

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

**Meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission
Held at City Hall, 141 West 14th Street, North Vancouver, B.C.
in Conference Room A on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018**

MINUTES

Present: R. Vesely
S. Huber
M. Higgins
B. Hundal
A. Boston

Staff: M. Friesen, Planner
R. Fish, Committee Clerk
H. Evans, Community Planner
D. Watson, Transportation Planner

Absent: Councillor Bell
Councillor Back
D. Marshall
B. Watt
T. Valente
A. Cameron
D. Farley

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:05PM

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission held May 9th, 2018

It was regularly moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission held May 9th, 2018 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

2. Draft Pedestrian Plan

D. Watson presented and reviewed the Draft Pedestrian Plan with Committee members.

- Goal for plan completion is July 2018.
- Two rounds of public consultation.
- Included surveys, public open houses and consultation with advisory bodies.
- Consulted with the advisory bodies.
- Second round was to collect feedback on the level of support for proposed strategies.

- Strategies and actions of the plan:
- 5 categories
- Create Great Streets and Places:
 - Formalizing existing placemaking initiatives.
 - Creating pedestrian oriented streets and laneways.
 - Creating vibrant and engaging streetscapes.
- Expand, Enhance and Maintain the Pedestrian Network:
 - Infrastructure focused.
 - Focus on improvement of pedestrian network on streets, parks and through developments.
 - Eliminate all gaps in the sidewalk network.
 - Provide a high-quality pedestrian network that connects destinations.
 - Developed a map that identifies places more likely to find a high level of pedestrians.
 - Higher quality routes to improve connectivity at a pedestrian scale with lighting, benches etc.
 - Develop and enhance midblock connections and cut-throughs.
 - Better pedestrian connections over the highway.
 - Enhance the existing sidewalk network.
- Ensure Infrastructure is Accessible for All Users:
 - Ensure pedestrian facility design standards and intersections support people of all ages and abilities.
 - Work on issues that may cause mobility problems on sidewalks.
 - Reduce pedestrian crossing distances.
 - Ensure bus stops have pedestrian amenities and are accessible.
- Eliminate Pedestrian Fatalities and Serious Injuries:
 - Reducing speed limits on local roads.
 - Maintain the existing Look Think Go campaign.
 - Working with RCMP and ICBC to get data to carry on analyzing pedestrian crash fatality and injury instances.
- Support and Encourage Walking for Everyone:
 - Includes actions that are focused on increasing awareness on benefits of walking.
 - More needs to be done around wayfinding and publicizing projects we are working on.
 - Safe and active school program – grade 4/5 talking about active transportation and how to make it more safe.
 - Continuing to engage key groups.
- Some of these strategies have shifted since the consultation.
- Have developed a prioritization criteria:
 - Severity – Road Classification/Truck Route
 - Probability – Existing Infrastructure
 - Proximity to School
 - Proximity to Transit
 - Pedestrian Area
 - Pedestrian Corridor
 - Stakeholder Input
 - Safety
- Taking these basic criteria and applying them to all of the infrastructure to get a prioritized list to bring to Council.
- Next steps – Advisory Committee meetings and Council endorsement.

Questions and Comments from the Commission included but were not limited to:

- Where do key destinations fall? (in regard to prioritisation) **A:** Under pedestrian areas and pedestrian corridors. We use those to represent the key destinations.
- For the overpass near Sutherland school, is there only funding for design? **A:** Yes, for conceptual design and consultation last year, this year is working on detail design. Council is on board with getting this done.
- There is a draft plan to propose a new school on the Cloverly site. Can that location be included on the maps? **A:** Yes.
- Are there thoughts on the overpass at Harry Jerome being taken out? **A:** The overpass causes a lot of trouble because it's so low and gets hit by trucks. We are trying to mitigate that. Once at a reasonable height, to make it accessible it will take up too much space and won't be practical. Many people cross under it anyway. We are looking at putting in a safer at grade crossing.
- Was signalization always part of the plan? (in regard to the Harry Jerome Redevelopment) **A:** Yes, a signal can coordinate with the lights on Lonsdale.
- How is the timing determined? (in regard to the Harry Jerome Redevelopment) **A:** The wait time is coordinated with the Lonsdale signals.
- This is an excellent plan, the most important plan in terms of the way people move around.
- Encourage walking for everyone. In the plan, tweak the investments, try to make walking a major congestion management strategy.
- If it's easy and nice to walk, more people will do it.
- There needs to be a finer grained analysis to understand the power of certain key destinations, number of employees, square footage and nature of the destination.
- Good indicators of likelihood for key destinations.
- Staff: the majority of sidewalks are funded by developments.
- A lot of gaps in the sidewalk network are where there is not likely to be developments.
- In terms of financing, look at how CACs can be used to benefit a broader area.
- Reference the integration with frequent transit and the need for a multi-mobility strategy, acknowledge it in the plan.
- High density places are making our streets less interesting. We need to restrict the land use at ground floor and incorporate active commercial retail.
- A target should be to shift the large number of trips that are short in distance into active travel.
- Happy to see the concept of pedestrian crossings over the highway and educating the public of where the midblock pathways are is very important.
- Would the two bridges over Mosquito Creek and Mackay Creek be considered in the capital plan? **A:** Not sure yet, this would be the first time Council is hearing this.
- Include a school icon on the map for Cloverly. If they plan is endorsed by council they would be added to the project plan.
- I don't see any emphasis on alleys. Strengthen and animate the alley up at 21st down to the Civic Plaza. There is an opportunity to create interesting frontages.
 - It's not reflected in this map? **A:** Those aren't the main corridors for moving people.

It was regularly moved and seconded

THAT the Advisory Planning Commission has reviewed and strongly supports the Draft Pedestrian Plan and recommends the following:

- Acknowledge the integration of other modes with the pedestrian plan notably transit and cycling;
- Prioritize infrastructure investments based on the relative importance of key destinations;
- Establish targets to guide implementation, for example the share of walking trips for short trips;
- Strengthen the social marketing facets to emphasize the congestion management benefits of shifting modes to walking and active travel;
- Consider using CACs as a means of investing in pedestrian infrastructure in neighbouring areas;
- Stronger guidelines for multi-family development to improve interface with the street, notably active retail and width of shopfronts/frequency of doors per metre; and
- Develop a strategy to strengthen awareness of the pedestrian network.

Carried Unanimously

3. Child Care Strategy

H. Evans presented and reviewed the Child Care Strategy with Committee members.

- Integrate child care into ongoing planning and development functions.
- Support existing child care services and encourage new initiatives.
- Advocate for provincial and federal action on child care.
- Create a 5 year action plan for the municipality.
- Key issues and opportunities:
- Affordability:
 - Childcare costs are not affordable for most families.
 - Low wages in the child care sector.
 - Opportunities to support child care providers and offset their operating costs.
- Spaces and Location:
 - Finding locations for child care is challenging.
 - Willingness to collaborate with partners.
 - Advocacy for policy change.
 - Providers feel like they spend a lot of time advocating for their needs.
 - Municipalities are working on a child care strategy.
 - There is a lot of opportunity for municipalities to create a network of childcare providers.
- Accessibility:
 - Often child care facilities are not accommodating different work schedules and different needs.
 - Child care providers have expressed that they have tried to offer this but there wasn't much uptake.
 - Opportunities for the municipality to have a role to influence the quality of child care.
- Strategic directions include:
- Enhancing Availability of Child Care:
 - Making childcare more available and increasing the supply.
 - Due to a lack of spaces, some parents choose less than optimal spaces.
 - Key component is location – where to put these facilities.

- Heard that important areas are school properties, near transportation corridors, around existing community services and green spaces and parks.
- Improving Accessibility and Inclusion:
 - Want to reduce barriers for people accessing the spaces that are there now.
 - Impacting this is cost, lack of vacancy, program options, language issues and inconvenient locations.
 - The city can play a role to reduce the barriers.
- Key roles for the city to take action:
 - Policy and Planning
 - Direct Support
 - Information Sharing
 - Advocacy and Partnership
- Draft Actions – Enhancing Availability
 - Developing targets for increasing child care spaces that are in sync with Provincial target increases
 - Goal of 23% more spaces in the community – the max will be half million per facility.
 - Child development hubs
 - Defining where those are and bring them together.
 - Schools, libraries etc.
 - Strengthen existing policies (OCP etc.)
 - What more can we say and increase support for child care.
 - Community Benefits Policy.
 - Formalize locational criteria
 - Information sharing role – resource guide for creating child care spaces
 - Supporting people who want to create child care spaces in the community.
 - City as liaison to create space
 - Actively working with child care providers and developers and bringing them together.
- Draft Actions – Improving Accessibility, Inclusion
 - Explore a role for Child Care Advisory Group
 - Review Child Care Capital Improvement Fund
 - Network and share information with child care providers
 - Information Hub (CCR, VCH, CNV, Province of BC)
 - Challenging for parents and families to find quality child care and availability.
 - Joint planning with key agencies
 - Important to find those spaces and that they are accessible to families.
 - Provincial opportunities
 - Concept to create prototype child care sites around the province and try the idea of universal child care.
 - Partnering with CapU School of Education and Childcare Studies
 - A great resource for having people who are locally educated.
 - Work with supported child care development
 - Support with special needs.
 - Advocacy to Federal and Provincial Governments
 - The provincial government to participate with communities and create some expectation around funding those over the next 3-10 years.

Questions and Comments from the Commission included but were not limited to:

- It's a difficult topic with having child care on school sites.
- What are you hearing from government? Are they going to fund for dedicated spaces? **A:** Yes, that funding will be there. Working with ministry of Education to include child care and fund it.
- Upfront costs are a major hurdle to make something happen. Could there be a facilitator trained in permitting to help with design standards? If there's any financing that the city is trying to find, that it's allocated to that front end. Investigate the project cycle.
- Don't reduce operational costs.
- On the advocacy front, get the provincial government to reduce requirements for zoning bylaws to allow daycares in neighbourhoods.
- Establish process to address those things.
- Invest in city parks to include programming. Providing equipment in spaces that kids can play with.
- Any existing zones that permit child care facilities in the RS1? **A:** It's permitted as a right. They don't have to go through the zoning process. City zoning regulations require that the operator has to live on site.
- What about with a coach house? **A:** I believe you could still run the child care.
- GIS could identify the number of kids by location very easily and have them matched up with parks and buildings that may have space.

Break 8:05pm – 8:10pm.

4. Community Well-Being Strategy

H. Evans presented and reviewed the Community Well-Being Strategy with Committee members.

- "What about you, me, us? Let's create a caring North Van!"
- How to create a caring community.
- Phase 1 - Research and Engagement
 - Completion in summer of 2018.
 - Understand our social landscape and to engage people in the community.
 - Point out our needs, gaps and opportunities.
- Phase 1 Components
 - Engage stakeholders and community residents.
 - Social policy and issues research.
 - Engage community residents.
 - Steering Committee.
- Early research findings: by population cohort:
 - Children and Youth – 38,275 children and youth living in North Vancouver.
 - 15% are experiencing poverty.
 - 25% experience vulnerability on at least one area of development.
 - 86% of youth report feeling stressed.
 - 56% experienced negative consequence from using alcohol or other substance.
 - 7.6% of persons experiencing homelessness in North Vancouver are youth.
 - Families – 68% of lone parent families are considered low income.
 - Adult singles - \$34,675 is the median income of adult singles.
 - Low income rates have dropped due to people leaving the north shore.

- Seniors – 16% of the population in North Vancouver are seniors.
- Seniors living on their own, District has more seniors living in census families.
- 32% of persons experiencing homelessness in North Vancouver are seniors.
- Aiming to create policies and actions for social development.
- Set targets for implementation in our communities.
- Identify opportunities with community partners.
- Literacy and libraries, food security, community safety, access to services, physical health and active living etc.
- Next steps: continue research and collecting data, area profiles and potential service provider data.
- Community Research and Engagement
 - Focus groups in May, six sessions, 175 people in total representing social service agencies.
 - Divided into themes and invited different agencies to participate.
 - Sessions with targeted groups.
 - Happening in June; survey, listening posts (posters with prompts for sharing thoughts on needs), kitchen table talks (small groups for an hour discussion), pop up events (engagement activities at different locations) and community caring deep dive (longer discussion sessions).

Questions and Comments from the Commission included but were not limited to:

- Happy to see its joint with the district.
- Important to look at one person households and not just adults, better to understand who they are and where they live.
- How to figure out loneliness should be emphasized in this report.
- Need to create multi-family places where solo individuals can be included.
- We need to create in our communities a sense of people feeling connected.
- Help social service agencies to look at the amount of 1, 2 person occupied family homes that are seniors where they can they come in, create a secondary suite, manage it and screen for tenants which could create more affordable housing.
- There should be options available as this problem emerges.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 11th, 2018.

Chair

