



## MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at City Hall in Conference Room A  
141 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver, BC on January 24, 2024

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

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### **Members Present**

Anna Boltenko, Chair  
Kate Galicz, Vice-Chair  
Farnoosh Fallah  
Catherine Kingfisher  
Olga Kens  
Kathy McGrenera  
Tim Page  
Zeyus Spenta  
Liza Feris

Tony Valente, Councillor

### **Absent**

None

### **Staff Present**

Heather Evans, Community Planner  
Edytha Barker, Administrative Coordinator II  
Emily Macdonald, Planner 2

### **Guests Present**

Barbara MacMillan, Director of Donor Relations & Community Engagement. West Vancouver Foundation  
Elaine McHarg, Director, North Shore Community Foundation

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

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

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of November 22, 2023 were adopted as circulated.

### **3. UPDATES**

#### a) Councillor

- Council gave third reading to Bylaw No. 9006 which authorizes the borrowing of \$55,700,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority to fund the City's portion of the North Shore Neighbourhood House Phase 2 Redevelopment, Kings Mill Walk Park and 1600 Eastern Park projects. Phase 1 is currently under construction and will deliver five stories of non-profit rental housing and a seniors' respite centre.

#### b) Staff

- There are many recent Provincial legislative changes that impact municipalities; staff will provide an update at a future meeting.
- Staff have been working on Building Social Connections, a program with SFU and Happy Cities. This is about learning how to build social connections among

residents. CNV and five other municipalities are doing this work; currently we are going through the process of receiving information. We will be updating the guidelines to make them more evidence based.

#### 4. PRESENTATION – ZONING BYLAW UPDATE PROJECT

E. Macdonald presented the following highlights regarding the Zoning Bylaw Project Phase 1 Summary.

- When this project was presented to SPAC in June of 2023, we were in the middle of Phase 1. We are now working on Phase 2 which includes drafting the new zoning bylaw.
- This presentation, reporting on the findings of Phase 1, was given to Council in November of 2023. It is now being shared with Advisory Committees.
- The findings of the Zoning Bylaw Audit are: the City had 81 use definitions, 155 general definitions (many of which are outdated), 36 standard zones and 583 Comprehensive Development (CD) zones.
- Using CD zones has been common practice since the 1950s. However, they now make up 73% of the City's Zoning Bylaw by page count.
- We learned that there are challenges around the Zoning Bylaw related to navigation, overlaps, inefficiencies and outdated definitions.
- Overall, it was found that many regulations do not reflect current City objectives.
- The second component of Phase 1 was an emerging practice review. Eleven municipalities with newer zoning bylaws were looked at.
- We learned seven key takeaways from the Emerging Practice Review; some of these include shifting to form base zoning, alignment with municipal objectives, consolidation of zones and clear communication of requirements.
- The Phase 1 public engagement took place June through August of 2023. The intent was to build awareness, share information and seek input on the process and needs of the Zoning Bylaw.
- Outcomes including: we spoke to about 650 people in person, we delivered 12 presentations to City staff and advisory committees and 226 total survey responses were submitted.
- Key themes from engagement included more housing options, housing affordability, support for car-free or car-light areas, protection of the tree canopy and more.
- Eight key directions for next steps were identified.
- Phase 2 is now underway and will run to late summer 2024.
- Upcoming steps for Phase 2 include: design work to draft and test new zoning regulations, developing a document outline, style and graphic language and ongoing communications and engagement with the public, stakeholders and key user-groups.

Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

- Will there be updates to the City's bylaws before the end of this project due to new provincial legislation?
  - E. Macdonald: The end of this project is end the end of 2024, the provincial deadline for changing bylaws to enable multi-unit residential buildings in some of the City's low-density neighbourhoods is June 30, 2024.

- Will you be aligning with the new parking requirements? No indoor or onsite parking for new units.
  - E. Macdonald: The new legislation for these multi-unit buildings prohibits us from requiring any minimum parking for properties that are close to frequent transit.
- Can you explain DPAs and CD zones?
  - E. Macdonald: DPAs have to be identified in the OCP and there have to be specific reasons for it, i.e. Moodyville Guidelines include form and character elements, as well as sustainability guidelines. The intent is to create a consistent neighbourhood character or design priorities, or achieve certain sustainability goals for a whole neighbourhood. Within CNV, all of our current DPAs give staff authority to issue the Development Permit, provided that the established guidelines have been followed. CD zones are the result of a rezoning process, meaning a property-owner who wishes to redevelop their property must submit a development proposal that staff review against applicable bylaws and policies and then take to Council for consideration. Council decides whether to approve the development by either adopting or rejecting a Zoning Bylaw Amendment, typically in the form of a site-specific zone we call a CD zone (Comprehensive Development No. xx).

*6:20 pm – Barbara MacMillan arrived*

*6:45 pm – Elaine McHarg arrived*

- This is an interesting, huge project; I have agreements and disagreements. Have you build into this a dispute process or resolution aspect? As you begin to draft this and hear from the public, how will you deal with folks that just don't agree or have negative reactions?
  - E. Macdonald: We expect there may be some push-back as we start to look at the site specific zones, which are sometimes called "entitlements". But the way we are going there is a relaxation on permitted uses in most cases. In general, the changes that will be made will not result in big changes on the ground apart from the changes to allow 4 – 6 units, which are being required by the Province. We see our role with regard to those changes as communicating to the public about how those changes will look in the City, but we cannot stop the changes from happening. Most of the work we are doing is creating new base zones that can be applied to properties in the future through individual rezoning processes, or following OCP updates. The OCP will have to be updated as this will be required by the Province, and that is more of a chance for people to get involved.
- What is the date requirement for new OCP?
  - E. Macdonald: By the end of 2025.
- Great engagement on a topic that is not easy.

*7:02 pm – 5 minute break*

## **5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – 2023 NORTH SHORE VITAL SIGNS**

B. MacMillan presented the following highlights regarding 2023 North Shore Vital Signs.

- The 2023 North Shore Vital Signs Report is a yearly community check-up which includes research, indicators and insights that measure the vitality of life on the

North Shore. North Shore Vital Signs is a partnership between the West Vancouver Foundation and the North Shore Community Foundation.

- The West Vancouver Foundation is one of over 200 community foundations in Canada, and almost 2,000 around the world.
- Elaine McHarg is a Chief Executive Officer at the North Shore Community Foundation. The NSCF was established in 1988. They manage granting programs and donations are all completely volunteer led.
- Vital signs started with the Toronto Foundation in 2000; it is Canada's most extensive community-driven data program.
- Vital Signs uses local data to measure community vitality and support action towards improving collective quality of life.
- The program takes existing data from Stats Canada and local agencies, provincial agencies, national reports, as well as some primary data gathering. Information that will inform local decisions over time.
- National reports, which examine themes and data at a national level, are also produced.
- Vital signs is really a program and a tool that is useful to elected officials, staff, grantees and service providers.
- The tool can also assist multiple agencies, school districts, municipalities, police, etc.
- Determinants of health are the broad range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that determine individual and population health. They help us to understand what a healthy community is.
- Also used are social determinants of health which measure income, education, etc.
- Social prescribing is an innovation out of the UK, which has been pioneered here with United Way. The idea is that a lot of issues that people go to the doctor or an ER about are not things the doctor can treat; poverty, isolation, etc. A health professional will write a prescription for an event that that person could benefit from. This concept is a real function with Parkgate Community Centre and North Shore Community Resources.
- National statistics show a decline in people with a strong sense of belonging and connection.
- Next steps for Vital Signs are: the ongoing expansion of the Data Hub (<https://northshore-vital-signs.tracking-progress.org/>), creating summary reports on each of six themes, addition of Indigenous perspectives, themed Vital Conversations, engagement of agencies and integration with donors.

Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

- The City has a lot of strategy work and zoning bylaw work going on, is there collaboration with these organizations?
  - B. MacMillan: We are excited to see the new Community Wellbeing Strategy and how it aligns with our work. We have met with Heather and District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver representatives to collaborate and get guidance.
- Can you speak to the source of your funding?
  - B. MacMillan: We have a variety of sponsors, local governments, Park Royal, the Rotary Club and various community stakeholders.
  - E. McHarg: At least half of the community foundations across Canada are doing vital signs; a principle of it is that we don't use funds that could be used for donor services, we work hard at municipal and donor partnerships.

- We as a committee review community grants, how is that done by the Foundation?
  - We use committees that include board members and volunteers.
- Vital signs touches on complex areas that the City and other governments work within. How does your foundation and Vital Signs support solutions?
  - B. MacMillan: First of all, education so that people will understand better. We heard a lot about environment anxiety and its impact on mental health. Vital Signs is a tool for discussion for agencies and local governments, to raise awareness and to encourage conversations.
  - E. McHarg: We have an avenue with people that municipalities or companies don't have; our entire purpose is to help people live well.
- Can you give us an example of how you can help beyond financial?
  - B. MacMillan: We provide webinars on risk management, grant writing, we can bring people together around partnering or collaboration. We have helped start initiatives that are still going today.
- It is good to have this North Vancouver City specific information when we are looking at grants. So good to hear about you are doing.
- Thank you; its great work you are doing.

## 6. ROUNDTABLE

- T. Valente – Councillors are working on a Notice of Motion around people accessing homeowner strata bylaws.
- H. Evans – The deadline for Round One of 2024 Community Grants is January 31. We will discuss the grants at next meeting.
- Two members are leaving the Committee and this is their last meeting. They were given cards and many thanks!

## 7. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

**Date of Next Meeting – February 28, 2024**




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Anna Boltenko, Chair