms, and supporting renters.
 - c) **A city for all ages:** Age is one aspect of many intersecting categories (gender, race, age, class, sexuality, religion, disability, weight, and physical appearance) that contribute to our identity and our experiences throughout life. This will include objectives to:

- Support a fun city
 - Improve accessibility, affordability, and quality of child care
 - Create more spaces for youth
 - Support seniors to age actively
 - And work with partners to support belonging for everyone.
- d) **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity + Accessibility (IDEA):** is about learning, recognizing, acknowledging, and deconstructing or removing historical and current systemic oppressions, colonialism, racism, marginalization, social inequities, and barriers. This will include objectives to
- Use an equity lens to shape our work
 - Focus on reducing and removing barriers
 - Provide training for staff
 - Use best practices to design for all
 - And increase community safety and comfort for everyone.
- e) **Poverty reduction + Inclusive economy:** Nearly a quarter of City households earn less than \$50,000 dollars a year. These households are struggling to meet their basic needs including food, housing, health care, and education. We see this in the cost of housing, but also in indicators like the NSNH foodbank which serves approximately 1100 people per week, which is up from 200 pre pandemic.
- This will include objectives to
 - Work with partners to improve access to supports and services including healthy food, child care, housing, mental and physical healthcare, and other social services
 - Promote living wages and community economic opportunities
 - And support new businesses.
- f) **Partnerships, Advocacy Financial Supports:** This will include objectives to
- Develop, engage, and maintain partnerships and relationships that are mutually beneficial
 - Commit and work towards truth and reconciliation
 - Advocate strategically on city priorities like housing, child care, and social support services
 - Provide supportive funding under a new framework focused on alignment with city priorities and desired outcomes
 - And actively invest in social infrastructure (spaces, places, services, and programs) in alignment with community needs

The members noted the following points:

- Requirement to update the existing 1988 plans to align with the present-day requirements, and the importance of establishing a policy structure for effective support, and implementation of the action plan.
- Concerns pertaining to overlapping strategies, particularly in housing, and clarification on how different aspects will be coordinated within the Overall Community Plan (OCP) framework.
- Discussion about short-term rental regulations, and the municipality's stance while awaiting provincial decisions.

- Importance of addressing equity and inclusion in the strategy, particularly in the context of providing covered outdoor spaces and improving mental health services for children.
- Distinction between accessibility and justice, and the focus on accessibility as a part of a holistic approach to well-being, emphasizing various aspects of inclusion.
- The need to consider indoor air quality, sustainable housing, and breathable living spaces, including strategies such as monitoring CO2 levels, and using environmentally-friendly materials.
- Suggestion to focus on the main objective, rather than detailed action plans to allow for flexibility and coordination among overlapping strategies.
- Recommendation to enhance references to Indigenous reconciliation and equity in the strategy's preamble.
- Proposal to categorize partnership listings into government (municipalities and others) and government relations sections
- Discussion on sharing the responsibility of child care with higher levels of government, and avoiding an undue burden on the municipality
- Suggestion to include recreation as an essential aspect of well-being, encompassing exercise, diet, social interaction, and cognitive stimulation.
- Ideas for addressing issues related to motor homes, and poverty including potential policies and regulations, as well as outreach programs and collaboration with social support networks.
- Emphasis on seeking direct input from affected individuals and involving them in the planning process to address individualized needs and preferences effectively.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING-

The date of the next meeting to be October 11, 2023

9. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:43pm.

**Meghan Mathieson
Chair**