



## MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at City Hall in Conference Room A and Electronically  
(Hybrid),  
141 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver, BC on October 11, 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 (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.*

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### **Members Present**

C. Dempster  
K. Balcom  
S. Luce  
M. Mathieson  
D. Anderson

Councillor D. Bell  
Councillor T. Valente

*\*participated electronically*

Y. Al-Nakeeb

### **Absent**

A. Rahbar  
S. Tornes

### **Staff Present**

Shreeya Tandon, Committee Clerk  
Renee de St. Croix, Manager, Long Range  
and Community Planning  
Anu Garcha, Planning Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.

### **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda for October 11, 2023 was adopted as circulated

**(Carried unanimously)**

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

### **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None business from the minutes

### **3. Council Update**

Councillor Don Bell discussed the progress made on the Strategic Plan. Budgets were also addressed as being underway, specifically for the years 2023-2027.

Councillor Don Bell provided a brief update on the North Shore Neighbourhood House project.

September 18-22<sup>nd</sup>, all councilors attended a conference at Union of British Columbia Municipalities conference. It provided an opportunity for councilors from across British Columbia to come together. The theme of the conference was balance, and there were many fruitful discussions on various topics.

#### **4. Staff Update**

R. St. Croix reported the following updates:

- The engagement period for both the Community Wellbeing Strategy and the Climate and Environment Strategy was extended to October 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- Next month the Commission will receive a presentation on the curb space and parking plan.
- An update on the findings of Phase 1 the Zoning Bylaw Update project and next steps will be brought to Council and then to the Commission in the Fall.
- The Provincial Government has been signaling the need for more housing and has indicated that they may provide legislated changes for single family zones across BC. Staff are monitoring this.
- The Federal Government is providing funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund to incentivize the delivery of more housing units.
- Notwithstanding to the above, there are concerns about the shortage of construction workers and materials, posing additional challenges to the housing system.
- Other upcoming projects to be presented to the Commission will include the Urban Forest Management Plan, OCP amendments, and more.

*Councillor T. Valente joined the meeting at 6:20pm*

#### **5. Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy & Climate and Environment Strategy**

R. St. Croix and A. Garcha reported the following updates on Community Wellbeing:

- Public engagement has been achieved through creating awareness for the project by advertising the project on website, and Lets Talk, print and digital outreach, along with networks outreach.
- Additionally, public surveys, 2 page strategy summary, dedicated emails, pop-ups and events are also the channels that have been used.
- The targeted community engagement effort, which involved meetings, school outreach, and listening sessions were appreciated. These sessions were particularly successful because the City proactively reached out to individuals not typically reached and do not typically engage or are not able to engage in these processes. To enhance inclusivity, translator's proficient in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Farsi were used, facilitating discussions and gathering feedback. Moreover, listening sessions were conducted in women's shelters,

providing residents with the opportunity to directly communicate with the City, fostering meaningful relationships. The residents appreciated this interaction and have requested the City's return in the future.

- Approximately 1,200 people have so far engaged in conversation, within which 75+ surveys have been submitted, 900+ visitors to the Let's Talk engagement platform webpage, 30,000+ social media impressions.
- Community Wellbeing Strategy
  - A generally positive response has been received, it's easy to read and understand, covers the needed areas etc.
  - There have been inquiries about how the objectives will be realized in actions.
  - Amongst the concerns shared, housing affordability has been the most often mentioned concern.
  - The feedback received through the partnership pathway was highly positive. There were discussions about financial aspects and advocacy efforts. One notable aspect was the implementation of electronic granting processes.
  - There was a clear demand for more spaces dedicated to our aging population, enabling them to age in place comfortably.
  - There have been numerous presentations, and engagement at numerous at Community Group Meetings- including all 9 core funded agencies, plus a variety of Community Tables, and Committees, non-profit organizations, North Vancouver Recreational and Culture Commission, City agencies, City Committees, and other governments.
- Climate and Environment Strategy
  - The residents welcomed the strategy and were generally positive.
  - Concerns shared included smoke events caused by wildfires, heat domes, and the impact of drought on trees. There were worries about the damage to trees and forests due to these environmental challenges. Additionally, concerns were raised about mobility issues and the overheating of apartments, posing heating-related problems. Another concern was the isolation experienced by individuals living alone and the need for education on how to address these challenges.
  - Residents have suggested the importance of creating safe, pedestrian-friendly roads with ample trees for shade, especially during extreme heat.
  - They stressed the need for empowered choices, supporting local initiatives, and conducting workshops on repairing old appliances. The community also suggested having repair cafes in libraries, focusing not only on textiles but also on repairing bikes and various other items.

The members noted and discussed the following points:

- There were inquiries made regarding the experience with grade 5 students, questioning whether this initiative could be conducted annually as a part of their curriculum. The idea was to integrate municipal awareness into their syllabus. The proposal included involving school principals to facilitate this engagement.
- Municipalities must recognize the challenges posed by rapid growth, understanding that the situation is escalating. It is crucial to temper our expectations and comprehend the municipal role in this effort. The city cannot tackle these issues single-handedly; instead, collaboration with the province is essential. Working together is key.
- The participants expressed appreciation for the draft, highlighting the numerous engagement opportunities. They emphasized the importance of having a budget to support these engagements, and having a policy in place facilitates the transition from objectives to actual implementation.

- There are concerns about the significantly low water levels in various areas, and this is putting a strain on available resources.
- Regarding the mobility strategy, there is a pressing need for an improved public transportation network. The current number of vehicles on the roads is exceptionally high. It's crucial to consider the needs of our senior citizens and disabled individuals and would like to see a more comprehensive and accessible public transportation system to cater to their requirements effectively.
- There is also a need for additional policies outlining the specifics of accessibility, especially considering it was a component of IDEA. It's important to understand what accessibility truly means from a municipal standpoint.
- Regarding drinking water, there is a growing awareness among people about the decreasing snowpack in the summer, impacting the availability of water. The discussion focused on the actions that the City of North Vancouver (CNV) can take to support Metro Vancouver for potable water.
- In the final CES, there is a strong desire from the community to see clear metrics, accountability, and transparency regarding CNV's initiatives. People are eager to understand what CNV is doing and how these efforts will be translated into concrete actions.
- There was discussion about receiving information from Metro Vancouver. It was emphasized that there is currently no imminent threat of running out of drinking water. However, the absence of metered water usage poses a challenge. Implementing metered water systems could reduce consumption and help identify leaks. The complexity arises when trying to educate the public, especially when information previously learned in high school becomes outdated. Additionally, it was noted that not all environmental investments yield the same results. Differentiating between these investments is crucial for effective decision-making.
- Climate anxiety emerged as a significant concern during discussions related to mental health. It was noted that people often feel overwhelmed by the climate crisis. In response, the City of North Vancouver (CNV) can offer concrete, tangible solutions that truly make a difference. This means providing practical examples. Offering real, actionable solutions can help alleviate climate anxiety and empower individuals to make meaningful changes.
- Emissions primarily stem from buildings and transportation. The city aims to target actions where they have the most impact. While not directly managing transit, they have authority over streets and active transportation initiatives. Plans are in motion for mid-town bike route, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive network.
- Concerns about the city receiving a limited budget, around 8-11 cents per dollar, making partnerships crucial. Collaborative efforts are vital to achieve below market housing. Municipalities advocate through UBCM, with the Mayor writing letters on behalf of the council. Specific issues, like side truck guards or tenant rights, are raised with provincial and federal governments. Challenges faced by electric vehicle owners, such as charging issues and bike-related concerns, necessitate advocacy for tenant rights in rental situations.
- LEC & zoning can contribute to emissions reductions, affecting everything from water bottles to clothes. Efforts and discussion to transition LEC are ongoing. New buildings aim for zero emissions, but existing buildings pose a challenge.
- Several mass timber housing projects are underway in Metro Vancouver, allowing for buildings up to 15 storeys. Mass timber construction is fast but can initially be costly due to limited availability, until the industry really catches up. Standardized designs, supported by the city, could expedite the process. Buildings, even new ones, remain significant sources of emissions, emphasizing the need for sustainable construction methods.
- Designing passive houses presents challenges due to the substantial carbon footprint during construction and increased power usage for air circulation. Builders often lack the necessary expertise. In Japan, cross-laminated timber proves efficient, reducing labor, on-

site time, and noise. Construction time is 50% faster, causing minimal disruption. The City's Chief Building Officer is very aware of mass timber advancements, positioning us at the forefront. Cost reduction is anticipated as these practices become more common.

*K. Balcom left at 7:40pm*

- Members emphasized the necessity of collaboration and directness in addressing challenges related to the transportation network and emission reduction.
- Shifting the focus to the wellbeing strategy, concerns were raised about accessibility. A point of contention arose from a poorly worded statement: the accessibility plan was mistakenly conflated with the wellbeing strategy. Staff have clarified that these are distinct aspects. Currently, accessibility is embedded across various policy documents, so staff will provide a document with all the policies to support better reference to these policies and so that people can find the policies more easily.

*K. Balcom joined at 7:40pm*

- It was acknowledged that City of North Vancouver made necessary changes to rectify overlooked issues before they became public. However, staff noted that there is still work to be done. Regarding provincial legislature, there's a call for an action plan that requires regular review every three years. Collaborating with ACDI, there will be an action framework or workplan and then have a document that highlights all the policies related to accessibility and where they are located. This will enable active referencing of policies and a focus on the practical action components. A unanimous consensus emerged on the need for a reference document. This document should comprehensively list all our efforts, acting as a centralized resource. It would link all the embedded accessibility components across various areas like transportation and housing, allowing individuals to easily access information about accessibility initiatives.
- In the motion to support both the Strategies, members specifically requested strengthening connections between strategies. The outlined sever key ideas to be considered as staff finalize the strategies through a resolution.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING-**

The date of the next meeting to be November 8, 2023

**7. ADJOURN**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.

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**Meghan Mathieson  
Chair**