

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:34 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Present:** Mayor M. Little  
Councillor B. Forbes  
Councillor J. Back  
Councillor M. Bond  
Councillor M. Curren  
Councillor J. Hanson  
Councillor L. Muri

**Staff:** Ms. C. Grant, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits  
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Ms. N. Foth, Planner  
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk

**Also in**

**Attendance:** Mr. Donald Luxton, Donald Luxton & Associates

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1. July 17, 2019 Council Workshop Agenda**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor HANSON**

THAT the agenda for the July 17, 2019 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Nil

With the consent of Council, Mayor LITTLE varied the agenda as follows.

**3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF**

**3.3. Final Draft Heritage Strategic Plan**

File No. 13.6800.01/006.000

Councillor Mathew Bond, Council representative on the Community Heritage Advisory Committee, spoke about the Community Heritage Advisory Committee's interest and involvement in developing the Heritage Strategic Plan.

Ms. Jennifer Clay, Community Heritage Advisory Committee, highlighted the work for the draft Heritage Strategic Plan. She noted that the plan is comprised of short, medium and long term goals and commented about best practices, heritage conservation and preservation of historic places.

Mr. Donald Luxton, Donald Luxton & Associates, provided an overview of the background, process, goals and implementation for the draft Heritage Strategic Plan. He discussed plan development which is based on national and international best practices and models as well as public input. He advised that the values-based approach, which is followed by UNESCO and Parks Canada, shifts from the traditional emphasis on buildings and includes built heritage, cultural heritage and culture landscapes.

Mr. Luxton commended the vision of the District's Heritage Program and the proactive approach for educational opportunities. He reported the Plan includes five goals that are action orientated with forty-two actions to support the five goals. The goals are:

1. Institute a values-based approach to heritage management;
2. Increase heritage education and awareness;
3. Make heritage more accessible;
4. Increase protection of built heritage and natural and cultural heritage resources; and,
5. Connect heritage with other District policies and plans.

Mr. Luxton commented about the implementation of the Plan and advised that it is a ten-year plan with short term, medium term, long term and ongoing actions.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Luxton advised that the Tsleil-Waututh Nation were consulted in the planning process.

In response to a question from Council regarding funding models, Mr. Luxton advised that an effective practise implemented by other municipalities have been heritage grant programs. Examples include the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust and the Vancouver Heritage Foundation. He further suggested that tax relief for homeowners is not as effective a tool to promote conservation as grant programs.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that clarification can be provided regarding funding to implement the Plan.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that if a building is listed on the heritage register, it acknowledges its heritage status. If a demolition or alteration permit is submitted for a heritage register property, the permit is withheld pending Council direction to either permanently protect the home, or temporarily protect the home while the District works with the homeowner on alternative options.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Luxton advised that one tool to preserve heritage property is by a covenant if the owner is agreeable. Protection can also be achieved through a Heritage Revitalization Agreement.

In response to a question from Council regarding the designation of interior protection for heritage homes, Mr. Luxton advised that it is challenging to monitor and that currently there are no interior designations in the District. He further advised that the City of Victoria has many examples of interior designation for key rooms; however, other private dwelling areas of a heritage home tend to be upgraded.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Luxton advised that there is no evidence to suggest that a heritage conservation status diminishes a property's value.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- The upcoming public launch of the Blue Cabin;
- The need for long-term sustainable funding for heritage grants to incentivize the preservation of heritage homes in the District;
- Requested that the item be added to a future Regular Council agenda;
- Commented about the annual heritage tour where Council toured two heritage properties and met members of the Community Heritage Advisory Committee;
- Suggested that the preservation of a heritage home is not always financially sustainable and is done out of a passion for the preservation of heritage by a homeowner; and,
- Suggested that the perception of heritage has changed and efforts are needed to protect heritage homes the District.

Council recessed at 6:19 p.m. and reconvened at 6:22 p.m.

### **3.1. Policy with Respect to Campaign Contributions** File No.

Councillor Jim Hanson provided an overview of the proposed policy for campaign contributions and advised that the purpose of the policy is to foster transparency and accountability for members of Council when debating and voting on development applications. He commented about the disclosure statements for campaign contributions that are a public record under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. He suggested that matters of transparency and accountability oblige members of Council to declare contributions received from persons associated with a development application ahead of a vote.

In response to a question from Council regarding the Code of Ethics, staff advised that this may be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Commented about a motion by another municipality where family members were asked to disclose their properties and this may be intrusive on their privacy;
- Commented about best the practises for declarations in the financial industry;
- Spoke about corporate influence in politics and suggested that a policy which encourages transparency is beneficial;

- Expressed concern about the perception that votes may be bought and provided scenarios where a member of Council may have a perceived conflict of interest;
- Queried if municipal elections can be funded locally by the municipality or a senior level of government;
- Stated that large donations may be perceived as a conflict of interest;
- Suggested that a member of Council should disclose money received prior to a vote but that it should not stop the member of Council from voting on the item;
- Expressed support for a letter to be sent to the Province requesting that the practise of personal campaign contribution caps be reviewed;
- Commented about efforts by the Province to dissuade the creation of political parties;
- Clarified that under the proposed policy members of Council would be encouraged to recuse themselves from voting but not required to;
- Suggested that all members of Council could have conflicts and acknowledged the difficulty in knowing the history of all campaign donors;
- Stated that it is up to the members of Council to declare a conflict of interest and that it is unfair to target the development industry and that asking a member of Council to recuse themselves from voting creates an awkward situation;
- Suggested that if a member of Council has received donations from a community association, this should be stated prior to a vote; and,
- Commented about the difference of ethics and legality.

#### Public Input:

##### Mr. Peter Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:

- Suggested that campaign funding is regulated by the Provincial government;
- Cited a legal case regarding campaign funds and commented on the Canadian Parliamentarians Conflict of Interest Code; and,
- Requested that Councillors recuse themselves from voting if there is a conflict of interest and suggested that Council may enforce the recusal.

##### Mr. Hesam Deihimi, 2300 Block William Avenue:

- Spoke regarding his experience as a developer of multi-family homes and desire to tackle housing, transportation and climate change;
- Expressed concern that developers are being vilified by members of Council; and,
- Queried if the suggested recusal due to a perceived conflict of interest may be applied to other industries.

##### Mr. Eric Andersen, 2500 Block Derbyshire Way:

- Stated that the analogy of donated campaign funds from a community association to a member of Council cannot be compared with funds received from a developer and therefore should not be perceived as a conflict of interest; and,
- Commented about public perception regarding a member of Council's vote and requested they recuse themselves from voting if there is a conflict of interest.

Mr. Hazen Colbert, 1100 Block East 27<sup>th</sup> Street:

- Commented about a presentation to the Provincial Special Committee of Local Elections Financing in 2014 and the recommendations that were implemented from the committee's report;
- Expressed support for the proposed policy; and,
- Commented about blended families and Council practices during municipal elections.

Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Spoke about the draft Heritage Strategic Plan and expressed concern that historical Council meetings are no longer available on the web; and,
- Commented about campaign contributions.

Ms. Katherine Fagerlund, 1800 Block Deep Cove Road:

- Commented about the proposal to declare campaign funds received by a member of Council from a developer, ahead of a vote.

Mr. Lyle Craver, 4700 Block Hoskins Road:

- Suggested that recusal is beneficial, may restore public confidence and discussed the practise of recusal at community association meetings;
- Expressed concern about the practise of cross donations by Council candidates; and,
- Suggested that community associations have not provided donations to Council candidates.

Mr. Juan Palacio, 200 Block West Kings Road:

- Commented about quasi-judicial powers and suggested this is a role of municipal government.

### **3.2. Meeting and Workshop Planning**

File No.

Councillor Lisa Muri spoke regarding Council meeting schedules, options for enhanced management of Council calendars, workshop planning, topics and communication with staff. She suggested that Council calendars be reviewed to prevent scheduling conflicts for Council meetings and other meetings requiring their attendance and to improve scheduling management for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Charlene Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services, provided an overview of the Council calendar including workshop meetings and committee commitments. She advised that additional workshops may be scheduled for the remainder of the year and suggested these may be scheduled for 5:00 p.m. as opposed to the customary 7:00 p.m. start time to provide an additional two hours meeting time.

Councillor Muri commented about the need to be flexible with the topics for Council Workshops. She cautioned that calendars can be quite overwhelming with daytime and evening commitments and expressed concern regarding the continual management of calendars.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Public Hearings are scheduled as needed and that these are typically scheduled on a Tuesday.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that a sample schedule may be provided to Council.

In response to a question from Council regarding the Council agenda schedule, staff advised that the Council Procedure Bylaw will be discussed at an upcoming Regular Council meeting.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- The need to schedule additional Regular Council meetings during the year;
- The many activities and time constraints during the holiday season;
- That Council meetings should be prioritized over other types of meetings;
- The importance of scheduling priority items for Council meetings, including Strategic Plan and Official Community Plan topics identified by Council;
- Suggested that a later start for workshop meetings may benefit Council and the public; and,
- Suggested that the meetings during the first term of Council be compared to a study of Council meetings in 2017.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

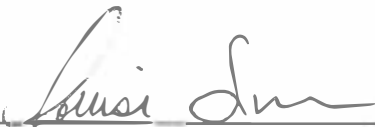
**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BACK**

THAT the July 17, 2019 Council Workshop is adjourned.

**CARRIED**  
(8:16 p.m.)

  
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Mayor **Mike Little**  
Mayor

  
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Municipal Clerk **LOUISE SIMKIN**  
ACTING DEPUTY CLERK