



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

## **REGULAR MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Monday, November 29, 2021

Regular Meeting of

the Task Force on Culture and Economic Development

which convenes at 9:30AM

Meeting Held Electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT:**

Mary Trentadue, Chair

Councillor Chinu Das

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

#### **STAFF:**

Lisa Spitale - CAO

Emilie Adin – Director, Development Services

Harji Varn – CFO/Director, Finance

Blair Fryer – Manager, Communications and Economic Development

Kim Deighton - Manager, Licensing & Integrated Services

Gordon Duggan – Director + Curator, New Media Gallery

Sarah Joyce – Director + Curator, New Media Gallery

Todd Ayotte – Manager, Community Arts & Theatre

Robert McCullough – Manager, Museums and Heritage Services

Jen Arbo – Economic Development Coordinator

Carolyn Armanini – Planner, Economic Development

Lynn Roxburgh – Acting Supervisor

Meredith Seeton - Planner

Denise Tambellini - Manager

Nav Dhanoya -

#### **Guests**

Justin Barer – Urban Systems

David Bell - Urban Systems

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - Urgent/time sensitive matters only

1. No items were added.

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the Culture and Economic Development meeting of October 25, 2021 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Task Force present voted in favour of the motion.

### NEW BUSINESS

3. **Retail Strategy** (Blair Fryer, Manager, Communications & Economic Development)

The City's consultants, David Bell and Justin Barer, gave a presentation on the Retail Strategy and the data and analysis that has been completed to date. They are currently reviewing the supply and demand assessments to inform the development of strategic recommendations later in Spring 2022. The committee made the following comments:

- Concern of breaking up streetscape if at-grade retail space is decreased
- Banks, police station don't contribute to street activity
- Consider looking finer at 12<sup>th</sup> Street to find out what has changed as it never use to have high vacancy. There is a need to maintain affordable rates to keep its character.
- Balancing character, affordable rates with redevelopment is difficult. There is a fine line between revitalization and the growth that we want but also not losing what we have.
- Concerns that using 2019 data as a baseline as people aren't going back and patterns have changed.
  - Don't expect to go back to 2019, but is the baseline we are using and shows how people move about the city.
- To protect the streetscape consider micro CRU's, and the variability of sizes, which isn't attractive to chains but is important to independent businesses.
- What is the value of oversupplying space, what leads to lower rates and helps small, ethnic businesses start up?

- Even with micro units, it is a question of whether smaller independent businesses could afford those newer units in new developments.
- Retail/food service components to support arts/culture is important and data is showing we may be lacking that in the Downtown
- How can we think forward to make the Downtown a destination and specialized arts/culture area to support Anvil Centre and other venues?
- What is the definition of ‘Local’ so we’re not thinking of it as a Folk

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Task Force on Culture and Economic Development will occur on:

Date:	TBD
Time:	9:30 AM
Location:	Conference call

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM.

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**NAME**  
**CHAIR**

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**NAME**  
**TITLE**