

CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE
MINUTES

Monday, January 17, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT

Councillor Mary Trentadue Chair
Councillor Chinu Das
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

STAFF

Emilie Adin	Director, Development Services
Jen Arbo	Economic Development Coordinator
Carolyn Armanini	Planner, Economic Development
Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Gordon Duggan	Director and Curator, New Media Gallery
Blair Fryer	Manager, Communications and Economic Development
Quyen Hoang	Public and Community Art Coordinator
Tobi May	Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties
Robert McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Lynn Roxburgh	Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action
Meredith Seeton	Planner
Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer / Director, Finance
Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Trentadue opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a

City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Culture and Economic Development Task Force Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes of the November 29, 2021 Meeting

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Culture and Economic Development Task Force meeting held on November 29, 2021 be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Retail Strategy

Carolyn Armanini, Planner, Economic Development, reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting and presentation. Discussion ensued on how we can enhance the Downtown area as a local serving market and pivot to an enhanced arts and cultural experience, with Task Force members noting the following:

- Consider micro units or commercial units that are irregularly shaped or quirky in some way, to encourage local rather than multinational corporations and businesses;

- Eager to develop the downtown as an arts and culture hub as there is so much already in the area that lends itself to that—Anvil Centre, the artist lodge, etc.;
- The marketplace at the quay is lacking stimulus right now. There is lots operating in the area, it just needs a boost, maybe marketing or strategizing, to make it happen;
- Getting people to come to New Westminster for a first visit is part of the challenge—once they have, they become regular visitors;
- One challenge for restaurants downtown is a lack of business audience feeding into a regular lunch crowd;
- Retail is changing, and people are searching for experiences that differentiate an in-person shop from an online one;
- Need to emphasize the ease of getting here, not just by Skytrain but by other routes as well;
- At first glance, the Arts Space Needs Assessment showed many comments about studio space. Introducing studio space downtown would create a different retail experience as well as increasing traffic during the day;
- Recent data shows one of the places people are most comfortable being in are art galleries and museums, if they are following COVID safety protocols;
- The Downtown needs to be robust regardless of the events held there—it should not be suffering to this extent without the help of events;
- Merging functions, for example an art gallery sharing space with a retail shop, can make for more than one experience in a location; and
- One of the benefits of shopping in person is being able to try things out.

Ms. Armanini advised that there will be a report ready for the next meeting of the Task Force, following meeting with consultants.

6. **STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES**

There were no items.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

8. MOTION TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO CLOSED MEETING

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Culture and Economic Development Task Force will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, on the basis that the subject matter for all agenda items relate to matters listed under sections:

(1)(a)personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;

(1)(b)personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity;

(1)(c)labour relations or other employee relations;

(1)(d)the security of the property of the municipality;

(1)(e)the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(1)(f)law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;

(1)(g)litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;

(1)(h)an administrative tribunal hearing or potential administrative tribunal hearing affecting the municipality, other than a hearing to be conducted by the council or a delegate of council;

(1)(i)the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

(1)(j)information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;

(1)(k)negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

(1)(l) discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report];

(1)(m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting;

(1)(n) the consideration of whether a council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2);

(1)(o) the consideration of whether the authority under section 91 [other persons attending closed meetings] should be exercised in relation to a council meeting.

(2)(a) a request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, if the council is designated as head of the local public body for the purposes of that Act in relation to the matter;

(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party;

(2)(c) a matter that is being investigated under the Ombudsperson Act of which the municipality has been notified under section 14 [Ombudsperson to notify authority] of that Act.

Carried

9. END OF MEETING

On MOTION, the meeting ended at 10:03 a.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted:

- February 7 at 1:30 p.m.
- March 11
- April 4 at 1:30 p.m.
- May 13
- June 20
- July 11 at 1:00 p.m.
- November 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Original Signed
Katie Stobbart
Committee Clerk