



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

A G E N D A

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

TUESDAY, November 13, 2018

AT 8:40 AM

*"To deliver effective
and efficient, local
government services
that benefit our
citizens, our
businesses, our
environment and our
future"*

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. THAT the Agenda for the November 13, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- A. THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council held October 9, 2018, be adopted. **(P. 3)**

MINUTES

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4. GENERAL MATTERS

- A. Annette Sharkey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan, will provided a Quarterly Report to Council.

- Val Richards – Multicultural Champion 2018 **(P. 12)**
- Homeless in Vernon – An Overview – October 2018 **(P. 13)**

THAT Council receives the quarterly report from Ms. Annette Sharkey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan, as provided at the November 13, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL – QUARTERLY REPORTS and UPDATES **(P. 6)**

2019 BUDGET BINDER DISTRIBUTION

- A. Debra Law, Director of Finance and Aaron Stuart, Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting will review the 2019 Budget Binders *(to be distributed at the meeting)*.

**COUNCIL STRATEGIC
PLANNING**

B. Verbal Report, Will Pearce, CAO, Council Strategic Planning –
January 2019.

- 7. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**
- 8. COUNCIL INFORMATION UPDATES**
- 9. G.V.A.C. / R.D.N.O REGULAR MEETINGS**
- 10. INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 11. CLOSE OF MEETING**

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018**

PRESENT: Mayor A. Mund

Councillors: J. Cunningham, S. Anderson,
B. Quiring, C. Lord, D. Nahal

Staff: W. Pearce, CAO
P. Bridal, DCAO, Director, Corporate Services
S. Blakely, Manager, Legislative Services
D. Ross, Director, Recreation Services
D. Law, Director, Finance
N. Nilsen, Communications Officer & Grants Coordinator
K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development
S. Mitchell, Manager, Arenas
L. Walker, Officer Coordinator, Recreation
W. Mahalicz, Recreation Facilities Coordinator
S. Koenig, Director, Operations
B. Bandy, Real Estate Manager*

*attended as required

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Akbal Mund called the meeting to order at 8:50 am.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT the Agenda for the October 9, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

**ADOPTION OF THE
MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Lord, seconded by Councillor Nahal:

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council held September 24, 2018, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

GENERAL MATTERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councillor Quiring declared a conflict in the following matter as his firm may be participating in some of the proposed projects. Councillor Quiring left the meeting at 8:50 am.

**PRESENTATION – FINAL
DRAFT - GREATER
VERNON RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
(7700-10)**

Mike Roma of RC Strategies+PERC, Gabi Haas, President, GDH Solutions and Doug Ross, Director Recreation attended to review the Draft Greater Vernon Recreation Master Plan.

The following points were noted:

- October 9 version distributed to Council last week and posted to website
- Took feedback from previous meetings and from the Public to create final document
- Reviewed public input opportunities, including online contributions
- Positive feedback – reviewed statistics and methods

Gabi Haas:

- Reviewed written comments received during survey

Mike Roma:

- Highlighted of detailed changes made to the Plan since last meeting
- Changed esthetics of the document to reflect Greater Vernon Area
- Improved references to statistics/surveys
- Council noted 'What We Heard Report' Page 5 – numbers need to be reviewed and corrected
- Service Delivery recommendations – minor wording changes – no change to intent
- Allocation Policy – one minor changes (*to ensure appropriate use of facilities*)
- Professional Development – expanded scope to include elected officials
- Event Coordinator Position amended to indicate *'consider an event coordinator position'*
- Supporting Groups – added reference to Halina Centre
- No changes to Programming
- Condition Assessments – changed frequency of Engineering Assessments (3-5 year cycle)
- Annually fund reserve for major maintenance – reserve created – slight language changes
- Planning process – no changes to four step process – noted steps one and two have been completed
- No changes to facility recommendations
- Some additional text added to articulate some logic (ie. capital savings for combined facilities)
- Note added in regard to phased building
- Will be presenting to District of Coldstream Council this evening
- Plan is 'road map to the future' – with endorsement, Communities are not saying 'yes' to projects – they are noting they will consider them in future

Moved by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Lord:

THAT Council endorse the Amended Final Greater Vernon Recreation Master Plan, as at the October 9, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting;

AND FURTHER, that Council direct Administration to advise the District of Coldstream and the Electoral Area Directors of Council’s direction regarding the final Greater Vernon Recreation Master Plan;

AND FURTHER, should the final Greater Vernon Recreation Master Plan be endorsed by the District of Coldstream Council, Electoral Area B & C Directors and Vernon Council, that Council direct Administration to report back to Council and supply an action plan for the implementation of the short term, high priority recommendations included in the plan by January 28, 2019.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

COUNCIL INFORMATION UPDATES

G.V.A.C./R.D.N.O. REGULAR MEETINGS

INFORMATION ITEMS

CLOSE

Mayor Akbal Mund closed the meeting at 9:23 am.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Mayor:

Corporate Officer:

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL/PARTNERS IN ACTION

QUARTERLY REPORT: July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018

VISION STATEMENT: A safe, healthy and inclusive community in which to live, work and grow

MISSION STATEMENT: To identify and implement manageable solutions to social issues in our community by mobilizing community based action teams

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR: Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan

COMMITTEE FUNDING SOURCE: City of Vernon

ACTION TEAM FUNDING SOURCES: Provincial and Federal Government, Local Funders and Various Foundations

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Community Safety Office, Community Futures North Okanagan, Interior Health, Kindale Developmental Association, City of Vernon, Transition House, Independent Living Vernon, Downtown Vernon Association, Restorative Justice Program, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, North Okanagan Early Years Council, Turning Points Collaborative, Upper Room Mission, United Way North Okanagan Columbia Shuswap, Nexus BC, Vernon and District Immigrant Services Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, Family Resource Centre, Vernon Native Housing Society, UBCO, Chamber of Commerce, Community Living BC, Mental Illness Family Support Centre

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Build awareness and understanding of social issues
- Work collaboratively to problem-solve areas of concern
- Develop resources/policies to address gaps
- Monitor and evaluate the Partners in Action model and outcomes
- Provide sustainability for the Partners in Action Committee

Action Team	Open/ Closed	Background/Activities	Outputs	Direct Outcomes	Updates/Follow Up
Homelessness/Housing					
COOL Team Update	Ongoing	The COOL team is a partnership between bylaw officers and outreach workers for a collaborative approach to addressing homeless camps. The COOL team follows a protocol where bylaw officers and outreach workers connect campers to services such as the Gateway Shelter, Upper Room Mission and Interior Health.	Bi-annual censuses of temporary shelters. Annual census/survey of homeless population. Protocol.	Due to the significant increase in absolute homelessness in the least few years, the COOL team has expanded their outreach and work closely to monitor the health and safety of camps/spaces.	The COOL Team has conducted two surveys in 2018. The first one was organized in July to see if there are significant differences between the homeless population in the summer as opposed to the fall, when the census is traditionally hosted.

					<p>An overview of the July 2018 census/survey is attached with additional background information on homelessness in Vernon.</p> <p>Results of the October 2018 census/survey will be provided in a PowerPoint presentation to City Council during the quarterly presentation.</p>
Centreville Neighbourhood Council	Ongoing	This action team was formed in 2008 to address concerns of neighbouring businesses to the planned location of the Gateway Shelter. The group has continued to meet quarterly since 2008 to connect regularly and problem solve neighbourhood issues.	<p>Quarterly meetings since 2008.</p> <p>The development and implementation of a Neighbourhood Communication and Security Strategy.</p>	Between 2008 and 2015, there was increased cooperation and understanding between businesses and service providers; however, the rise in absolute homelessness has strained the relationship with some of the downtown businesses.	<p>The City of Vernon and the Social Planning Council will support the Centreville Neighbourhood Council to host a meeting in January 2019.</p> <p>The purpose will be to provide a neutral space for businesses and service providers to meet and share their frustrations and concerns. Businesses are also welcome to attend the quarterly meetings on an ongoing basis, if they feel this would be beneficial.</p>
Housing Action Team	Ongoing	The housing action team meets bi-annually to review the housing inventory, identify gaps and explore opportunities. This provides the non-profit housing sector a chance to network, brainstorm and be strategic with plans for future affordable units.	<p>Bi-annual meetings.</p> <p>Updated inventory.</p> <p>Increased collaboration and partnership development.</p>	Increased number of affordable units owned and managed by the non-profit sector.	<p>The housing non-profit sector is organized and prepared to apply to the upcoming provincial and/or federal housing grants. Moving forward in 2019/20 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 beds - Our Place Shelter, Turning Point Collaborative • 52 units - My Place Apartment, Turning Point Collaborative • 38 units – Vernon Native Housing • 41 units – Vancouver Resource Society

					Social Planning Council has also been assisting with two City owned properties targeting low to moderate income earners, the Pleasant Valley Road project as well as the Highlands of Easthill development.
Vernon as a Federal Designated Community under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy	Open	In March 2018, the Social Planning Council contacted our local MP's office to see if Vernon could be positioned as a potential new designated community (and therefore eligible for significantly more federal funding). MP Mel Arnold sent a letter on behalf of the community to the Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development.	Backgrounder to MP and subsequent Letter to the Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development.	Access to federal funding in Vernon to address homelessness. More supported housing units/ programs.	The federal government has announced plans to expand the number of designated communities to receive funding under their Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Communities are still waiting for a formal announcement from the federal government but Vernon is in a good position to apply as we have been collecting relevant data since 2008.
Housing Strategy	Open	The Social Planning Council has secured \$50,000 from the federal government to hire a consultant to review and update both the Homelessness Strategy and the Attainable Housing Strategy (developed in tandem in 2007) in conjunction with the Partners in Action Committee and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.	Grant Secured.	Identify the successes and challenges of local housing strategies. Provide recommendations for future actions based on identified gaps and current best practices.	The Social Planning Council, in conjunction with City of Vernon staff, have hired Urban Matters to review both the Homelessness and Attainable Housing strategies. An evaluation of both strategies has been completed, including a document/literature review and interviews of key stakeholders. A workshop is planned for December 5, 2018 where Urban Matters will provide an overview of best practices from other communities in BC/Canada and assist stakeholders to identify priorities/next steps for Vernon.

Shopping Cart Action Team	Open	An action team was created, in conjunction with the RCMP, to address the issue of abandoned and stolen shopping carts. Some of these carts are being used by our homeless population and the RCMP would like to see a designated cart program as an alternative.	Action team has been formed.	Identify the extent of shopping carts currently in use by the homeless population. Develop an alternative option for our homeless population.	This action team is currently on hold in lieu of the Activate Safety Taskforce recommendations. The Partners in Action will await further direction from the City of Vernon before moving forward.
Harm Reduction					
Harm Reduction Team (HART)	Open	<p>Vernon is one of sixteen designated communities earmarked to receive Provincial funding to address the opioid crisis at the local level and support Community Action Teams (known locally as HART).</p> <p>The HART team, with input and support from Interior Health, will be the advisory body for the development of a Vernon specific opioid crisis/harm reduction strategy. Social Planning Council is the host organization.</p>	<p>Grant secured.</p> <p>Launch of eight action teams since July 2018.</p> <p>Support to two partner organizations to apply for additional grants.</p>	<p>Reduce and prevent overdoses/death</p> <p>Reduce stigma regarding drug usage and increase access to services.</p> <p>Advocate for increased services including housing and treatment</p> <p>Increase access to harm reduction supplies</p> <p>Increase the community capacity to collect used harm reduction supplies.</p>	<p>The Social Planning Council has received funding from the Community Action Initiative to host the HART team and develop an Opioid Crisis/Harm Reduction Strategy.</p> <p>The goal of the funding is to reduce and prevent overdose deaths in Vernon. An overview of the project will be provided in a PowerPoint presentation to City Council during the quarterly presentation.</p> <p>In addition, the HART team is supporting the Downtown Vernon Association to apply for funding to convene community dialogues (particularly with downtown businesses) regarding the opioid crisis.</p> <p>As well, the team is supporting CMHA to apply for a federal grant to pilot a text/call in service for people who tend to use alone (the hidden population) and are at higher risk of overdose death.</p>

Sharps Action Team/ Community Clean Ups	Open	<p>This action team was created in response to concerns from downtown businesses about the number of needles being found in alleyways.</p> <p>On a monthly basis the Upper Room Mission and the Street Clinic host a clean up with their clients and spend the morning going through downtown alleys and parks. The Downtown Vernon Association assists with small honorariums and certificates of thanks for the volunteers.</p> <p>Thanks to a grant from the City of Vernon, the monthly clean ups are now hosted weekly.</p>	<p>Community partnership and sharing of resources.</p> <p>Increased sense of responsibility and shared citizenship with people using community services.</p>	<p>Reduce number of needles in downtown area.</p> <p>Provide support and information to local businesses.</p>	<p>With support from the City of Vernon, the downtown monthly clean ups (hosted by NOYFSS and the Upper Room Mission) moved to a weekly format as of September 2018.</p> <p>The Sharps Action Team has also been supporting the Community Safety Office to research and develop a peer based program for needle recovery, based on the successful <i>Spikes on Bikes</i> from the Lower Mainland.</p>
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Accessibility/Inclusiveness/Multiculturalism

Local Immigration Partnership Council: Immigration and Settlement Strategy for Vernon	Open	<p>The complete final strategy document as well as supporting research reports are available at www.socialplanning.ca</p>	<p>Community Survey on Immigration.</p> <p>Labour Market Report.</p> <p>Marketing Strategy.</p> <p>Vernon Immigration and Settlement Strategy.</p>	<p>Newcomers choose Vernon and remain in the community indefinitely.</p> <p>Newcomers participate in the local labour market, broader community and social networks.</p>	<p>Highlights for this quarter include:</p> <p>Meeting with the City of Vernon and the Chamber of Commerce to further develop a potential Ambassador Program. Social Planning Council can assist from an international/ multicultural perspective.</p> <p>Continued promotion and development of the "Moving to Vernon" webpage.</p> <p>Continued monthly stories in the Vernon Morning Star highlighting our multicultural champions (see attached).</p>
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"Respect Lives Here" Event	Open	The Province of BC has provided funding to organize an event that celebrates diversity and promotes multiculturalism.	Series of stories that highlight the contributions of local multicultural champions.	Increased understanding and appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism in our community.	The 2018 Multicultural Champions were honoured at a special event during the DVA's Sunshine Festival in June. Funding has now been secured for the champion program to continue in 2019.
Reconciliation Journey Team	Ongoing	The Partners in Action Committee is taking the time to learn more about First Nation history and culture and to reflect on the committee's role in the Truth and Reconciliation process taking place in our nation.	<p>Social Planning Council has co-hosted eight workshops on the history of the Okanagan First Nation.</p> <p>Outreach to First Nation's partners to act as mentors in the process.</p> <p>Six meetings with members of the Journey Team.</p>	Increased understanding of Truth and Reconciliation by non-Indigenous partners leading to actions that reflect our role and responsibility in the process.	<p>We have called this a "journey team" as opposed to an action team as it is important to take our time with this process.</p> <p>Social Planning Council is partnering with NONA to host a session specific to the Okanagan Nation at an upcoming conference on Truth and Reconciliation, sponsored by the Early Years Council.</p>
Evaluation of Partners in Action Committee					
Indicator Updates	Ongoing	As part of the evaluation process, the Partners in Action Committee have been collecting statistics from local partners as well as regional and national sources on an annual basis.	Indicator data tool on a wide range of topics.	Evaluation and monitoring of data guides informed decision making.	<p>The data is used on an ongoing basis by the Partners in Action Committee to inform the discussion of "hot topics" in the community and ways to address these problems/concerns.</p> <p>Social Planning Council provides updates of the data to the City of Vernon on an annual basis (as an attachment to the Final Year End Report).</p>

Respect Works Here

Community Champion

Val Richards is a force whose passion, energy and commitment drive her on a quest to give voice to her ancestors who had to stay quiet suppressing their culture for fear of discrimination. Today, Val's voice is clear, honest and firm, resonating her truth and highlighting the importance of speaking on behalf of the Métis and the many people who have been silenced for far too long.

"Our history was hidden from us. I grew up eating moose meat and bannock. My mom made us mukluks and moccasins and taught us bead work, but our Métis heritage was never named," explains Val. "I knew for whatever reason, it was kept very quiet in the family. As I was growing up I got to know everything about my dad's Irish side of my family history, but I never heard about my mom's side."

"Because of the history of the Métis people, it was a very common experience that I had," says Val. "My history was hidden from me. Métis people were discriminated against for not being enough Indian and not enough White. You weren't enough of anything to really belong. It was often not safe to identify who you were."

"When I started to learn about the history of my people, it made sense why it was hidden from me and it made sense that I was missing parts of myself. I didn't feel like I fit or belonged until I started finding out exactly where I came from, and where my mother came from."

"When I realised why my mom didn't have a voice, I made it my business to be that voice, not just for myself and for my children, but also for my mom and my ancestors, who couldn't speak their truth. I take a lot of pride in being able to speak for my grandmothers before me."

Val is a strong advocate for the Métis community. She worked for 11 years as a Roots practitioner with Métis Community Services Society (MCSS), reconnecting Métis children and youth in foster care with their Métis families, communities and culture. Her work was extremely challenging and satisfying and she is truly proud of being a strong advocate for youth and of effecting change on behalf of children, within the Ministry of Children and Family Development. She is still a Board Member with MCSS and is also a board member of the Vernon and District Métis Association.

Val is also the Métis representative on the Aboriginal Advisory Committees for School District 22 and for Okanagan College and UBC-O.

While living in Kelowna, a Métis Elder kept advising that her 'home was in Lumby'. Eventually she took his advice and moved there in 2014 with her husband. She accepted a position with White Valley Community Resource Centre and currently offers counselling and family support services there.

“None of what I do is in isolation of others. I have an incredibly supportive husband and 8 children and I have worked and do work with some amazing Elders, other individuals and teams.”

~ Val Richards

"There is a significant Métis and First Nation community in the area and there was an opportunity for me to offer a different kind of service. My practice is grounded in Aboriginal traditions and I am able to offer different modalities of healing to community members which they may have not had access to before."

For Val, identifying as a particular Indigenous group is important to support the leadership that is fighting hard for recognition of the Métis.

"It is important to establish that there are many of us that identify as Métis, that live a certain lifestyle because of our roots and our connection to the land. We need to reclaim who we are."



OVERVIEW: Homelessness in Vernon BC

Homelessness Across BC – What’s Happening in Other Communities?

Homelessness is a Provincial issue, not just a local one. We are in the midst of a provincial housing crisis and a record low vacancy rate. **It is the lack of affordable units and the low vacancy rate that have significantly increased the number of people without homes right across BC.**

2016 Homeless Count Results:	
Squamish - 200	Cranbrook – 111
Nanaimo - 174	Nelson – 116
Victoria - 1387	Penticton – 128
Cowichan Valley – 150	Vernon – 144
Metro Vancouver – 3605	Kelowna 233

Census Results in Vernon – How Many People are Homeless in Vernon?

Traditionally, the Partners in Action have conducted a census and survey in the Fall. A summer census was added in 2018 to see if there were any significant differences that would help to inform programming or interventions. As you can see, we are showing similar numbers to the Fall of 2017 but with some small shifts in terms of whether people were inside or outside.

Summer 2018	Fall 2017	Fall 2016	Location
126	108	111	Shelters, Mat Program, Temporary Housing
30	44	33	Observed in homeless camps*
2	1		Other (Cells, Hospital)
158	153	144	TOTAL

Participation Rates:

Forty percent of people who were considered to be homeless took part in the 2018 survey. This is similar to the participation rate for the 2016 and 2017 Fall surveys.

When Did You Move to Vernon?

About 30% of the surveyed participants in July 2018 had been here less than one year, compared to 20% in the Fall of 2017. An increase was expected, as people from all demographics tend to move more during the summer months. **Interestingly, however, over 70% of people surveyed in the Summer of 2018 had been in Vernon longer than a year.**

Did You Grow up in Vernon?

Of the people surveyed in the Summer of 2018, approximately 60% either grew up in the area or have family living here. This is compared to 76% in the 2017 Fall Census. **The majority of people who are homeless in Vernon either grew up here or have family in the community.** When asked what brought you to Vernon, family was the number one response, whether that was immediate family, spouse or children.

The Cost of Homelessness:

The cost of homelessness on government systems has been studied across Canada and the United States and the research results are consistent. According to a Ministry of Health report commissioned in 2006, a total of **\$55,000 per homeless person** is spent on health, corrections and social services each year. If housing and support were provided, it would cost the system **\$37,000 per person** per year. The cost savings to the taxpayer is significant¹.

Working on Solutions:

The cause of our homelessness crisis is the Provincial housing shortage combined with a record low vacancy rate. The solution is more housing. Since 2008, the affordable housing stock has increased by 30% but many more units are needed.

The good news is that a significant number of new units were confirmed in 2018 by BC Housing (more than the total number of new units in the last decade):

- 46 beds - Our Place Shelter, Turning Point Collaborative
- 52 units - My Place Apartment, Turning Point Collaborative
- 38 units – Vernon Native Housing Society
- 41 units – Vancouver Resource Society

We are hopeful that more announcements will be made in the future as our community is well organized, extremely collaborative, and continues to apply for more affordable units.

Updating the Homelessness and Attainable Housing Strategies:

The Social Planning Council, in conjunction with City of Vernon, have hired Urban Matters to review and update the Homelessness and the Attainable Housing Strategies to be completed by March 2019.

Vernon as a Designated Community:

The federal government has announced plans to expand the number of designated communities to receive funding under their Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Being a designated community, means access to significant federal funding to address homelessness in Vernon and to implement a Housing First model. Vernon will be applying once the application process is announced.

Prepared by:

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¹ Ministry of Health, *Housing and Support for Adults with Severe Addictions and/or Mental Illness in British Columbia*, April 2006