

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 6:59 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor J. Back
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor M. Curren
Councillor J. Hanson

Absent: Councillor B. Forbes
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Ms. J. Van Dyk, Director of Library Services
Mr. S. Carney, Section Manager - Transportation
Ms. L. Simkin, Acting Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. C. Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer
Ms. M. Crowe, Communications/Event Coordinator – North Vancouver Public Library
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. I. Weisenbach, Transportation Planner
Mr. Z. Mathurin, North Shore TDM/Bike Share Joint Coordinator

Also in

Attendance: North Vancouver District Public Library Board:
Ms. Kristine Mactaggart Wright, Board Chair
Ms. Lara Greguric, Board Vice-Chair
Ms. Valerie Dong, Trustee
Mr. Gerald Baier, Trustee
Mr. James Mitchell, Trustee

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. December 9, 2019 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the agenda for the December 9, 2019 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. November 19, 2019 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor CURREN

SECONDED by Councillor BACK

THAT the minutes of the November 19, 2019 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. North Vancouver District Public Library 2020-2023 Strategic Plan File No.

Ms. Kristine Mactaggart Wright, Board Chair – North Vancouver District Public Library, thanked Council for their support and provided an introduction of the Library Board members in attendance. She provided an overview of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, discussed the 2018 budget and spoke regarding the available programs and membership.

Mr. James Mitchell, Trustee – North Vancouver District Public Library, spoke about the importance of library services and the resources available to the community. He provided an overview of the strategic priorities, including connecting and collaborating with the community, reaching new audiences and delivering services when needed. He spoke regarding the need to explore options for the eventual replacement or update of the aging Capilano Library. He commented about new service initiatives for the library including finding new sources for revenue, such as printing services, and discussed the shared space and learning environment of the library.

Ms. Lara Greguric, Board Vice-Chair – North Vancouver District Public Library, noted that a strategic priority is to act as catalyst to inspire and support community and staff. She reported that the StoryLab digital literacy and storytelling centre at Lynn Valley Library will open in summer 2020. Ms. Greguric commented about the alignment of work with partners and stakeholders, including Council priorities. She discussed library accessibility, locations and use as an alternative space to homes, including patrons that are homeless. The resources within the library are free with a limited number of services offered on a cost-recovery basis.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the Lions Gate Community Centre will have an express library service for items that are in high demand with self-serve capabilities for automatic holds and noted there will be special programs for target audiences such as seniors.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that an action item of the strategic plan is the sharing of non-traditional materials such as power chargers or other miscellaneous items.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that many materials are available in a variety of languages.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that e-books are challenging to obtain for library services and that local-publishing and self-publishing books are being explored further.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Greguric advised that the StoryLab is a space for the creation and learning of digital content and skills. This includes a digital recording studio and post-production area.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Capilano Library is currently the oldest library and will need to be updated or rebuilt at some point in the future.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they are currently identifying facilities requiring upgrades.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the demand for digitization is currently being looked at.

Public Input:

Mr. Peter Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:

- Thanked the Library for the audio book and StoryLab programs; and,
- Expressed thanks for the accessibility of the library to the public.

Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Spoke favourably about the services provided by the library;
- Expressed concern about Capilano Library leaving the Town Centre; and,
- Spoke regarding global library services.

Mr. Juan Palacio, 200 Block West Kings Road:

- Spoke favourably about the Story Lab and suggested that digitization services be further expanded.

A District Resident:

- Queried about the funding requirements for e-books and digitization.

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

- Thanked the Library Board for their presentation and work on the strategic plan;
- Spoke regarding the many services provided by the library, their expansion into the digital field and alignment with Council priorities;
- Commented about shared economy and spaces within the community and stated that the library has been consistent in this field;
- Commented favourably about the collaboration with First Nations;
- Commented about the library as a third space for community members;
- Spoke favourably about the children's services and programs;
- Commented about the digital lab and need to archive social history; and,

- Spoke about how the North Vancouver Museum & Archives displays history and the desire to coordinate displays with the library.

Council recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

3.2. Proposed North Shore Ride-Hailing Approach

File No. 16.8620.01/024.000

Mr. Zachary Mathurin, North Shore TDM/Bike Share Joint Coordinator, provided an overview of ride-hailing, business license framework and street management within the limits of municipal authority as set up by Provincial legislation. He reported that ride-sharing is the equivalent of carpooling where passengers are transported by a driver to a predetermined destination without the intention of generating revenue. Ride-hailing is the practice of booking a ride for business to drive from one location to another, using a smart phone app.

Mr. Mathurin commented about positive and negative impacts that can be seen from ride-hailing. He discussed Passenger Directed Vehicles (PDV) and stated that ride-hailing is considered a PDV and that companies that deliver ride-hailing are known as Transportation Network Service (TNS). The Province is the primary authority for regulating ride-hailing and all other passenger directed vehicles. He provided an overview of the Passenger Transportation Board, an independent tribunal for the Province under the *Passenger Transportation Act*, and its role.

Mr. Mathurin discussed the regulatory authority for ride-hailing by municipalities, including the issuance of business licenses to companies and the management of local streets. Municipalities are not able to prohibit the services of ride-hailing operations or impose fleet size limitations. He commented about the inter-municipal business license framework in its existing format and its proposed framework and stated that inter-municipal staff are working collaboratively on key principles and objectives for the proposed tools and framework.

Mr. Mathurin stated that the two main elements of the proposed North Shore approach are the business licensing framework and management of street and curb use. The business licensing framework would need to be revised to include ride-hailing services. The fees would be charged on a tiered system dependant on the fleet size and would treat taxis equally, however, direction is needed from the three North Shore Councils regarding the structure and approach for the inter-municipal business licensing. He stated that important information for the monitoring of business licensing includes regular data regarding drop-off services and trip lengths. This would encourage zero emission targets to be met and assist with proposed street and curb management actions.

Mr. Mathurin commented about the proposed street and curb management actions, including:

- Common loading zone definitions for North Shore municipalities;
- Geo-fenced areas to restrict access or designate reserved loading zones;
- Charging of pick-up/drop-off fees during peak times; and,
- Receive and analyze data to demonstrate ride-hailing needs.

Mr. Mathurin provided a summary of the recommendations for the inter-municipal business license and street and curb management. He stated that long-term goals include not adding further congestion to arterial routes during peak times, not to compete with transit hubs and to complement transit by connecting riders with transit stops. He stated that next steps would include drafting bylaw changes to bring back to Council. Staff are also engaging with regional partners to develop a regional business licence and to develop metric and performance indicators. The process is expected to take approximately one year.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the revenue sources will be dependant on fees and ridership on the North Shore.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they would likely provide access to the transit hubs and that a pick-up surcharge may be considered.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that most municipalities have opted for a per-trip fee. In Chicago, there are general city fees and fees for trips starting and ending in downtown areas.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that municipalities do not have the ability to limit ride-hailing services and that approximately 24,000 driver licenses are eligible for ride-hailing in Metro Vancouver.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that there is a requirement for vehicles to identify on front and back windshields as ride-hailing vehicles.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the current total license fee for both taxi companies is \$5,147.80 and that it is a tiered system.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that it is possible for the Province to promote accessible vehicles.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the District of West Vancouver Council will be provided an update by staff for their direction. The City of North Vancouver Council is discussing the topic at their Council meeting scheduled on December 9, 2019.

Public Input:

Mr. Peter Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:

- Opined that residents are demanding ride-hailing services and that taxis fail to meet the needs of residents;
- Commented about the use of Uber;
- Queried about the ride-hailing program and fees;
- Suggested that ride-hailing companies may reduce car ownership and supplement transit services; and,
- Expressed concern about conflicts between ride-hailing vehicles and taxis.

Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Expressed concern about a lack of communication with residents;

- Commented about the International Transport Forum where access to the curb was discussed; and,
- Suggested that Council has control over the industry and flow of transit; and,
- Discussed the history of curbs.

A District Resident:

- Opined that restrictive rules should also be applied to taxi companies and that curbs should be regulated;
- Expressed concern about the concept of congestion pricing and suggested that it be controlled by bridge access rather than time of day; and,
- Thanked staff for their work and research.

Mr. Juan Palacio, 200 Block West Kings Road,

- Commented about the need for ride-hailing and to connect to transit hubs.

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

- Expressed support for the Coquitlam ride-hailing model;
- Commented about taxi services and their participation with the ride-savers program through HandyDart;
- Stated that ride-sharing solves individual needs but not the collective good and expressed concern about the impact to transit;
- The need for zero-emission vehicles and to regulate emissions;
- Stated that data is important for the management of services and expressed support for higher fees;
- Commented about data analysis and the need to collaborate as a region;
- Commented about potential public reaction to ride-hailing services in view of traffic congestion on the North Shore;
- Expressed support for discounts for zero-emission vehicles, the use of fees as a demand management tool and discounts for accessibility services;
- Expressed concern that the Iron Workers Bridge is at capacity and that congestion may be added to areas that are not currently congested;
- The demand for parking may be reduced although trip demand may not change;
- Stated an interest to see the ICBC ridership data; and,
- The need to look at workers rights for ride-hailing drivers.

MOVED by Councillor HANSON
SECONDED by Councillor BOND

CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED by Councillor HANSON
SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the December 9, 2019 Council Workshop is adjourned.

**CARRIED
(8:49 p.m.)**

Mayor



Municipal Clerk

