

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:03 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor J. Back
Councillor M. Bond (5:10 pm)
Councillor M. Curren
Councillor B. Forbes

Absent: Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Ms. J. Paton, Assistant General Manager – Development Planning & Engineering
Ms. T. Atva, Manager – Community Planning
Mr. R. Danyluk, Manager – Manager – Business Planning and Decision Support
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. S. Dale, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. J. Simpson, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. C. Rucci, Social Planner

Also in

Attendance: Ms. Sandra Menzer, Project Manager and Lead Consultant, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. March 3, 2020 Council Workshop Agenda

**MOVED by Councillor FORBES
SECONDED by Councillor CURREN**

THAT the agenda for the March 3, 2020 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor BOND

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Update on the Child Care Strategy and Action Plan

File No. 10.4750.00/000.000

Ms. Sandra Menzer, Project Manager and Lead Consultant - SPARC, provided an overview of the Child Care Strategy and Action Plan, including an overview of the process and the work completed so far. Ms. Menzer advised that the final Child Care Strategy and Action Plan is anticipated to be completed by April 2020 and will be provided to Council for review and endorsement.

Councillor BOND arrived at this point in the proceedings.

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

- Spoke to the challenges of before and after school childcare;
- Suggested utilizing classrooms and looking at opportunities for shared spaces in the School District;
- Questioned the targets proposed to establish the appropriate space per child;
- Questioned the percentage of for-profit and non-for-profit childcare spaces;
- Questioned if the issue of child care has improved overtime;
- Questioned why there is a shortage of early childcare educators; and,
- Expressed concerned that there is not a school in close proximity to the Lions Gate area.

Ms. Cristina Rucci, Social Planner, provided an overview of the District's Child Care actions and highlighted the following:

- Staff from Community Planning, Finance and Facilities have been working together to prepare an application to Ministry of Children & Family Development for funding for the new District owned child care facility at Lynn Creek Community Centre;
- Looking at opportunities to co-locate child care in under-utilized District-owned buildings; and,
- School District 44 has been reviewing school sites to understand what sites can accommodate purpose built child care noting that this presents opportunities to establish partnerships to create child care.

Staff sought Council's feedback on possible solutions that will help inform the draft strategy.

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

- Expressed concern with the lack and quality of outdoor play spaces for children;
- Questioned what Vancouver Coastal Health's role is in providing childcare space;
- Spoke to the challenges and restrictions of providing quality spaces;
- Commented on the opportunities to provide modular spaces;
- Spoke to the balance of the need for spaces and the facilities that are available;
- Questioned what other municipalities are doing and their long term solutions;
- Suggested having further discussions with the School Board; and,
- Commented on job sharing opportunities.

Public Input:

A District Resident:

- Questioned what the childcare need is versus what the census figures indicate; and,
- Expressed concern about the transportation of children to school.

Mr. Peter Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:

- Commented about the difficulty of maintaining staffing levels for before and after school daycare services; and,
- Suggested that schools accommodate such services for the community.

Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Suggested focusing on the quality and not on the quantity of childcare space;
- Commented that Provincial funding is limited;
- Noted that the highest needs are for infant-toddler care and school age children;
- Questioned what the child to caregiver ratio is; and,
- Spoke to the importance of providing access to good outdoor space.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Mayor LITTLE

THAT the March 3, 2020 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(6:28 p.m.)

Mayor



Municipal Clerk