



MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at City Hall in Conference Room A
141 West 14th Street, North Vancouver, BC on June 26, 2024

The City of North Vancouver respectfully acknowledges that this meeting is held on the traditional and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Members Present

Anna Boltenko, Chair
Liza Feris, Vice Chair
Farnoosh Fallah
Olga Kens
Kathy McGrenera
Anahita Naeini
Tim Page
Charles Pan
Zeyus Spenta

Tony Valente, Councillor

Staff Present

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Administrative Coordinator
Sarah Friesen, Administrative Coordinator
Blair Underhill, Planner 2
Eric Post, Planning Assistant

Guests

Amber Dyce, CEO, Foundations for Social Change

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by the Chair.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 29, 2024 meeting were adopted as circulated.

3. UPDATES

a) Councillor

- At the June 24 Council meeting, a Temporary Loan Authorization Bylaw was approved.
- The Annual Municipal Report was presented Monday. This is available on the CNV website.
- The Orange Shirt Society came to the June 17 meeting as delegation. They would like to install an “Every Child Matters” crosswalk at Forbes Avenue and West 6th Street. Council supported this and will send a letter to the Society.
- The Community Wellbeing Strategy was endorsed by Council on June 24 and the Climate and Environment Strategy was endorsed at the June 17 meeting.

b) Staff

- Community Grants were approved by Council as recommended by SPAC at the June 24 meeting. There were no comments or questions from Council.

Question from SPAC:

- We saw in the Community Wellbeing Strategy the responses from North Shore Neighbourhood House and Impact North Shore but what about other North Shore agencies:
 - We heard a lot from agencies that we serve. They do feel their visions are reflected. We received useful feedback from them about things that were underrepresented. Staff will be thanking all agencies for their input and sending out the strategy to agencies who helped and provided input.
- What are the next steps regarding the Community Wellbeing Strategy?
 - Staff will be advancing the priority projects. We will be reporting back to SPAC.

4. CURB ACCESS & PARKING PLAN (CAPP) PROJECT – PHASE 2 UPDATE

Blair Underhill and Eric Post presented the following highlights on the CAPP Project Phase 2:

- To recap, the project was brought before Council in October 2023. Public engagement followed. In the spring of this year, data was collected and technical analysis was done. Staff returned to Council with proposed policy changes in May 2024.
- We are now keen to hear about the effects curb access may have for you and your family as well as the community as a whole. Also are there areas you feel should be prioritized?
- During Phase 1 engagement we heard:
 - It's hard to find parking in busy areas;
 - Resident parking permits exclude the majority of resident;
 - More convenient and safe loading opportunities are needed;
 - The supply of accessible parking is insufficient;
 - Changes in on-street and off-street parking policies needs to be coordinated;
 - Curb space for mobility, storage and public place-making requires ongoing conversations.
- Staff arrived at the proposed policy changes based on tools the City has available today, considered the best global parking management practices, aligned with City and project objectives and responded to feedback we heard from community members.
- Proposed policy changes include:
 - Expand pay parking in high-demand areas;
 - Modernize the Resident and Visitor parking policy;
 - Provide more short-term loading zones;
 - Provide more accessible on-street parking spaces;
 - Enable unique special-use (car-share, bike, etc.) parking.
- As of today, we are in the middle of Phase 2 engagement which includes a City wide mailout, letstalk activity on the CNV website, pop ups events, workshops with residents and businesses, and committee meetings.
- We hope to have the finalized plan to Council in the fall, and, if endorsed, implementing curb space changes beginning in 2025.

Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

- I received a postcard via the mailout and was impressed by them. I was able to find everything online. I thought it was very good that you used education before pay parking was introduced.
- How big an area are these neighbourhood zones?
 - We are currently figuring that out. Right now parking permit zones are maximum one block or less. It's not intended for internal circulation (i.e. parking at the top of the zone, and driving to the bottom of a zone)... so generally 4-6 block radius is what most Cities use.
- Pay parking may impact businesses on Lower Lonsdale as people may not want to go down there. Have you worked with the Chamber?
 - We have met with the CEO of the Chamber and it was very beneficial. We have been working closely with them since the development of the Mobility Strategy. We have also met with the Shipyards District Business Improvement Area and they are supportive. There is a lot to expand on on the education side. Generally we see apprehension around pay parking until people realize parking may be more reliable and that it will be affordable. Additional conversations are required, but so far we have heard a lot of support.
- We live in a dense community that is not very expansive. What you are proposing makes electoral sense but from the vantage point of UPS, etc. will these changes have sufficient effect to reach the objectives you have? Of all of what you have learned, what do you think the sticking points might be?
 - We have thought about how we want to move forward with this. The current status quo is not good. We are looking at a non-management approach or around a range of City objectives by incorporating feedback from the public. We will have to reassess once changes are implemented and tweak as we go along.
- With pay parking being introduced, the cost for families with young children to go on outings will go up. Is this being considered when pay parking is being considered?
 - This is one of the pieces we are trying to sort out. The aim of a managed program is to set costs as low as possible to receive the desired objectives. Regarding parks, we are working with a Parks Planner as part of the development of the Parks Master plan. There is no current plan to start pricing parking at parks, but we may put time limit restrictions on some of those lots.
- In the downtown core during the Olympics, there were out-of-hours deliveries done. Perhaps that is something to consider again. It is great that you are doing a fulsome engagement; this is potentially a big change and it's important for people to understand why we are doing this.
- Is one of the goals to reduce traffic and the number of vehicles?
 - Yes, this is in the Mobility Strategy. All three districts are looking at other options and choices to get around.
- Councillor Valente asked members if they could explain the rationale behind this work; that it is to improve curb space reliability so people can find a place to park.
 - Most members agreed that they would be able to explain it to a friend or neighbour. They also indicated that this is something that most people would be able to understand, particularly in Lower Lonsdale, where available parking is very difficult to find.

7:08 pm – B. Underhill and E. Post left the meeting.

7:10 pm – A Dyce joined the meeting.

7:10 – 7:15 pm - Break

5. GUEST SPEAKER – FOUNDATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Amber Dyce, CEO of Foundations for Social Change, spoke about the Foundation and their objectives.

The following highlights were presented

- The Foundation started officially 5 years ago, grown from an idea about 8 years ago.
- They started with innovative ideas to advance some of society's issues, in particular solutions for homelessness.
- The pilot project, entitled New Leaf Project, was to take 50 individuals, aged 19 – 65, who were newly experiencing homelessness, had no severe mental health or addiction issues and had been unhoused for 2 years. They gave them a one-time unconditional CAD \$7,500 cash. Outcomes were significant; most were housed within 10 – 12 months.
- The people in the pilot project reporting having hope, a better mindset and they were able to re-bond with family and friends.
- There is a stigma around giving the homeless money. The folks in the New Leaf Project spent less money on drugs and alcohol, etc. Most spent it on first and last months' rent, paying debts or fixing a car.
- The work they are doing now is an expansion of the New Leaf Project, expanded across the Lower Mainland.
- The number one change in displacement is on the North Shore; there are homeless more seniors, more youth in North Vancouver than other areas.
- The Foundation has focused on building relationships with Hollyburn Community Services and other non-profits.
- They have also added a social work component. This includes a community connector for each participant. This person provides help with filling out applications and navigating the system.
- Part of the CEO's role is to meet with all levels of governments to share the data they now have. The senate in Ontario and the federal government are now a big part of the conversation.
- They are striving to make sure everyone has information about the 80% who are the hidden homeless.

Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

- Very excited to hear about this work. What happens when folks are helped for a period of time with this program? Do you provide ongoing assistance?
 - We follow participants for a year's time. At the end of 9 – 12 months, we help identify off ramps that they will end up on. Most are stabilized and don't need our help by that time. The biggest offering we provide is that they can go back into a community organization that they came from. We have a staff member at Hollyburn specifically for these folks; we make sure no one is left after the 12 months. A person may not come in with mental health issues, but they may develop some; we make sure they have the help they need. We have an agreement with the Ministry; our money won't affect any other services.
- How did you come up with the specific dollar value?

- In our most current project the amount is \$8,500. This is based on the amount from social services. We realize people are struggling with the cost of living due to inflation and interest rates. We have gone back to our ethics board and data control to try scale the amount up.
- The age group is pretty broad, I am wondering whether there is an effectiveness by age. This represents a paradigm shift in how social support can be offered to people at risk. Someone at a government level should be understanding the advantages of your business model and see that as a way they can support communities.
 - The data from the pilot is public information. There are many factors, data is significant. It can be found online at: <https://forsocialchange.org/>.
 - A study like this had not been done in Vancouver before.
- This reminds me of a book called “Evicted” which followed eight families that were given 3 months’ rent. In Vancouver, \$8,500 would be barely enough. How do people find housing for this amount? How do the specifics work?
 - Vancouver is a very expensive place to live. \$8,500 is based on the Province of BC and is a federal number. The projection of that amount is very different here.
 - It is a totally unconditional amount, the findings we have is that it’s a great amount but people would rather get it in chunks than all at once. So far, the amount of \$8,500 is enough to get people stabilized.
- How do you track progress?
 - We meet with participants regularly, formally and informally. We have a defined subset of questions that we ask each time. The majority have disclosed bank account information anonymously so we can see their spending habits. They self-report if they go into addiction or become homeless.
- How do you track mental wellbeing?
 - We have protocols that are mandated by the Ethics Board at UBC. They are very stringent. We also do cognitive function testing.
 - We have a team of mental health professionals that will reach out if and when necessary.
 - Financial counselling and training is also provided. By the end of the twelve months, most have taken this training and are interested in having more financial tools.
- In the financial literacy course, do you highlight areas where expending general knowledge of financial literacy would help people to not end up in these situations?
 - The majority of individuals come from all kinds of backgrounds and education. Most people are in a crisis state. The biggest take away is that this is one piece of the puzzle to support folks who go through a crisis.
- How much does hope pay a role? The fact that someone believes in them, caring and thinking about them?
 - That is the resounding word that we hear – hope. This gives them hope. When they are entrusted with this money, it makes them feel trusted and capable. The biggest thing we are doing is giving hope.

8:03 pm – L. Feriz left meeting, A. Dyce left the meeting.

6. ROUNDTABLE

- These presentations underscore the role that this committee plays in the community. Well worth our attention.
- It would be interesting to hear about the Parks plan at SPAC.

- On September 15, the first Kids Festival will be happening at the Shipyards. This is for ages 0 – 12. Kids will be doing poetry, dancing, musical. There will be a young DJ and kid vendors.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

**Date of Next Meeting – September 25, 2024
(Now rescheduled to September 18)**

“Certified Correct by the Chair”

Anna Boltenko, Chair