



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

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

REGULAR COUNCIL FOR WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, May 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

**Meeting held electronically and in Council Chamber
City Hall**

PRESENT: Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminister is on the unceded and unsundered 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. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive all on table material as presented; and

THAT Council adopt the Council Workshop Agenda of May 13, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 **Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update - Working Session**

Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction, introduced Catherine Berris, Landscape Architect and Community Planner, Urban Systems, and Mitchell Reardon, Director, Urban Planning, Happy Cities.

With the aid of an interactive platform, C. Berris and M. Reardon conducted an engagement session seeking Council's input on strengths, challenges, ideas, and visions for future Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.

Discussion ensued and the following Council comments were noted:

- staff was requested to provide an update on the status of items identified in the 2008 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan;
- city parks are utilized by residents for a range of uses and therefore, a comprehensive review of existing parks and how they meet the community's needs would be valuable;
- green space is limited within the boundaries of the City and therefore it may be beneficial to examine the potential for rooftop gardens, shared use of outdoor fields with New Westminster School District No. 40 and opportunities to use laneways and road ends for outdoor play spaces;
- the City's changing demographics should be considered when commissioning new facilities and programs, in particular as it relates to older adults and other vulnerable groups, including needs for accessibility, multiple languages and equity in registration processes;
- the City is positioned centrally in the Lower Mainland and is well served by transit, making it an ideal and convenient destination for tournaments; as such, a Sport Hosting Strategy may be beneficial;
- user needs should guide program offerings; for instance, summer camps end at 3:00 p.m., which does not provide parents and/or guardians adequate hours for childcare coverage;
- there is a need for additional turf fields, and in particular turf fields that are illuminated at night;
- a land acquisition strategy may serve the City well in identifying strategic areas for acquisitions for future amenity uses; and
- collaboration with First Nations is key and would lend itself to connecting residents to the history of the land.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council receive the framework overview for the Council Engagement Workshop, as outlined in this report, to update the Parks & Recreation Plan (“the Plan”); and
2. **THAT** Council provides input to help shape the draft Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was recessed at 3:02 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:07 p.m. with all members of Council present, except for Councillor McEvoy.

3.2 Preliminary Application Review: 529 Queens Avenue – Proposed Affordable Housing Project

Demian Rueter, Manager of Development Planning, presented on the Preliminary Application Review for a proposed affordable housing project at 529 Queens Avenue.

Discussion ensued and concern was raised with regard to the closure of the childcare facility currently situated on site. Discussion further took place on the potential to prioritize occupation of the units to Qayqayt First Nation and Métis families. Also, the integration of e-bike and electrical vehicle infrastructure on site would be a welcome addition.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council endorse the recommendations summarized in the Feedback section of this report.
2. **THAT** Council instruct staff to provide feedback to the applicant, as provided by Council and as summarized in the Feedback section of the report, in the Pre-Application Review letter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.3 Family Friendly Housing Policy Update Work Plan

D. Rueter provided background information; and highlighted that New Westminster was the first municipality in BC to require a minimum percentage of three-bedroom units in new multi-family projects.

In reply to queries from Council, D. Rueter advised that information regarding age restrictions in multi-family dwellings would be shared with Council.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the proposed Family Friendly Housing Policy update work plan, as outlined in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. MOTION TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO THE CLOSED MEETING

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items relate to matters listed under Section 90 and where required, Council does consider that the matters could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public:

90(1)(c) - labour relations or other employee relations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting for Workshop of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on May 13, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER