

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
Regular meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Held via WEBEX
On Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Raashi Ahluwalia
Kate Galicz, Vice Chair
Anna Boltenko
Jasreen Janjua
June Maynard
Martyna Purchla
Etienne Normandin-Poitras
Tina Parbhakar, Chair

Angela Girard, Councillor

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Cristina Rucci, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk / Admin
Coordinator II
Renée de St. Croix, Manager, Long Range &
Community Planning

9 members – quorum = 5

1 Councillor (non-voting) 2 staff (non-voting)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNCEDED TERRITORY

3. WELCOME BACK AND WELCOME NEW STAFF

Cristina introduced herself and gave an update on the staff representative position for SPAC.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The approval of the minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2021 was moved and seconded and the minutes were adopted as circulated.

5. PRESENTATION

a) **Community Well-Being Strategy**

R. de St. Croix presented.

Key points included:

- This is a follow up to our presentation to SPAC in May. We are excited to report that we have gone live with public consultation.
- To provide input go to www.letstalk.cnv.org/community-wellbeing until October 31.
- We will be collecting public input via the public survey, a business/organization survey, information guides, stakeholder meetings, online presentations and small in-person pop-up events.
- There is also a Survey Guide and additional information available on the CNV website: www.cnv.org/wellbeing

Questions & Comments:

- Mental health is very important. We want to create and support imbedding consideration for mental health into municipal services and policies.
- Is it broad in terms of what each category contains? Do we have low cost counseling service available? What about more serious mental health concerns?
 - One of the biggest challenges has been that we have a massive amount of different areas to address and we are trying to make this a way of how we're going to do business differently. Around mental health, we want to be more supportive, have acknowledgement, training, a few actions that we can do in the next 10 years.
 - This area is very broad intentionally so that we have flexibility to adapt over time.
- In relation to the mental health piece, I agree that it is really important but tricky. Has there been a conversation with support services, not only at municipal but provincial level. How could we integrate with the Foundry and other mental health services?
 - Many of the things under the plan require us to work with other organizations. We want to partner with non-profits and VCH and want to be more intentional in our actions.
 - What groups do we need to partner with and how do we support projects? We want to have those conversations early.
- Housing for all is a hot topic these days.
 - The City is currently working on the Housing Needs Report; it is providing good insights into what is needed. The key components are to look at the spectrum of housing and what are the gaps.
- The arts and culture aspect falls under social infrastructure. Sometimes it is hard to measure the impact of arts and culture.
 - The City has robust cultural components. This does fall mostly under social infrastructure. We debated it having its own strategy but concluded that we have a robust enough sector that it can sit under this component. The City also does a lot of programming through children, seniors, etc.
- SPAC members present summarized the areas of the strategy they are most interested in:
 - Mental health
 - Reconciliation
 - Safety
 - General public safety component, i.e. opioid crisis, violence.
 - Stratification of coach houses or smaller properties.
- In terms of reconciliation, was "truth" left out of the title on purpose?
 - Not specifically. It was considered as a part of the educational components being considered for this strategy. An excellent point and we will fix that.

- So excited by what I'm seeing; this strategy is hugely comprehensive. When the City is collecting data from the public, is it being compiled numerically to inform priorities for the community?
 - Not everything that counts can be counted. Yes – we are looking at both quantitative data and qualitative data to inform priorities. It's important to note that we don't have the same level of research into return on investment for social infrastructure so it's harder to explain the value. When we're thinking about this, the goal is to have the conversations, recognize there is value and how important this is.
 - As for the data that is being collected through the survey, we are test driving a new platform, and will be interested to find out how people feel about it. It has excellent data capture. We have also tried to leave space for people to express personal experiences so we can better implement and shape our policies.
- Regarding budgeting for this strategy, is it going to be supported through various departments or have its own line item?
 - Budget is going to be fun! There is a lot here. Have been having conversations internally; probably will be a budget line for this and will also be line items in others areas where there are specific separate things. Combo of both. We are still working on what the budgeting will look like, particularly once we have the defined actions.
- When we saw this presentation in May, I asked about education. Any updates there?
 - We had quite a lot of discussion on this. It was generally felt that education is not within the City's scope, however we do need to work with School District #44 as a partner and are looking for other ways to integrate education and partnerships in the Strategy.

b) **2021 Round 2 Community Grant Update**

The Community Planner advised that the City has received 20 applications, most from repeat applicants, a few new applicants not seen before.

We will send the applications out to members the first week of October, if not before. We have a new form for reviewers. The form was shared and SPAC members agreed they would like to try it this round.

6. UPDATES

▪ **Councillor**

- There was a Notice of Motion from Council as a whole regarding equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation. The idea is to identify appropriate strategies and key partners; we have set aside resources to support this and are looking at how we can fulfil recommendations.
- A few rental projects have been approved. All of them will have some below market rentals. Former tenants have first priority.
- Council passed a motion on Safe Passing Distance for All Road Users. This requires drivers to provide 1 metre of space at speeds 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 metres of space at speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) passed this motion as well and the request has now gone to the Province for consideration.
- The Esplanade Complete Street project is up and coming; funding has been accrued.

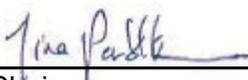
- Council approved a rental project on East 4th Street with child care. The building will not have parking.
- The Residential Tenant Displacement Policy Update was approved.
- The Mayor brought forward a Notice of Motion regarding Child Care Design Guidelines. Staff have been directed to report back to Council.
- The funds were appropriated funds for the park land acquisition at 1600 Eastern Avenue. This will be a welcome addition.
- A Notice of Motion was passed with respect to seeking more Rent to Own housing options in the City. Staff have been directed to research the concept and report back.
- The current Harry Jerome Recreation Centre is moving. Funds have been appropriated to retrofit Mickey McDougall for Flicka Gymnastics.
- **Staff**
 - The Community Wellbeing Strategy is our biggest piece of work right now.
 - We were successful in our application for the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program grant and are working on implementation. This work will be done across the three North Shore municipalities in conjunction with the Lookout Shelter, local First Nations, and the library to support vulnerable populations.
 - Regarding a Notion of Motion on after school care, we have been actively pursuing options for new spaces. Will come back to SPAC with more information soon.
 - Mahon Park Child care plus other child care facilities are underway.
 - We are working with the Hey Neighbour collective around seniors. Will bring back to this group soon; we are currently in the fact finding and research phase.
 - The City received Covid restart funds for food security. We are hoping to support community members in food security actions; more info to come.
 - Core funding and grants reviews are ongoing, also within the lens of the Wellbeing Strategy.
 - We are working on a variety of homelessness action components; the homelessness taskforce has a new strategic plan.
 - Duplex Special Study is going to Council on October 18 for 1st and 2nd Reading.

7. ROUND TABLE

- The Community Intergenerational project is gaining momentum; has been approved for funding to next spring. Happy to send out a summary sheet of what we are doing. As part of Phase 2. A researcher from SFU will be interviewing Mayor Buchanan on Friday about how the City has facilitated intergenerational cooperation through public spaces.
- Working on a project to spread restorative justice up the Sea to Sky. There is now a pilot and the mayors of Whistler and Squamish have received presentations. We are looking at options for those areas to have a restorative justice route. Important work and exciting to see an idea come to fruition.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



 Chair

November 22, 2021

 Date