

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
Regular meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Held via WEBEX
On Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Etienne Normandin-Poitras, Vice Chair
Anna Boltenko (joined at 6:45 pm)
Arash Ehteshami
Jasreen Janjua
Jolene Kennett
Tina Parbhakar

ABSENT:

Naz Kohan, Chair
Kate Galicz

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk
Leah Herman, Coordinator, Community
Development
Julia Spitale, Public Space & Events
Assistant

Angela Girard, Councillor

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 by the Vice-Chair at 6:04 p.m.

The approval of the agenda was moved and seconded and the agenda was approved as circulated.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNCEDED TERRITORY

3. PRESENTATIONS

a) Placemaking in the City During COVID-19

L. Herman and J. Spitale presented.

Key Points included:

- In May 2020, Council endorsed a pandemic recovery framework outlining the City's efforts and actions to respond.
- Reallocating street space in the Lonsdale corridor, in conjunction with the City's Open Streets initiative, was part of this response. The purpose was to create more space for the public to move safely through the City and to support economic and social recovery.

- Existing placemaking efforts and Parklets were expanded to support the Open Streets Action Plan and existing inventory was used.
- Planter barrier gardens were installed from 14th to 17th to define Open Streets sections.
- The pandemic provided an opportunity for the Parklets program to grow quickly. Distinct from other street activation, Parklets provide a protected space with an extended platform and are public spaces for everyone to use.
- Parklet partnerships were formed due to limited resources. Businesses, community and local industry; United Way of the Lower Mainland, Neptune Terminals, SeaSpan and the Lower Lonsdale BIA all became partners.
- Over the summer of 2020, five unique Parklets were implemented and another two were positioned in the fall.
- There are also two shipping container Parklets in the City. These are outdoor spaces that can be used year round.
- Other Placemaking initiatives during COVID-19 included: a Barklet for dogs, Murals of Gratitude, Buckets of Hope and virtual busking.

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- We really appreciate the Barklet; great thing to have in the City, there should be more.
- Applaud the work being done on the Parklets and animating streets. Some residences have been negative around the loss of parking but most people realize and appreciate having more space to connect.
- Do you think there will be research done around the long term impacts in terms of economic development?
 - It is hard to measure the success of a public space. City Studio did some video work. There are groups that offer that survey and we are looking at it now that we are in for the long haul.
- Great to see all the Parklets on a map! The shipping container at 5th and Chesterfield is always packed. Great success. How clean and sanitary are the parklets on Lonsdale? It is good to hear there is a stewardship program associated with them.
 - We have tried to reduce the high touch spaces as much as possible and are constantly working with our Operations team around that
- Encourage the City to make investments in planning and evaluations. That will keep initiatives like these sustainable.

b) COVID-19 Impacts on Seniors and Seniors' Services on the North Shore

M. Coates presented.

Key Points included:

- Sixteen percent of the City's population are seniors and this is likely going to rise by 20% in the coming years.
- Trending challenges for seniors on the North Shore include housing and homelessness, transportation, poverty, increasing isolation, mental health issues and COVID-19.
- The pandemic has been especially challenging for seniors due to higher death rates, increased isolation and loneliness, decreased mental and physical ability and increased mental health issues.

- Reasons for these impacts include decreased social interaction due to distancing measures, self isolation at home, seniors' organizations are closed or minimally open and daily activities such as shopping and meeting friends have had to be curtailed.
- Temporary closure of most senior serving organizations or reduction in programming for seniors has also had a big impact.
- Organizations have pivoted to virtual programming and services for exercise classes, sing-a-longs, discussion groups, book clubs and more.
- New programs have emerged since the onset of COVID-19 such as food delivery and meal pick ups, gift packages and training sessions for seniors on how to use new technologies.

Questions/Comments:

- Love the kindness cards!
- Can you explain the relationship between Lionsview and various other seniors' organizations? What is your organization's role?
 - Lionsview provides a unique service; we don't provide services directly but we try to bring seniors' groups and seniors together to education, raise awareness, advocate, etc.
- How do you identify seniors in need? How do you partner seniors with organizations?
 - Through the Seniors Coalition, various organizations identify the needs of seniors in the community.
- What are the continued needs that you see with dealing with these issues?
 - There are programs that are operating that have been providing a lot of volunteers to support seniors in the community. Not sure in terms of multicultural but will put that on the agenda for the next Coalition meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of November 25, 2020 was moved and seconded and the minutes were adopted as circulated.

5. UPDATES

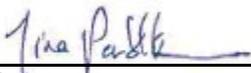
- Councillor
 - a. In late November, Council approved a large strata multi family project located between St. Davids and St. Patricks on East 3rd.
 - b. The Child Care Action Plan was approved.
 - c. Council approved an extension of funding for action on homelessness for work to be done over 3 years.
 - d. Council recently approved funding for Westview Elementary playground funding; this is the first one in new uptake of a program for providing funding for upgrades to playgrounds of City schools.
 - e. Council made a decision regarding the closure of Harry Jerome Recreation Centre for the end of 2021. Construction will begin mid-2022 with the delivery of the new facility by 2025.
- Staff
 - a. Deadline for Community Grants applications coming up this Friday.
 - b. Neighbourhood Grants are coming up. These are administered through North Shore Neighbourhood House.

- c. Staff are working on providing review and comment on Metro 2040 – Regional Update. This is a mostly a land use plan, but does include a social planning element.
- d. Have been working with North Shore Multicultural Society on Resilient BC which involves funding for anti-racism. There are a number of agencies meeting to talk about what that looks like and creating protocols for dealing with racist and hate acts that happen in our community.
- e. In February, staff will be working with a group through the North Shore Immigrant Inclusion partnership regarding immigrants’ experiences and journeys to leadership roles on the North Shore.
- f. Many thanks to departing members: Arash Ehteshami, Naz Kohan and Heather Urquhart.

6. ROUND TABLE

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Chair

February 24, 2021

Date