



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, June 26, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance

Council Chamber, City Hall

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Acting Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Rod Carle*	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Director of Finance/ Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Jacque Killawee	Acting Records and Information Administrator
Mr. Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Erin Williams	Fire Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Debbie Reimer*	Recording Secretary
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer

*Denotes electronic attendance.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

2.1 **Next steps for advisory committees and taskforces**

Peter DeJong, Corporate Officer, and Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, led the review of a presentation titled “Council Workshop: Next Steps for Committees and Task Forces”, dated June 26, 2023.

Discussion ensued on:

- The pros and cons of the Committee of the Whole (COTW) model, contrasted with the current workshop model which removes one step out of the referral and approval process;
- Under both models there can be regularly scheduled all-Council discussion-based meeting on a topic which Council requested;
- Council expressed appreciation for hearing the perspectives of committee members and volunteers regarding their work and the various meetings they attend;
- Exploring alternative approaches for addressing one-time issues with resident or volunteer meetings if there is a shift away from ad-hoc committees;
- Including underrepresented voices such as youth in the upcoming assembly model and how to ensure their inclusion;
- Concerns about the size of the Citizens Assembly and the challenges of scheduling meetings with a diverse group of members, and determining the ideal assembly size;
- Innovation is something the city leads with and if the Citizens Assembly is not serving the needs of New Westminster, it could be changed; and
- If the assembly model is approved, how would staff review this initiative in 5 years from a historical perspective.

Staff advised:

- The assembly model is envisioned to have more frequent meetings and will have flexibility in quorum and how the meetings take place;

- Staff would be able to take issues to the public earlier, and report back to Mayor and Council the results of that consideration;
- The recruitment process potentially would not reflect the diversity of the community, although measures to include underrepresented voices will be taken;
- The ideal number of members and meetings of the Citizens Assembly has not been determined;
- The Citizens Assembly model could offer an opportunity for live decision-making rather than referrals and re-deliberation, an increase in speed of decisions;
- Advisory assemblies would require specific demographic inclusion, such as a variety of neighbourhoods and age representation, on which City staff will provide input regarding the number of participants and demographics to include;
- Staff advised this would be treated as a pilot project and a formal review process will take place at the 18-24 month mark; and
- A measure of success may be to move average engagement with committee members from 'inform' to 'consult' on the International Association for Public Participation' Spectrum of Public Participation.

Procedural Note: Due to a fire alarm, a recess was called from 1:45-1:55 p.m.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council provide the following direction for staff on the future model of advisory committees and internal Council committees;
 - To create a framework for the Citizens Assembly to potentially allow for ad-hoc meetings and topics;
 - That the Assembly model be used to replace the current advisory committee and task-force model; and
2. **THAT**, based on this direction, Council direct staff to:
 - Create terms of reference for all new committees;
 - Inform committee members of the changes to the committee structure and the options open to them;
 - Open recruitment for the new committees with the goal of bringing forward a recruitment report to Council in September including in that recruitment report recommendations for committees that continue;
 - Include in any discussions on the procedure bylaw any amendments needed to support this new committee framework;

- Bring back to Council in the 2024 budget process the costs of implementation of the changes; and
- Bring forward changes to the Council calendar to address the new meeting structure.

Procedural note: An amendment was proposed to direct staff to retain the existing advisory committees, remove existing taskforces and to establish Committee of the Whole as a regular Council meeting; the proposed amendment, however, was determined to be out of order as a substitution of an alternative option rather than an amendment of the motion on the floor.

Procedural note: As a result of discussion, an amendment was introduced at this time.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council add to the main motion **THAT** Council direct staff to change the Economic Development Advisory Committee to Economic Development Arts and Culture.

Procedural note: As a result of the discussion, a second amendment was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the name be the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Committee.

Carried.

Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council reconsider the motion on the amendment that the Economic Development Advisory Committee be renamed the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

RECONSIDERATION

That the name be the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Committee.

Carried.

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell and Nakagawa opposed.

Procedural note: The question on the primary amendment was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

To add to the main motion **THAT** Council direct staff to change the Economic Development Advisory Committee to Arts, Culture and Economic Development Committee.

Carried.

All members present voted for the motion.

Procedural note: The question on the main motion, as amended, was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council provide the following direction for staff on the future model of advisory committees and internal Council committees;
 - To create a framework for the Citizens Assembly to potentially allow for ad-hoc meetings and topics;
 - To change the Economic Development Advisory Committee to Arts, Culture and Economic Development Committee;
 - That the Assembly model be used to replace the current advisory committee and task-force model; and
2. **THAT**, based on this direction, Council direct staff to:
 - Create terms of reference for all new committees;
 - Inform committee members of the changes to the committee structure and the options open to them;
 - Open recruitment for the new committees with the goal of bringing forward a recruitment report to Council in September including in that recruitment report recommendations for committees that continue;
 - Include in any discussions on the procedure bylaw any amendments needed to support this new committee framework;
 - Bring back to Council in the 2024 budget process the costs of implementation of the changes; and
 - Bring forward changes to the Council calendar to address the new meeting structure.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

3. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 2:40 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER