

**Municipality of North Cowichan
Committee of the Whole
MINUTES**

**October 16, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
Municipal Hall - Council Chambers**

Members Present Councillor Kate Marsh, Chair
 Mayor Al Siebring
 Councillor Rob Douglas
 Councillor Christopher Justice
 Councillor Tek Manhas
 Councillor Rosalie Sawrie

Members Absent Councillor Debra Toporowski

Staff Present Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Mark Frame, General Manager, Financial and Protective Services
 Ernie Mansueti, General Manager, Community Services
 Sarah Nixon, General Manager, Corporate Services
 David Conway, Director of Engineering
 Rob Conway, Director of Planning
 Natasha Horsman, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement
 Megan Jordan, Acting, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement
 Chris Hutton, Community Planning Coordinator
 Nelda Richardson, Deputy Corporate Officer
 Alyssa Meiner, Acting Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Councillor Marsh, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the October 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Council received brief public input from Cam Campbell regarding the agenda item.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Official Community Plan Project Objectives

The Committee heard from the Community Planning Coordinator that approximately 40 people attended the Official Community Plan (OCP) Volunteers Workshop held at Providence Farm on Saturday October 5th. The Workshop included a broad orientation in the morning, followed by team building and engagement activities in the afternoon. The Committee heard that volunteers covered what makes a great OCP, project objectives, volunteer roles, and stakeholder identification.

Highlights from the Community Planning Coordinator's presentation included the following thematic (broad theme) objectives for the project:

Growth Management - policies around the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB).

- With the approach to growth management, questions raised at the workshop included how much are we going to grow, what does that look like, and where is growth going to be allowed.
- The term 'revising' was discussed and the Committee heard a review of the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) could include revisions.

Community Character

- The Committee heard that community character is a big objective with servicing and development challenges.
- The Committee heard that while there is a rural community ambassador team that will focus on rural areas, rural and natural character aspects will also likely be discussed and considered through the project process. Rural character is not exclusive to the rural ambassadors.

Climate Change

- There was a lot of interest in climate change, and "incorporating climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience" which is the language from North Cowichan's Climate Action and Energy Plan (CAEP).
- The Committee heard staff are communicating and cooperating with the CVRD (regional approach) and acknowledging green infrastructure and environmentally sensitive areas.

Employment and Economy

- The volunteers recognized that North Cowichan is part of a regional economy.
- The Committee discussed language used, OCP objectives versus Project Objectives, and the need to show mindfulness around these topics and language as part of consultation and create room for that conversation.
- The Committee asked about the term 'healthy employment' and heard from staff that OCPs typically focus on "where we're going". In this case, healthy employment stems from wage and affordability (i.e. secure employment with livable income).

- The Committee heard from the Director of Planning that North Cowichan is attempting to capture concepts of 'complete community' and this was previously captured in the current OCP as Smart Growth.
- The Committee supported including "complete communities" as an additional objective for the Project.

The Committee then reviewed the following procedural objectives, as set out in the Community Planning Coordinator's presentation, noting inconsistencies with the report on the agenda:

1. Prioritize Urgent Issues (not included in report)

2. Inter-Governmental Engagement

3. First Nations Engagement

The Committee heard from staff that First Nations need to self-determine if and how they wish to be engaged, and that the Mayor sent letters to local First Nations seeking direction on whether and how they wish to be engaged.

4. Achievable and Adaptable Outcomes

The Committee heard this objective includes properly defined and achievable deliverables. If the OCP is expected to provide a panacea to all society's ills, this is set up for failure. There is a need to establish realistic and achievable deliverables.

The Committee asked questions about resolving conflicts with competing policies in an OCP and heard from the Director of Planning that an OCP will not solve all issues and it is the role of Council to resolve issues. An OCP should be readable and flexible enough to allow Council to apply discretion in their decision making. An OCP should provide a sense of general intent.

5. Vetted Deliverables

The Committee heard deliverables will be vetted first through the OCP Community Ambassador Groups, OCP Advisory Group, and project steering committee, before going to Council.

6. Creating an Accessible Plain Language Plan and Planning Process

The Committee clarified that the proposed project objectives will include objectives discussed at today's meeting, and thanked staff for their work on the workshop over the weekend.

It was moved and seconded:

That Council support the proposed project objectives outlined in the October 16, 2019 report by the Community Planning Coordinator so that the OCP Project Plan can advance.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. QUESTION PERIOD

The Committee received questions from Cam Campbell and Marilyn Palmer regarding business considered at this meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the October 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor