

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

**Meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission
Held via WebEx on Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020**

MINUTES

Present: Y. Al-Nakeeb
K. Balcom
A. Rahbar
S. Tornes
A. Wilson
C. Castro
M. McCorkindale
M. Tasi Baker
Councillor Hu
Councillor McIlroy

Staff: R. de St. Croix, Manager, Planning & Development
R. Fish, Committee Clerk, Planning & Development
H. Evans, Community Planner, Planning & Development

Absent: S. Huber
B. Thorburn

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:02PM

1. **Acknowledgement of Unceded Territory**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of October 14th 2020**

It was regularly moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission held October 14th, 2020 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

4. **Business Arising**

Staff suggested discussing items for next year at the Round Table.

5. **Staff Update**

Staff provided an update on ongoing projects with the City.

6. Child Care Action Plan

The Community Planner, Planning & Development gave a presentation on the Child Care Action Plan. The main points included but were not limited to the following:

- Completed surveys and workshops of parents, childcare facilities and staff.
- Conducted focus groups with people who have experienced challenges reaching child care services.
- Child care needs are currently at 25 spaces per 100 children in the City. The highest access is 43 per 100.
- Infant and toddler are 20 per 100, with the lowest being 9 per 100 for school age programs.
- Child care facilities struggle with filling staff positions.
- Results are measured over time.
- The vision is to improve child care in the City over next 10 years by collaborating with partners, creating new spaces and advocating for accessible, affordable and quality child care.
- Targets for child care spaces by 2031 are based on the population of children and number of spaces we currently have available.
 - 299 new spaces for infant and toddler
 - 300 new spaces for preschool (3-5)
 - 464 new spaces for school age (6-9)
- Four priorities:
 - 1 – increasing accessibility
 - 2 – improving affordability
 - 3 – Focusing on quality
 - 4 – Strengthening partnerships
- Six key actions:
 - Develop a funding strategy with senior government for new spaces
 - Leverage City-owned and public assets for child care
 - Achieve targets for creation of child care spaces in the City
 - Set direction for achieving new spaces through development
 - Build partnership and protocol with the School District for child care
 - Work with partners and advocate for the City's child care needs and investments
- Resources and implementation
 - Policy development
 - Capital projects
 - Coordination

Questions/Comments from the Commission included but were not limited to:

- What barriers and challenges do you see to achieving your targets and how do the actions address those barriers? **A:** One barrier for public child care spaces is that they can't do it on their own. They have other mandates. We need senior government support to afford to provide capital facilities. We also need to balance amenities with community needs. It is a challenge to find space that is affordable but it is possible within the City. There are challenges on both the capital and investment side. In terms of actions, we need to look at key locations and leveraging the City and public assets for child care to get them shovel ready.

- It is the same as why don't we have affordable housing, we need help from other partnerships. It becomes a complex solution to the problem.
- Staff: The City is working with the government to create opportunities for the City to explore partnerships with the School Board to help move the dial.
- In 10 years we will need 1063 spaces, with 30 children per daycare which would be 35 more centers.
- Looking at international best practices, what have you found in your research?
A: Some are closer to home too. There is a community on the island that completed an add-on to some of its community facilities, just for child care. There are some examples in the EU of putting child care with facilities for older adults in public centers. We have seen lots of reusing of existing facilities, like churches.
- There have been some interesting conversations around child care with respect to the pandemic impacting women more and how the actual model of traditional child care isn't working for a lot of people.
- We need to be creative with what the child care model should look like.
- An organization in Vancouver is trying to start a rental program for a co-working desk with child care.
- We need to look at licensing limitations as well. We can advocate for different types of models and how the current system is causing a lot of problems.
- Staff: The biggest issue is that the hours and location don't include commuting time. This plan will facilitate and encourage new programs and set us up to have those conversations and broaden and deepen the language around child care.
- There are so few spaces for ages 6-9, is it the physical space or the hours? **A:** It's challenging to do just before and after school care, it's often paired with other types of child care to make it a worth while thing to do. Most people need child care to go longer. It's often not facilitated by the schools where it's needed the most, which creates a shortage of spaces.
- There have been changes at the provincial level that make it easier for schools to licence child care and there have been discussions about moving the responsibility of child care to the Ministry of Education.
- There are a broad range of incomes and in terms of affordability, certain demographics here have an income that could easily afford child care that is more expensive. The locations that are more expensive have spots available. **A:** That's the difference between for profit and not-for-profit child care. Higher parent fees have availability while others don't.
- Partnerships with developers are important in order to provide space for City-owned facilities.
- Large companies have the capability to provide child care on-site.
- We need to look at providing incentives to small-medium business owners to help provide smaller child care for employees on-site.
- Moving daycare under the Ministry of Education will change a lot of things.
- We need a plan to support women going back to work after COVID-19.
- How has COVID-19 affected the child care policy, did it affect survey collection and did it affect the time line? **A:** The survey was conducted before COVID-19, so it wasn't affected. In terms of child care and COVID-19, the province declared child care as essential service which brought to light the importance of child care. The federal discussion has recognized the importance and a federal child care strategy as a recovery mechanism for the economy may boost the federal support around child care. During the earlier months of COVID-19, the local response was great. Both school districts provided child care facilities for service

workers which was a creative response. This boosts confidence for more partnership and collaboration for child care.

- For and not-for profit have a role to play in this. This can be fully within the City's control. The market can take care of itself in the for-profit space. Permissible use in the zoning can be eased or restricted depending on what we want to see. If you are adding child care as a use, the Child Care Plan has no chance to out bid the other tenants that don't have the same restrictions and can be more profitable. Child care gets thrown in as a use along with retail unfortunately. This can be within the City's control.
- A property tax break could be mutually beneficial to incentivise accepting more child care tenants. The public child care space is a tricky one, more residential areas might be a good idea.
- Policy business licensing initiatives should evolve to reflect the new reality. It requires creative solutions, pushing and restricting uses to more residential areas and spreading them out across the City.
- Staff: There are comments in the Plan about reviewing zoning, action items that speak to a lot of the issues around location and making sure they are throughout the City. The real question will be around implementation and moving forward with the items as we can.

C. Castro left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

7. Round Table

The Commission discussed potential topics and strategies for discussion for next year.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, February 10th, 2020.

"Certified Correct by the Chair"

Chair