



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

In OPEN WORKSHOP SESSION

November 30, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.
East Ballroom, Anvil Centre

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
Mr. Dean Gibson	- 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
Mr. John Stark	- Social Planner
Mr. Rob McCullough	- Manager of Cultural Services
Ms. Biliana Velkova	- Arts Coordinator
Mr. Philip Lo	- Council and Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the Agenda.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the consent agenda items be approved.

CARRIED.

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

PRESENTATION

1. **New Media Gallery First Year Operations**, Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation
 - a. **Staff Report**
 - b. **Presentation**

Rob McCullough, Manager of Cultural Services, provided a summary of the staff report dated November 30, 2015.

Sarah Joyce and Gordon Duggan, Directors and Curators of the New Westminster New Media Gallery, provided a presentation highlighting the gallery's first year of operations, noting that the unusual design of the gallery space is forward-thinking, and is highly regarded nationally.

In addition, Ms. Joyce and Mr. Duggan noted the following comments:

- Discussions are ongoing with local new media artists to display their work;
- Expanding the scope of the gallery beyond New Westminster may offer greater inspiration to young visitors;
- The current model of operations has been successful in building momentum for the gallery; and,
- An additional staff person would be helpful as they could provide exhibit information to visitors.

Discussions ensued, with Council noting the following comments:

- The operation of the gallery has exceeded expectations;
- The exhibits have been family-friendly with no age-limit for their appreciation; and,

- It was suggested that staff could provide Council with a report on future operations of the gallery, including funding options and strategies to increase visitors.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated November 30, 2015 be received for information.

CARRIED.

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

2. Public Art Workshop, Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation

a. Staff Report

b. Presentation

Rob McCullough, Manager of Cultural Services, and Biliانا Velkova, Arts Coordinator, summarized the staff report dated November 30, 2015 and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Public Art Program, noting the following:

- The Biennale, Gateway to Downtown New Westminster and the Front Street Parkade mural projects have followed the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) process;
- The Terms of Reference (TOR) for a public art project may be different from the TOR for the PAAC with regards to consultation with the community and the City; and
- The PAAC-appointed jury may consist of residents, business owners, art professionals, and a member of the PAAC.

Discussion ensued, and Council noted the following comments:

- The distinction between “professional public art” and “community art” may be unclear;
- It was suggested that there may be opportunities for developers to contribute to public art;
- Smaller community projects may be encouraged in the future, in addition to large iconic pieces;
- It may be possible to aggregate funds over a few years in order to fund a larger scale and more impactful project; and,
- Council may consider commissioning art.

Regarding Council's role in the art-selection process, Council noted the following comments:

- It may be beneficial for Council to be more involved with the PAAC throughout the decision-making process, especially at the earlier stages;
- It may be helpful for public art proponents to provide presentations to Council on their proposals; and,
- Council may reframe the decision process around options with public input.

In response, Mr. McCullough and Ms. Velkova noted the following:

- The definition of “public art” could be fluid, and the criteria for being a “professional” artist is currently defined by the Canada Council for the Arts;
- The public art process could be used by the PAAC to provide opportunities to local community artists;
- Council feedback may be solicited and brought back to the PAAC during the master planning process or during the development of the Terms of Reference for each project;
- The selection jury could include members of the community who may be impacted by the piece; and,
- The PAAC currently has the ability to allocate small grants for community projects;

Gary Holowatiuk, Director of Finance and Information Technology, advised that the Public Art Reserve Fund is included in the City’s annual Capital Budget. Mr. Holowatiuk noted that the Reserve Fund is not specifically allocated for any one project, and is available for approved public art projects.

Council directed staff to report back to Council on potential amendments to the current public art process to further align with Council direction.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated November 30, 2015 be received for information; and

THAT staff be directed to refine the Public Art Policy in the areas related to funding from Development related projects.

CARRIED.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **Anvil Centre Capital Budget Update**, Director of Finance and Information Technology
MOVED and SECONDED
THAT Council receives the report dated November 30, 2015 for information.

CARRIED.

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

5. **Recruitment 2016: Youth Advisory Committee Amendment to Terms of Reference and Additional Appointment**, City Clerk

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be amended to include nine youth members at large; and,

THAT Council appoint Raunaq Singh to the Youth Advisory Committee with a term ending September 30, 2016.

CARRIED.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

3. **Renewal of Temporary Use Permit for Extreme Weather Response Program Shelter at 28 Sixth Street**, Director of Development Services

Council noted that current funding of the Extreme Weather Response Program by the Provincial Government may only allow extreme weather shelters to remain open until 7 AM, and discharging users into the street at that time.

Council also noted that the October 21, 2015 decision by the BC Supreme Court (*Abbotsford (City) v. Shantz*) may have implications for regional local governments, and that extending the closing hours of the shelters may be beneficial to the City's economic development goals.

John Stark, Social Planner, noted the following comments:

- The meal program at the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) currently opens at 8 AM, and extended shelter hours may assist users to transition between the services;
- The UGM currently does not operate on weekends;
- The shelter currently has 30 sleeping mats, including 10 which could be made available to women in a safe environment;

- Criteria for declaring a ‘weather emergency’ may include: near-zero temperatures, prolonged rain, high winds, wind-chill factor, and other extreme weather conditions;
- Weather emergencies are declared, on average, between 30 to 50 times each year.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council renew the Temporary Use Permit (TUP00009) for Lookout Emergency Aid Society to allow the Extreme Weather Response Program shelter at 28 Sixth Street to continue to operate up to October 31, 2018, based on the terms and conditions as outlined in the Temporary Use Permit; and,

THAT Council waive the fee for the renewal of the Temporary Use Permit given that the program provides a community benefit, without which the lives of homeless persons would be placed at-risk during extreme weather events.

THAT, if the Provincial government provides funding for an additional three hours of operation, the extreme weather shelter be permitted to discharge users no later than 10:00 a.m.

CARRIED.

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

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04pm.

JONATHAN COTÉ
MAYOR

JAN GIBSON
CITY CLERK