

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021. The meeting was held virtually with participants appearing via video and telephone conference.

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

Absent: Councillor B. Forbes

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. A. Wardell, General Manager – Finance/CFO
Ms. T. Atva, Manager – Community Planning
Mr. R. Danyluk, Manager – Business Planning and Decision Support
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. C. Grafton, Manager – Strategic Communications & Community Relations
Ms. J. Paton, Manager – Development Planning & Engineering
Ms. G. Lanz, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. N. Foth, Planner
Ms. C. Archer, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. S. Clarke, Committee Clerk
Ms. S. Ferguson, Committee Clerk

Also in

Attendance: Mr. David Bell, Land Economics Consultant – Urban Systems
Mr. Brian Bydwell, Consultant
Ms. Allison Clavelle, Transportation Engineer – Urban Systems
Ms. Jody Rechenmacher, Community Infrastructure Consultant – Urban Systems

RESOLUTION TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

MOVED by Councillor HANSON

SECONDED by Councillor MURI

WHEREAS:

- the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has issued Order M192; and,
- Order M192 requires British Columbia municipalities to use best efforts to allow members of the public to attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* and Public Health Officer orders; and,

- the District has assessed its ability to allow members of the public to attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* and Public Health Officer orders; and,
- the District has taken into consideration its Covid-19 Safety Plan as required by Worksafe BC; and,
- the District has determined that, at this time, it cannot safely allow members of the public to physically attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* or its Covid-19 Safety Plan;

THEREFORE, this meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver is to be held virtually and without members of the public, or Council, being physically present;

AND THAT the principles of openness, transparency, accessibility and accountability are being ensured through:

- Providing an online subscription service for residents to sign up and be apprised of upcoming meetings and the post-meeting availability of meeting minutes and meeting videos;
- Providing advance notice of this meeting in accordance with the *Community Charter* and advising the public on how they may participate in the meeting by providing public input;
- Providing the availability of the agenda for this meeting on the District's webpage six days in advance of the meeting;
- The live streaming of this meeting via a link readily available on the District's webpage;
- Maintaining the thirty minute public input opportunity at each regular meeting and the discretionary public input opportunity at each workshop;
- The ability of the public to provide input on agenda items by full two-way audio and video means;
- Adhering the rules of procedural fairness and acting with respect and courtesy at all times when hearing the public;
- Conducting meetings in a manner that resembles in-person meeting as much as possible;

And reminding the public that they may contact Mayor and Council at any time on any topic via its council@dnv.org email address.

CARRIED

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. February 1, 2021 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BACK

THAT the agenda for the February 1, 2021 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Targeted OCP Review: COVID-19 Impacts on Topic Areas & Additional Business Input

File No. 13.6480.35/001.000

Mr. Dan Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits, introduced the Targeted OCP Review, highlighting community engagement activities prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Milburn noted supplementary materials have been prepared on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Targeted OCP Review's four key topic areas: climate emergency, economy and employment lands, housing, and transportation. He advised that this Council Workshop is the first of a series and will be focused on Transportation, Economy and Employment Lands, and a recent survey of local businesses.

Ms. Tina Atva, Manager – Community Planning, introduced the consultants and provided a brief overview of the Targeted OCP Review to date. Ms. Atva advised that the goal is to develop a draft Action Plan before Summer 2021 for consideration and to provide a final version of the Action Plan for Council approval by September 2021.

Ms. Allison Clavelle, Transportation Engineer – Urban Systems, advised that progress has been made toward the Transportation goal in the OCP, highlighting transportation challenges due to traffic congestion and gaps in infrastructure for alternate modes of transportation including walking and cycling. Ms. Clavelle noted residents and businesses have expressed frustration with the impacts of transportation delays.

Ms. Clavelle noted the following proposed actions were identified as having the most potential impact on transportation issues and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:

- Improve public transit reliability by using tools available to municipalities such as transit priority measures on roadways and at intersections;
- Investment in walking and cycling infrastructure to remove current gaps preventing people of all ages and abilities from using these modes to reach important destinations;

- Encourage growth of Town Centres to create complete communities with active transportation networks and connections to Frequent Transit Networks (FTN).

Ms. Clavelle reviewed how COVID-19 has impacted transportation in the District, noting the pandemic has changed how people live, move and work in several ways:

- The number and distance of private vehicle trips dropped 30 to 50 percent in the early part of the pandemic and has returned to approximately 90 percent of pre-pandemic levels;
- Public transit use dropped significantly and has experienced slower recovery, with current levels at 45 percent of pre-pandemic levels;
- Many essential service workers, including healthcare workers, cannot work from home and use public transit, requiring government assistance to keep transit viable;
- A survey of transit users showed many regular users who are not currently using transit expect to do so after they are vaccinated against COVID-19;
- More people are walking, cycling and recreating locally;
- Businesses in communities where residents can access retail and services within 15 minutes of home have been better able to survive; and,
- Changes to roadways to facilitate pick-up and drop-off rather than being used exclusively for parking have helped food service as well as other retail businesses during the pandemic.

Ms. Clavelle advised that four potential actions have been identified to advance the Transportation goal:

1. Leverage funding from senior levels of government;
2. Diversify land uses and improve transit connectivity;
3. Support and promote work from home for municipal employees and residents; and,
4. Accelerate curbside space transformation.

Mr. David Bell, Land Economics Consultant – Urban Systems, provided an overview and update on Economy and Employment Lands, noting approximately 4,600 jobs were added in the District between 2011 and 2016 and highlighted the diverse economy. He outlined several issues for local businesses and their underlying causes:

- Local employers experience difficulty attracting and retaining workers due to housing and transportation issues;
- Independent businesses are struggling to survive due to rising costs; and,
- Local businesses have difficulty expanding in place due to a limited land supply and perceived challenges seeking approvals.

Mr. Bell reviewed the impacts of COVID-19 on District businesses, noting that there has been a dramatic increase in e-commerce and the volumes of curbside pick-up and drop-off. These changes may be longer-term as consumer comfort levels with large groups of people and shopping online may be permanently altered. He noted that industries have been impacted and are recovering at different rates, including businesses dependent on local visitors and international tourism. Mr. Bell noted the hospitality industry has been severely impacted by the

COVID-19 pandemic, with approximately 20 percent of restaurants permanently closed and more losses expected.

Mr. Bell provided an overview of the local response to the pandemic and reviewed the results of the District's survey of local businesses in December 2020 and January 2021, noting that:

- Top issues for employers are housing and transportation on the North Shore;
- Businesses would like to see more affordable housing choices, implementation of the Integrated North Shore Transportation Planning Project (INSTPP) and streamlined permitting processes;
- The highest and best use approach to taxation has resulted in significant cost increases, which have not been addressed by interim taxation relief programs; and,
- Businesses would like the District to advocate for taxation reform through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Clavelle advised that walking and cycling connections as well as services are needed to support people working from home. Those who cannot work from home, particularly essential service workers, need continued development of FTN's and other investment in transit.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Clavelle advised that the concept of the 15-Minute Neighbourhood works outside of town centres. When sidewalks and All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling networks are complete and connected, residents and workers can travel longer distances in 15 minutes.

In response to a question from Council, staff noted that businesses are pivoting their business models and adding to their activities. It was noted that some have suggested the Zoning Bylaw is not sufficiently flexible to allow businesses to adapt and this may be possible to address in the long term.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Bell provided more information on the business community's interest in better connection and outreach, noting that outreach on the Targeted OCP Review project was well received. He commented on the interaction between different sectors and the recommendation to add a Business Liaison position to the District's Planning Department to help facilitate communication and coordination.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Clavelle advised that they are optimistic public transit use will rebound in the future, based on local survey results and observation of countries impacted by the 2003 SARS pandemic and return to public transit ridership.

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

- Expressed concern regarding the timing of the business survey;
- Discussed impacts on businesses, including closures;
- Expressed support for tax reform; and,
- Commented regarding conflicting uses of roadway space.

Ms. Jody Rechenmacher, Community Infrastructure Consultant – Urban Systems, reviewed the Climate Emergency White Paper, noting that progress has been made on the Climate Action Goal in the OCP on mitigation, adaptation and understanding the impacts of climate change on the community. Progress includes the District's 2019 Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, major studies on sources of emissions in the District, the approval of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and the North Shore Sea Level Rise Strategy.

Ms. Rechenmacher provided examples of actions the District has undertaken to move closer to the Climate Action Goal, including:

- District building retrofits;
- Transition to electric fleet vehicles;
- Pace of the District's implementation of the BC Energy Step Code;
- Encouraging residents and developers to choose or convert to non-fossil fuel heating options;
- Support for sustainable transportation options such as cycling, walking and public transit;
- Wildfire risk mitigation in interface areas;
- Culvert upgrades to support flood protection and storm water management; and,
- Integration of a climate action lens into all areas of decision-making.

Ms. Rechenmacher provided an update on progress achieved to date on corporate emissions, community emissions and climate adaptation, as well as impacts on the Climate Action goal, noting that:

- Corporate emissions have been reduced by 10 percent between 2012 and 2018;
- The target for community emissions in CEEP is a reduction of 45 percent below 2007 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050;
- Community emissions have been reduced from 2007 to 2016; however, if trends continue in this category, this will result in a 19 percent increase by 2050;
- Use of fossil fuels for vehicles and heating buildings is the primary source of community emissions in the District;
- Extreme weather events are already being experienced due to climate change, including heat waves, drought, wildfires, and intense rainfall; and,
- Homes, businesses and transportation will be impacted by extreme weather and sea level rise.

Ms. Rechenmacher reviewed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Climate Action Goal, noting there were immediate changes in how people work, travel and live. GHG emissions were reduced by 7 percent in 2020 over 2019 levels, but emissions are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels as people return to in-person work and resume non-essential travel. The District could also see an increase in emissions due to changes in building ventilation to deal with virus transmission. The pandemic recovery period could provide opportunities to speed up climate action with potential provincial and federal funding in the future.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that addressing the climate emergency will require coordination between collective and community actions and will require partnerships with senior levels of government. It was noted that the development community is responding to District actions and moving toward more sustainable building practices before any changes have been made to the OCP.

4. PUBLIC INPUT:

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

- Opined that the conclusions in the White Papers are not supported by the data;
- Remarked on changes to priorities for residents as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Commented on the public input process for the Targeted OCP Review; and,
- Noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected access to District services.

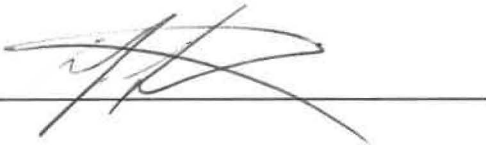
5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor MURI
SECONDED by Mayor LITTLE

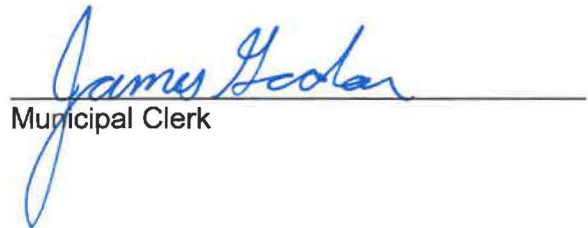
THAT the February 1, 2021 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(9:05 p.m.)

Mayor

A stylized, dark ink signature of the Mayor, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Municipal Clerk

A blue ink signature of James G. Golan, written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'G'.