



TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday September 13, 2023

Present: Mayor N. Minions
Councillors S. Blacklock, K. Grant, C. Haslett,
J. Kerr, J. Meilleur

Absent: M. Swift

Staff Present: J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer (electronically)
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
G. Kreek, Acting Director of Finance
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services
G. Schreiner, Fire Chief
T. Hagmeier, Recreation Director (electronically)
S. Ashfield, Director of Operations
R. Nall, Parks Manager
K. Gurak, Communications Coordinator
C. Dallamore, Corporate Coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Agenda was Adopted.

Mayor Minions acknowledged that the Town of Comox is standing on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation.

1. DELEGATIONS:

a. Tracey Lorenson (Civic Excellence): Town of Comox Strategic Plan

The delegation provided guidance and relevant information to aid Council in formulating the language for the Town of Comox Strategic Plan.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Strategic Plan 2022-2026

1. That the statement previously referred to as "Vision" be amended to "Vision Statement", and the wording in the first paragraph of the Vision Statement be amended to the following:

The Town of Comox is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all residents, businesses and visitors through investment in active transportation, infrastructure, parks, recreation, arts and culture.

CARRIED

TOWN OF COMOX - STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

a. Strategic Plan 2022-2026

2. That the wording in the Accessibility Lense Statement be amended to the following:

We will support and embrace diversity and strive to make our community and services accessible and inclusive for everyone regardless of ability or background.

CARRIED

3. That the wording in the Climate Lense Statement be amended to the following:

We will consider and value our natural assets and our unique community features and will take responsibility for our long-term impact on the environment for future generations.

CARRIED

4. That the wording in the Fiscally Responsible Lense statement be amended to the following:

We will balance the short and long term financial impacts of our decisions.

CARRIED

5. That the wording in the Reconciliation Lense statement be amended to the following:

We will work to improve our relationship with K'ómoks First Nation and any other Indigenous partners.

CARRIED

6. That the wording in the Respectful Dialogue Values statement be approved as follows:

We focus on respect and candour in our work as Council.

CARRIED

7. That the wording in the Embracing Diversity Values statement be amended to the following:

We support diversity and strive to make our community and services accessible and inclusive.

CARRIED

8. That the wording in the Strategic Priority Disciplined Decision Making Values statement be approved as follows:

We are responsible and transparent in our decision making.

CARRIED

9. That the title of the "Proactive Community Growth" Strategic Priority be replaced with "Balancing Community Planning".

CARRIED

a. Strategic Plan 2022-2026

9. That the wording in the Strategic Priority Organizational Excellence Areas of Focus be approved as follows:

Asset Management - Focus on life-cycle funding when considering asset additions or replacements and communicate to the public the cost and need for asset renewal.

Staff Retention - Ensure our human resources are aligned with meeting Council and the community's expectations.

Internal processes - Streamline and develop new processes that are efficient, cost effective and support our overall objectives.

Customer Service - Enhance customer service standards within our organization by providing better access to information, training tools and resources for staff.

CARRIED

10. That the wording in the Strategic Priority Community Connection and Wellness Areas of Focus be amended to the following:

Recreation - We believe recreation is critical to community vibrancy, belonging, connection and health (safety) at all ages.

Parks - Our parks and greenspace connectivity enhances livability and walkability in the town and ensures seaside access for all.

Arts and Culture - Support the work of local non-profits and festivals to deepen the sense of community and belonging.

Public Safety – support Comox Fire Rescue and other local emergency services to maintain and enhance the safety of our citizens.

CARRIED

11. That the wording in the Strategic Priority Economic Health Areas of Focus be amended to the following:

Downtown Vitality - We believe that a vibrant downtown is a key element of a proud connected community. Creates connection, a sense of community and a sense of place.

Balancing Vibrancy & Stability - Create an environment for a robust and vibrant Comox economy. Work with community organizations (BIA) to facilitate their success.

Comox Marina: The Comox Marina offers a unique opportunity for the growth of the marine tourism industry.

CARRIED

TOWN OF COMOX - STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

a. Strategic Plan 2022-2026

12. That the wording in the Strategic Priority Good Governance Areas of Focus be amended to the following:

Community Participation – We enhance two-way communication with our community.

Relationships – We develop connections and relationships both locally and regionally to leverage support and impact for our goals.

Decision Making - We make evidence-based decisions focused on the best interests of the Town over the long term.

CARRIED

13. That the Strategic Priority "Balanced Community Planning" Areas of Focus statement be amended to the following:

Statement - We will ensure responsible well thought out growth to enhance a well-balanced community.

Strategic Growth - We will balance the benefits of growth with the livability of our seaside community.

Housing - We will create the conditions for a diversity of housing options in our unique seaside Town.

Community Addition - We will ensure that each new major development adds positively to the community through appropriate amenity contributions and/or other community benefits.

CARRIED

14. That the Strategic Plan Report "Top Advocacy" be amended to list by topic rather than level.

CARRIED

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified correct pursuant to Section 97(1)(b) of the Community Charter.



CHAIR