



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 May 8, 2024

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

Members Present

S. Luce
M. Mathieson
D. Anderson
S. Tornes
Y. Al-Nakeeb (participated electronically)
Councillor D. Bell (participated electronically)
Councillor H. Back

Staff Present

Renee de St. Croix, Manager, Long Range & Community Planning
Heather Evans, Community Planner
Sarah Friesen, Administrative Coordinator

Absent

A. Rahbar
C. Dempster

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

Land acknowledgement.

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda for May 8, 2024 was adopted as circulated.

(Carried unanimously)

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 10, 2024 were approved as circulated.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

An update was requested on the adoption of the new legislation. **A:** During last month's meeting, we briefly reviewed the new legislation, including short term rentals, Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH), Transit Oriented Area (TOA) designations, development financing tools, the release of Bill 16 for inclusionary zoning, and Transportation Demand Management. Changes to the Local Government Act are still

occurring, so the details are not fully available to us yet. Our first deadline is June 30th, 2024, following by a Housing-Needs Report to be included in the Official Community Plan (OCP).

Notable Questions and Comments from Members:

- Is Phibbs Exchange a TOA? Is there anywhere else in the City that meets the TOA criteria? **A:** Yes, although Phibbs Exchange is within the District of North Vancouver. We don't know if any other locations are candidates because TOAs are determined by the Province.
- With the upcoming election, could any of the recent proposed legislation change? **A:** It's possible, but the new government would have to rescind or change the legislation, which would raise a lot of interesting questions.
- Does the City have someone who reviews these changes and provide a summary to decision-makers? **A:** This is a team effort between staff and external stakeholders.
- Is the City interested in ways which we could meet requirements of the law and protect trees during this process? **A:** The City of North Vancouver and Metro Vancouver are actively working on an urban forest plan to enable appropriate greenspace and vegetation. As we move forward with street typology work, we are integrating this into the plan. This is tricky with the City's increasing density.
- Adding laneway homes could be a way of densifying and reducing impact to tree canopies.

4. **COMMUNITY WELLBEING STRATEGY**

H. Evans, Community Planner, presented a recap of the Community Wellbeing Strategy (CWS) through a PowerPoint presentation. The strategy development is nearly complete, so staff wish to provide an update and ask for the committee's feedback.

The CWS aims to create a City where everyone belongs and has opportunities to thrive, with a focus on connection, equity and investment.

The path forward (also known as "Pathway 6") includes the following categories:

1. Complete Communities,
2. Housing for All,
3. A City Where People of All Ages Can Live,
4. Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,
5. Poverty Reduction and Developing an Inclusive Economy, and
6. Partnerships, Advocacy and Financial Supports (The City partners with many levels of government and non-profits to make this possible).

During the public engagement phase in fall and winter 2023, staff heard the following feedback:

- There is agreement with what we are trying to achieve, the focus areas, and direction in the six pathways
- A desire to see more on how the 'objectives' will be realized in 'actions'
- Request to share more stories and humanizing elements in the strategy
- Housing affordability is the most often mentioned concern or stress
- Key themes of mental health and equity

- Review and input from Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation) throughout, especially related to collaboration, education and engagement in the work the City undertakes as reflected in the Strategy.
- Create clearer definitions in the IDEA Pathway
- Accessibility components could be strengthened
- The City is appreciated as a partner and 'Pathway 6' has strong support
- Strong support for complete communities
- More emphasis requested on aging in place and the supports needed to do so
- Stronger connections are needed throughout CWS efforts and other City policy documents

Revisions underway to the strategy include:

- Review and input from the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation) throughout, especially related to collaboration, education and engagement in the work the City undertakes as reflected in the strategy
- Responding to changes in Provincial legislation related to housing and affordability
- Integrating a mental health and equity lens throughout the entire process
- Update to 'Pathway 4' (Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)
 - The title of this pathway has been updated
 - Language refined to better explain the definitions
 - Accessibility review and updates
- Integrating other City strategies for continuity
- Better reflecting the City's partnerships with community groups, non-profit organizations and municipal affiliations
- Establishing priority projects
- Adding indicators to determine if the City is working towards or away from the targets, as well as a glossary to provide clarity on unfamiliar terms

Notable Questions and Comments from Members:

- What consultation have you had with other community members? Some committees believe there should be a separate legislation around accessibility. **A:** We have engaged with a variety of groups, including several meetings with ACDI (North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues). This is not an accessibility plan, but rather our plan has accessibility components.
- Will staff distribute the report out to the community groups to gain their feedback on it? **A:** We met with a lot of our non-profit partners, and the breadth of the public survey was extensive. Positive feedback has been received.
- Councillor Bell has noticed the public likes to be involved during multiple touch-points, not just the formative stages of a project.
- A member shared about the book *Invisible Women* describing a city in Sweden that brought a feminist lens to municipal processes. Doing so resulted in

significant cost savings in infrastructure and healthcare. Perhaps the City of North Vancouver could adopt a similar approach. **A:** The City has an Equity, Leadership and Inclusion Leader on staff to encourage a variety of perspectives in City initiatives.

- What indicators do staff have in mind? Can more information be shared from a municipal perspective? **A:** There will be an activity this evening outlining the indicators and APC members will have an opportunity to provide their advice.
- How will the City ensure 'Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policies' will be more than lip service? **A:** Staff believe this will become increasingly visible during the strategy's implementation over the long-term.
- The strategy should consider the unhoused and their relationship to other residents. **A:** This falls within the affordable housing elements by asking how people's experience in poverty can be made better through Poverty Reduction Pathways.
- As developments are erected, the homeless are often pushed out further. Data management could analyze individuals over time to see if they're taking a ladder up or pushed into a new municipality.
- We could be doing more to provide the homeless with training, clothing and dignity. This could look like having access to shower facilities and laundry within a tiny house. Many turn a blind eye to this issue, and it's time to do something about it. **A:** It all comes down to land and money. One of the strategy's tactics involves access to laundry facilities and a daytime space. Many of the efforts addressing homelessness are concentrated through BC Housing.

The group participated in an activity to provide feedback on staff's proposed indicators for the strategy. A list of indicators from each of the Pathway 6 categories were taped to the walls. Members put stickers next to the items they resonated with, or wrote their own ideas on sticky notes. Those participating electronically sent in their responses via email.

The highest votes for each category were:

1. Complete Communities: Improved local access to needs and service ratios for social infrastructure (parks, child care and groceries).
2. Housing: A tie between housing affordability (proportion of income spent on housing) and the suitability of housing conditions such as renter households living in overcrowded situations.
3. A City for All Ages: Early childhood development (kindergarten) and middle year's social and emotional health and well-being.
4. Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Usage of City spaces – who is using the space and how are the spaces being used (public life surveys).
5. Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Economy: Monitoring the low income population (families, seniors, children) and the Low Income Cut Off (LICO measure).
6. Partnerships, Advocacy and Financial Supports: Formalized relationships between the City and key organizations.

Because many of the categories are quite broad, identifying priority projects through the stickers can help staff determine tangible courses of action.

Staff thanked the committee for their time and input.

1. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is June 12, 2024.

2. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Certified Correct by the Chair

Meghan Mathieson
Chair