

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 20, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. – Council Chamber, 4th Floor, City Hall

Present

Mayor Danny Breen
Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary
Councillor Maggie Burton (entered at 9:30)
Councillor Dave Lane
Councillor Sandy Hickman
Councillor Debbie Hanlon
Councillor Deanne Stapleton
Councillor Hope Jamieson
Councillor Jamie Korab
Councillor Ian Froude
Councillor Wally Collins

Staff

Derek Coffey, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Administration
Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager of Community Services
Jason Sinyard, Deputy City Manager, Planning, Engineering and
Regulatory Services
Lynnann Winsor, Deputy City Manager – Public Works
Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor
Elaine Henley, City Clerk
Karen Chafe, Supervisor – Office of the City Clerk

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved – Councillor Collins; Seconded – Councillor Hickman

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved – Councillor Collins; Seconded – Councillor Hickman

That the Committee of the Whole minutes dated March 6, 2019 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations

**St. John's Public Libraries Board – Monique Tobin (Chair) & Hans Rollman
(Member)**

Ms Monique Tobin and Mr. Hans Rollman were welcomed and they conducted a power point presentation on the St. John's Public Libraries Board. A copy of the power point was provided. There are currently three library branches in St. John's with a membership of 43,000 individuals:

- AC Hunter Public Library (Arts & Culture Centre)
- Marjorie Mews Library (East End – Highland Drive)
- Michael Donovan Library (West End – 655 Topsail Rd)

Library staff are working hard to establish a mobile outreach library service. They also have over 150 musical instruments they lend out. These are just a few examples of the need for enhanced facilities to protect and expand upon current collections.

The lion's share of funding comes from the Province. Research has shown that there is a 365% return on investment in libraries and operational grants need to be increased just to sustain current levels. The **Future State Plan** recommends an immediate \$1.8 million increase in order to return library funding and resources to 2011 levels. This study also focuses on greater support from municipalities and the SJPLB would like to build partnerships with the City for economic revitalization as well as play a significant role in anti-poverty strategies and a community hub with countless social spinoffs.

The St. John's Public Libraries would like the City of St. John's to sit on its Board in an ex-officio role. They are also looking to expand their west end library location. Preliminary planning for a new central library will require a needs assessment, community consultation and fundraising initiative.

Members of Council were quite supportive of the services provided by the SJPLB and suggested that they contact Municipalities NL to help them facilitate their engagement with municipalities in general. Reference was also made to the City's New Strategic Plan to be recommended for approval at today's meeting and the important role that libraries play in that regard.

Space for Everyone – Communities Supporting Breastfeeding Initiative – Tracy English

The Committee met with members of the Baby Friendly Council of NL - Ms. Tracy English, Regional Nutritionist and Lisa Roberts, Regional Lactation Consultant with Eastern Health. They presented their new initiative "Space for Everyone – Communities Supporting Breastfeeding Initiative". The Baby Friendly Council of NL is an interdisciplinary committee with representatives from all regions and is committed to increasing the initiation and duration of breastfeeding.

This initiative provides space for everyone and promotes a cultural shift to spark positive change toward the normalizing of breastfeeding; supports healthy living and food security; and helps businesses and organizations create space for everyone.

Council was very receptive to the initiative. They were particularly supportive of engaging businesses and referenced the breastfeeding friendly decals that identify those businesses who provide a safe and friendly place for breastfeeding mothers.

Mayor Breen thanked the delegation for their presentation and advised that Council will consult with City staff to determine how this initiative aligns and complements the City's current policies and practices.

Finance & Administration

Information Note dated February 26, 2019 re: Quarterly Travel Report – Fourth Quarter 2018

Considered for Council's information.

Housing – Councillor Hope Jamieson

Information Note dated March 12, 2019 re: Non-Profit Housing Update

Councillor Jamieson spoke to this matter and it was presented for Council's information.

Information Note dated March 14, 2019 re: Affordable Housing Update

Councillor Jamieson spoke to this matter and it was presented for Council's information.

Economic Development, Tourism & Culture

Decision Note dated March 13, 2019 re: Hosting of the Creative Network of Canada Summit in 2022, 2023 or 2024

Recommendation

Moved – Deputy Mayor O’Leary; Seconded – Councillor Hickman

That the City of St. John’s bid to become the host city for the Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC) Summit being held in the fall in one of 2022, 2023, or 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Governance & Strategic Priorities

Decision Note dated February 12, 2019 re: Changes to Corporate Policy Committee

Recommendation

Moved – Councillor Hickman; Seconded – Councillor Lane

That Council approve the modifications to the composition and processes of the Corporate Policy Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Decision Note dated March 13, 2019 re: New Strategic Plan – Our City, Our Future – and 2019 Action Plan

All members of Council spoke in favor of the above cited Plans and as leads in their respective areas, elaborated on each area.

Recommendation

Moved – Councillor Burton; Seconded – Councillor Hanlon

That Council accept the new Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2019

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Hickman retired at this point.

Planning & Development

Decision Note dated March 6, 2019 re: Ground Sign Approval (Sign By-Law)

Recommendation

Moved – Councillor Burton; Seconded – Councillor Lane

That Council approve the request to exceed the maximum allowable tolerances as stipulated in the Sign By-Law as proposed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Transportation

GoBus Interim Recommendations

Recommendation

Moved – Councillor Froude; Seconded – Councillor Stapleton

That the following summary of the interim recommendations be approved:

1. Implement Strategic Direction #1: Eligibility Criteria Change (removing definition of disability)

2. Implement Strategic Direction #2: Application Process

3. Strategic Direction #3:

a. Notification will be provided to MVT that the definition of a 'no show' will be changed from 90 minutes to 45 minutes and that the rate paid for a 'no show' will be reduced from current rate of \$25.30 to \$12.00.

b. Negotiating changes to the existing contract is not recommended as it will require a new RFP/tender to be issued. In the interim, Metrobus will work with the City's legal team and disability community to develop a new RFP/tender document outlining terms and conditions for a new contract.

4. Fare Collection – Taxi Rides

To address the issue of collecting fares when the trip is provided by a taxi and the customer pays fare with a GoCard pass, MVT will be notified that taxis will be required to have fare collection technology (i.e. portable electronic GoCard reader, or \$2.50 will be deducted from the trip rate for each applicable ride).

After consultation with the disability community, it is recommended that Council approve the interim recommendations outlined above.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**Mayor Danny Breen
Chairperson**