

Reimagine Nanaimo: Phase 1 “Gathering Ideas”

Also present: Karin Kronstal and Kirsty MacDonald, Kevin Pistor (PINA)

Items discussed:

1. Overview of “Reimagine Nanaimo” and the process

- a. Deadline for Phase 1 extended to November 30, 2020. To contribute your ideas, go to

www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca

2. Items discussed:

- a. Management Plan for Protection Island forests (parks and trees) [Immediate priority]

Art Groot will be reaching out to PI groups to begin the process of developing a collaborative plan soon. (Charlotte and Susan from City Parks will also be present.) This meeting was planned for March of 2020 but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Mr. Groot is hoping to have the first meeting next month.

- b. PINA expressed the desire to secure guaranteed access to and from Protection Island via publicly owned facilities, preferably owned or controlled by the City of Nanaimo. [long term]

It was pointed out that all current access routes are controlled or owned by private businesses or the Port Authority and that access is not guaranteed into the future.

We proposed that we imagine a City-operated boat basin and/or a City owned boat ramp at the Wellcox Lands (south of Port Place Mall). The City could consider forming a cooperative management group with representatives from the City of Nanaimo, Snuneymux First Nation, and citizen representatives. This cooperative would be locally controlled to meet local demands in the harbour of “The Harbour City.” Such a group could guarantee access rights to the city, to PI, and to Newcastle Island through the harbour. A boat ramp would assist in transportation of goods to the two islands, promoting economic activity and reducing the environmental impacts of the existing longer transportation routes. Perhaps there are ways to connect the two islands as an extension of the public transportation routes of the city.

- c. Improved Dust Suppression for island roads. [immediate priority]

We know that “chip seal” or another hard surface type is being planned for 2022. Until then, we need to have dust suppression applied. It was pointed out that climate change has resulted in longer periods of drought when road dust is a problem. As a consequence, we asked that two applications of dust suppression be applied instead of one annual application, dependent on weather conditions.

- d. Repairs to the tennis court surface and possible future consideration of another hard surface court. [medium term priority]

While not yet through the budget approval process, the resurfacing of the court with cement and repainting the lines is planned for 2023. Input will be sought before any work is finalized and carried out. A new fence is not part of the budget at this time.

- e. We raised the idea that the City consider ways to obtain the land at 25 Spyglass and rezone it as parkland. This particular property has posed problems ever since its inception. Due to it being unsuitable for building, the City should solve the problem once and for all.

[short to medium term priority or when opportunity presents itself]

- f. Lack of protected deep-water moorage locations on the island has put stress on existing moorage facilities. All are at or beyond capacity. As the island's population grows, this will reinforce the need for a public transportation route to and from the island. The "Happyland" property on the west side of the island offers possible moorage facilities. Should the property ever be developed, the City can push for some marina slots be dedicated to meet residents' moorage needs. [long term]

- g. There is a growing desire to have some form of "assisted living" facility for our aging population. While this would require "private" investment, such a facility would likely have the City's support as it is consistent with the city's goal of increased density in the downtown area. [long term]

- h. We briefly discussed air B & B s and their impacts on the island. Regulations for such operations are currently being developed by the City. Interested parties should seek opportunities with the City to have input on this issue. [short to medium term priority]

- i. In light of the current liquor license application to extending the hours of operation at the Newcastle Island facilities, we asked if there was a structure in place that would give residents of PI an opportunity to express any concerns they may have with respect to increased activity on Newcastle Island. Chris will get back to PINA on that.

We were asked if PINA has tried to reach out to the SFN leadership. PINA's plans to arrange a meeting were postponed due to the pandemic. PINA was encouraged to resume with those plans.

[short to medium term]