



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

In OPEN WORKSHOP SESSION

February 29, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan Coté
Councillor Bill Harper
Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Councillor Lorrie Williams

STAFF:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson	- City Clerk
Ms. Diane Perry	- Acting Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Mr. Gary Holowatiuk	- Director of Finance & Information Technology
Mr. Jim Lowrie	- Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Bev Grieve	- Director of Development Services
Ms. Biliana Velkova	- Arts Coordinator
Mr. Mark Allison	- Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability
Ms. Carolyn Armanini	- Planning Analyst
Mr. Philip Lo	- Council and Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 12:07pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the Agenda.

REPORTS

- 1. City's Arts Strategy – Proposed Workplan, Chief Administrative Officer**

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, summarized the staff report dated February 29, 2016, noting the following comments:

- The City's existing arts strategy bolstered the art climate, with Anvil Centre becoming a regional cultural hub;
- The New Media Gallery may be one of the most visited art spaces in the region;
- The Arts Council gallery, Massey Theatre gallery and the 100 Braid Street gallery provide networking opportunities and exposure for local artists;
- A new arts strategy could demonstrate to the public the benefit of art in the community, and provide opportunities for benchmarking and consultation with Council; and
- The proposed workplan may need to be written in accessible language.

Discussion ensued, with Council noting the following comments:

- The proposed workplan for a new arts strategy could be incorporated as an additional Council strategic initiative;
- Concerns were expressed regarding staff workload and resources required to complete the workplan as a strategic initiative;
- The new arts strategy could include regular meetings and other opportunities for the arts community to provide input and feedback;
- More arts spaces may be necessary, in addition to the spaces currently at Anvil Centre;
- The inclusion of digital art, environmental focus and heritage elements could be considered as part of the new arts strategy, and;
- The Anvil Centre could be the focus of the new arts strategy.

Ms. Velkova noted that the Public Arts policy may be reviewed and included in the new arts strategy.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested that a new arts strategy may inform a workplan to improve efficiencies at the Anvil Centre, and it may also inform the Official Community Plan.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the workplan as noted in this staff report.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City's Art Strategy workplan be included as a Council Strategic Priority.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

2. City Council's 31 Strategic Priorities – Status Report, Chief Administrative Officer

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, summarized the staff report dated February 29, 2016.

Council suggested that input from the Chief Administrative Officer and senior management may be necessary to assess staff workload, and that regular presentations on a select number of priorities could be added to the Council agenda on a monthly basis.

In response, Ms. Spitale noted challenges in integrating the recommendations of Task Forces into staff workplans, and that staff could continue to provide Council with progress updates on the strategic priorities on a monthly basis, as well as identify workload conflicts.

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy exited at 12:52 PM.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive the staff report dated February 29, 2016 for information.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

3. Waterfront Vision Statement and Supportive Projects, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark Allison, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, and Carolyn Armanini, Planning Analyst, summarized the report dated February 29, 2016 and provided an On Table presentation on the Waterfront Vision, noting the following comments:

- The projects that support the Waterfront Vision have a sustainability, social and economic focus;
- The City has received federal grant funding to complete the Braid Street section of the Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway;

- The Sapperton Landing Park project may include habitat restoration work;
- The East Parkade Public Art project could begin once parkade rehabilitation work is complete;
- Parkade demolition work is on schedule;
- A “Working Waterfront” theme could create interest along the continuous waterfront route;
- New public spaces could be brought into the network when opportunities arise.

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering, advised that the Fourth Street Overpass elevator work is complete pending inspection by BC Safety Authority.

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy returned to the meeting at 1:11 PM

Discussion ensued, with Council noting the following comments:

- The City could continue to monitor truck traffic pattern changes in response to the closure of Front Street, and provide data to TransLink to support the reduction of truck routes in the city;
- The Waterfront Vision could consider more docking and pier options for small vessels;
- Public art along this corridor could reflect the industrial history of the City;
- The Fraser River Discover Centre could assist in illustrating and visualizing the trail for visitors;
- Being able to access and physically interact with the water in creative and innovative ways could be an important component of the Waterfront Vision;
- A single Waterfront Vision plan incorporating all of the supportive projects may help ensure the completeness of the plan, with a common policy and vision informing the requirements of the individual projects;
- It was suggested the Waterfront Vision is City-wide project, and not merely a downtown project; and
- Connection to First Nations history and the role of Poplar Island could be additional components to the plan.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Allison and Bev Grieve, Director of Development Services, noted that many of the supportive projects stemmed from the original Official Community Plan (OCP), and that the current OCP update could incorporate principles of the Waterfront into land use maps.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested that the Front Street and downtown visions have departed from the concept of encapsulating major traffic corridors, and that this could be emphasized in the Waterfront Vision.

Mr. Lowrie advised that traffic patterns are currently being monitored and analyzed, and that the data could be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council:

- 1. Endorse in principle the updated Waterfront Vision and list of supportive projects identified in this report;*
- 2. Direct staff to conduct community and stakeholder consultation on the Vision; and*
- 3. Direct staff to report back to Council with a recommended final Waterfront Vision.*
- 4. Direct staff to consolidate work related to the Waterfront Vision into one strategic priority.*

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03pm.

JONATHAN COTÉ
MAYOR

JAN GIBSON
CITY CLERK

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