

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017 AT 3:30 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor Ruttan; Councillors Alemany, McLeman, Minions, Paulson, Sauvé and Washington

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held at 4:00 pm on October 16, 2017, be adopted.

CARRIED

C. STAFF REPORTS

**1. Director of Development Services/City Engineer
Change of Route for Stamp Avenue Multi-Use Separated Path**

Discussion regarding report dated November 16, 2017 outlining route options for the Stamp Avenue Multi-Use Path planned for implementation in 2017.

Director of Development Services, Scott Smith, presented an update on a separated multi-use pathway along both sides of Stamp Avenue between Redford Street and Rogers Street and on one side of Rogers Street from Stamp Avenue to Millstone Park.

The City of Port Alberni had planned and budgeted \$200,000.00 for the project with \$100,000.00 of that coming from a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure grant through the BikeBC Program. This grant was to have the project complete by March 30, 2018.

When the first option was looked at, a completely separated path on both sides of Stamp Avenue, it became clear that the cost would be more than \$1,000,000.00. This was due to grades, available right-of-way, and the location of existing hydro poles, traffic signs, large trees and fire hydrants.

Staff then started to look at alternative options which included:

- 1) Path on east side of Stamp Avenue only
- 2) Where possible, separated path behind curb with certain section going on the street
- 3) Converting one vehicle lane to separated path
- 4) New route that runs parallel to railway track starting on Stamp Avenue, crossing Rogers Street and going down and across the preexisting pedestrian bridge which then exits onto Pemberton Road
- 5) Increase width of existing path along east side of Stamp Avenue behind curb

Options three and four are a change from what was discussed with Bike BC; however, staff feels they could be done within the budget of \$200,000.00. Staff would need to discuss these new options with BikeBC to verify that the grant is still applicable. These options would be an improvement but may not resolve safety issues for cyclists at the intersection of Rogers Street, Stamp Avenue and Gertrude Street.

Should Council choose the fourth option, staff would need to engage with the Island Corridor Foundation as they own the majority of the land that the City would be looking to use.

Staff has not commenced detailed design on any of the above options as the City has moved away from the original scope of work proposed to Council, the community and the grantor. As a result, staff elected to bring the options to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Committee of the Whole voiced their opinions on matters such as safety, budget implications, the utilization of pre-existing infrastructure, the introduction of new pedestrian and cycling controls and opportunities to explore options on the west side of Stamp Avenue.

Cycle Alberni was invited to speak to the interests of cyclists in the community. Representatives noted the purpose of divided bikes lanes is to create predictability and order for both cyclists and other road users. When considering the options, the ideal route would be protected bike lanes on both sides of Stamp Avenue going both ways; however, a first step would be a two-lane, clearly delineated multi-use path that provides a safe transition through the Stamp Avenue, Roger Street and Gertrude Street intersection. Cycle Alberni supports the proposed bike lane on the east side Stamp Avenue; however, they feel the west side of Stamp Avenue poses the largest safety risk.

The Cycle Alberni representative requested that a video, called "[The Rise of Protected Bike Lanes](#)", be played for those present.

Traffic management measures were discussed regarding the reduction of vehicle speeds as they transition from Roger Street south onto Stamp Avenue. The Cycle Alberni representative made note of innovative bike lane approaches that increase cyclists' visibility at problem intersections.

The Cycle Alberni representative noted the difference between commuter cycling and recreational cycling. Using Penticton's Kettle Valley Trail as an example, Cycle Alberni sees an opportunity with the proposed route that runs parallel to the railway tracks but recommended that be explored in the future as it would not serve those cyclists looking to commute across town.

Committee of the Whole thanked the Cycle Alberni for their input and moved to create a recommendation that bridged both east side and west side options.

That the Committee of the Whole recommends that staff be directed at a future Regular Council meeting to provide information on the grant extension and that staff look at both the west side on street option with an extension to Roger Street on the curb and any options on the east side.

2. Chief Administrative Officer – Strategy to Address Big City Problems in Port Alberni

Discussion regarding the report dated November 1, 2017 presenting a strategy to address the increase in crime, commercial property concerns, and take action on at least seven outstanding Status Report items.

Chief Administrative Office, Timothy Pley's report titled '*Strategy to Address Big City Problems in Port Alberni*' highlights factors that drive 'big city problems' in Port Alberni, actions that can be taken to mitigate such problems, approaches to help people living at risk and costs associated with the various strategies.

Four strategies were put forward:

- reducing drug addiction in Port Alberni,
- reducing theft of property crimes,
- eliminating the centers of crime; and
- supporting existing business.

Committee of Whole offered their opinions on the various strategies and noted a need to further engage with the key stakeholders involved in poverty, crime and drug addiction reduction, as well as members of the community which can become a part of the solution.

Committee of the Whole requested information on the number of Bylaw Officers in neighbouring communities, as well as information on whether the business license fees could support the salary of the proposed second Bylaw Officer. It was also noted that while enforcement plays a key role in helping solve these 'big city problems,' focus should also be put on providing safe and supportive housing for those living at risk.

John Douglas, spoke to the need for a multi-agency stakeholder meeting.

Ellen Frood, Executive Director the Alberni Community and Women's Services Society, spoke to the importance of safe housing and the need for inclusionary zoning for new developments in Port Alberni.

A Port Alberni resident put forward a suggestion that we look at alternative policing options.

Committee of the Whole thanked those that provided input and moved to create a recommendation that supports the direction of the November 1, 2017 report.

That the next Committee of the Whole meeting be dedicated to further address the report dated November 1, 2017 from the Chief Administrative Officer providing a strategy to address big city problems in Port Alberni and key stakeholders be invited to attend.

That the meeting recess at 5:27 pm until 6:00 pm.

D. DELEGATIONS

1. Alberni Valley Heritage Commission

Discussion regarding the mandate and role of the Alberni Valley Heritage Commission and review of the Heritage Commission Establishing Bylaw.

Dr. Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage and Culture reviewed Bylaw No. 4687, a bylaw to establish a Community Heritage Commission. Dr. Morton noted that the Commission meets monthly, with the exception of summer months (July and August), to discuss:

- Correspondence received, requests for information and issues that relate to the Commission's mandate
- Activities, issues, required support and upcoming initiatives.

Mayor Mike Ruttan spoke to the model used for our arts, culture and heritage and noted that City of Port Alberni resident's pay 100 per cent of the operation and maintenance costs. Those living outside of the City's limits pay zero. The question now is how do we share that financial load and what is considered fair cost sharing?

The City must create a governance model that addresses the need to preserve not only heritage but also the arts and culture of the Valley. Council determined that an umbrella society be formed and that the City would contribute through grants and other means of funding - similar to that of the McLean's Mill Society. This newly formed society could include the City, First Nations and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

Commission members expressed their displeasure with the engagement and consultation efforts put forward by the City and Council to-date. The Commission asked for clarification around their role going forward.

Willa Thorpe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage verified that there have been discussions with First Nations around their involvement in a new governance model.

Committee of the Whole thanked the Alberni Valley Heritage Commission members in attendance and moved to create a recommendation that facilitates the shift from the current model of the Commission to a new all-encompassing governance model.

That the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council:

- Consider including the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District in any new governance model*
- Establish the Alberni Valley Heritage Commission's purpose under the leadership of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage*
- Review the current bylaw, make necessary revisions and amend the Commission Members list*

E. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting adjourn at 7:05 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor



Director of Development Services

