



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, September 9, 2024, 2:30 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 IN OPEN SESSION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster 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 adopt the September 9, 2024 Council Workshop agenda as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 reGENERATE: Big Moves for a Vision for the 22nd Street Neighbourhood

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Britney Dack, Supervisor, Land Use Planning, accompanied by Meredith Seeton, Senior Policy Planner, reviewed reGENERATE – a vision for the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station neighbourhood.

Staff highlighted that input from City Council, local First Nations, community members, and various other stakeholders were woven together to create the long range vision for the 22nd Street neighbourhood.

The proposed vision for the neighbourhood includes “big moves” under seven key themes: (i) Transit Village, (ii) Housing Capacity and Choice, (iii) Streets for People, (iv) Coast Salish Cultural Contributions, (v) Green Networks, (vi) Social Connections, and (vii) Climate-Friendly Buildings. Also, it was noted that fiscal responsibility is at the core of the vision whereby the neighbourhood is livable and balances growth and long-term financial resilience.

M. Seeton then spoke to next steps, noting that staff are seeking Council’s approval to conduct a second round of engagement with the community to present the results of the first round of engagement and ensure that community input was captured.

In response to Council queries, staff provided the following information:

- Transit-Oriented Area (TOA) regulations are in place in accordance with provincial regulation, and development within a TOA cannot be rejected based on its density;
- the City’ Interim Development Review Framework speaks to application requirements within TOAs; in particular, applications that require rezoning and are consistent with the City’s Official Community Plan (OCP) would proceed under current policy under two streams: (i) stratified development that require amenity charges and inclusionary housing and (ii) 100% rental projects for which amenity charges and inclusionary housing requirements do not apply;
- applications that are not consistent with the City’s OCP and TOA legislation will require an OCP amendment;
- the implementation of the vision is anticipated to take several years;
- development that is integrated with transit infrastructure requires collaboration with TransLink;
- the public engagement process has been city-wide;
- staff have been collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Department to ensure alignment with the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan;
- a Neighbourhood House is envisioned as well as a space for First Nation ceremonies; and

- staff continue to liaise with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and City of Burnaby on traffic calming measures and sustainable transportation.

Discussion took place on future amenity spaces in the 22nd Street Neighbourhood and Jackie Teed, Director, Planning and Development, advised that as part of the City's financing growth framework, staff across the organization analyze the community's needs to ensure infrastructure needs are captured, including opportunities for amenity spaces. Also, M. Seeton advised that staff have heard from New Westminster Public Library staff on the potential for satellite library services at a Neighbourhood House.

M. Seeton spoke to the City's engagement process with local First Nations, noting that staff are actively learning from this practice, including the need for capacity funding. Also, it was noted that staff have liaised with the Schara Tzedek Cemetery on the proposed vision.

Discussion took place and the following Council comments were noted:

- information on how the proposed vision will integrate with the surrounding areas would be valuable;
- it would be beneficial to distinguish the areas of scope for the vision, including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's role related to the Queensborough Bridge and explore what is envisioned for public space in the context of the anticipated density for the area;
- a target for green space may lend itself well in achieving the vision for the 22nd Street neighbourhood;
- there is a need to consider school space needs for this area and generally throughout the city; and
- the area is a major gateway to New Westminster and as such, opportunities to distinguish this point of entrance would be fitting.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to undertake round two of public engagement for the Vision, as detailed in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adjourn the September 9, 2024 Council Workshop (3:32 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on September 9, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER