



Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, October 22, 2012

Esquimalt Municipal Hall – Council Chambers

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Desjardins (Chair), Councillor Meagan Brame, Councillor Dave Hodgins, Councillor Lynda Hundleby, Councillor Robert McKie, Councillor Tim Morrison, Councillor David Schinbein

STAFF: Anja Nurvo, Manager of Corporate Services
Louise Payne, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Desjardins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following item was added to the Agenda:

- Item 5. (2) Discussion and Update from Police Board – Peter Ryan

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Hodgins/Councillor Brame:
That the Agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Hundleby/Councillor Brame:
That the following minutes be adopted as circulated:

- (1) Special Committee of the Whole, September 10, 2012; and
- (2) Regular Committee of the Whole, September 10, 2012.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) Discussion re: Advisory Committees and Commission

Mayor Desjardins introduced the following:

- Heather Gillis, Chair, Heritage Advisory Committee
- Darwin Robinson, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

- Bill Percival, Chair, Arts, Culture and Special Events Advisory Committee
- Mark Salter, Chair, Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), and EAC representative on APC
- Nick Kovacs, Chair, Advisory Planning Commission (APC)
- Paul Newcombe, Accessibility Focused representative on APC
- Heidi Bada, Accessibility Focused representative on APC

Committee Chairs and special representatives on APC were asked to summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the current committee system:

- Great wealth of talent in our volunteers; how do we identify and encourage residents to become involved on our committees?
- Roles and communication between committees and Council need to be clarified;
- New committee members looking for guidance – a lot missing from the orientation, and all Terms of Reference need review;
- How do committee members handle private citizens who ask about community issues? Suggestion for “media relations training” of committee members, as part of their orientation;
- Full time Communications Coordinator could provide committees with “media support” – share information on committees’ activities and events in the community, and to attract more volunteers;
- New committee members may benefit from a “mentoring program” (especially former Chairpersons) – not used to reviewing bylaws, guidelines and blueprints – suggestion for last meeting of a committee before new terms overlap with new members sitting in;
- Non-voting members on APC – one year trial basis – may want to reconsider this – what is Council’s intention?
- Changes to the APC – split to add a Design Panel – not clear about membership – APC currently having difficulty with achieving quorum;
- Suggestion for Name Tags for members at committee meetings because of attendance of public;
- EAC and Accessibility Focused representatives on APC very valuable and should be considered for Design Panel as well;
- EAC has youth representative which enables outreach to high school; however youth rep. has graduated but is still a member of the committee – part of EAC’s 2013 Work Plan for better outreach to young people in the community; suggestion for Youth Council for Esquimalt;
- EAC’s representative on APC suggests stronger “checklist” for developments, with follow up and enforcement of these checklist items;
- Township’s budget cycle does not correspond with school budget cycle – need to clarify and coordinate this as EAC engages local university students to do research; also Committee budget surplus – should reward events/committees that come in under budget;
- Not much input from CRD to the EAC – Mayor to discuss this issue with EAC Chair;
- Concern expressed for “burn out” of members of Arts, Culture & Special Events Committee as some did not realize they were expected to run special events;
- What about art in public spaces, and social media’s role in this? Need Public Art Policy review;

- Suggestion to set up “Volunteer Esquimalt” – have a database to draw volunteers from for community events;
- Potential to connect with service clubs – missing out on this – and develop relationships with other Arts Councils in the area;
- Suggestion to build a resource on the Township’s website about arts groups in Esquimalt;
- Suggestion to refer some of the research for Local Grants Committee to other Committees;
- Question of the value of elected officials being at committee meetings – good guidance to new committee members; better recommendations to Council; Council representatives could report back to the Committee on Council decisions and report to Council on Committee recommendations;
- Re-appointment of existing committee members – currently must re-apply – suggest that Council representative review re-appointment of sitting committee members with Council and just send a letter requesting the member to serve another term;
- Restriction on serving for more than six years on any committee should be reconsidered as some committees need members with expertise and certain backgrounds – by 2/3 majority vote of Council, allow re-appointment after six years.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

The Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of Council recessed at 9:02 p.m. and reconvened at 9:08 pm with all members of Council present.

Mayor Desjardins advised that Council has adopted a 3-year Strategic Plan and she inquired how Committee Chairs saw their committees working with Council and their Strategic Plan.

Comments from Committee Chairs:

- Like to see more emphasis on arts and culture in the Strategic Plan – issue of image/perception to outsiders – Strategic Plan goal is to improve image of Esquimalt;
- Make committee appointees more aware of their commitment to the Plan as a member of a committee (include in orientation);
- EAC revised their 2012 Work Plan after reviewing Council’s Strategic Plan with respect to waste reduction goals, the Pedestrian Charter and urban forests;
- APC reviewed the Plan with new members in April; Design Panel falls within Council’s Strategic Plan – need this level of expertise;
- HAC acknowledged that better linkage was required between the Strategic Plan and the Committee’s work plan.

(2) Discussion and Update from Victoria Police Board – Peter Ryan

Mayor Desjardins introduced Peter Ryan, Esquimalt’s representative on the Victoria Police Board.

Mr. Ryan reviewed his appointments to various Police Board committees as well as his orientation into the Victoria Police Board operations. He

suggested a community forum be held in Esquimalt and that the Victoria Police Chief be invited to speak on “operational topics” – the date suggested was Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Councillor McKie/Councillor Brame:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 22, 2012 be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MAYOR OF THE CORPORATION
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
THIS 26th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

ANJA NURVO
CORPORATE OFFICER