

Community Services Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2019

Present

Mayor Basil Stewart
Deputy Mayor Norma McColeman
Councillor Bruce MacDougall
Councillor Justin Doiron
Councillor Barb Ramsay
Councillor Cory Snow, Chair
Councillor Greg Campbell
Councillor Brian McFeely
Councillor Carrie Adams, Co-Chair
Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer
Rob Philpott, Director of Financial Services
JP DesRosiers, Director of Community Services
Brian Hawrylak, HR Officer
Members of the Media

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor Snow

Accessibility and railings at Credit Union Place

Councillor Snow introduced the idea of railings in the arena at Credit Union Place as he has received concerns from members of the public and other Councillors.

JP DesRosiers stated that when the building was built, designers worked to ensure the building was accessible. Over the years the facility has had accessibility reviews and have gotten positive reviews. The Eastlink Arena has 305 seats that are accessible from the walking track that do not require taking stairs, the arena has 14-wheel chair accessible seats with companion seats. He stated that it is a concern for those with mobility issues that they cannot access the lower rows of the arena.

Desrosiers stated that safety is important while making sure that good sight lines are still maintained.

Councillor Ramsay stated that people that she has spoken with include mothers with younger children and seniors that do not feel secure enough to go down stairs. She stated that while she is not expecting railings everywhere, but there should be a few.

Councillor Doiron stated railings between sections A to Z would probably work as they are at the entrance to the facility.

Councillor McFeely inquired as to the cost to do a section at one end, DesRosiers suggested it would be several thousand dollars, but did not have it costed out yet.

Mayor Stewart stated that he has received many comments from seniors as well and doing a couple of sections would seem reasonable.

There are ushers on hand at larger events that could assist patrons to their seats.

Council directed JP to get an estimate on the cost of railings for this year's budget consideration for sections A-Z.

DesRosiers wanted to stress that he would have concerns of once railings are in and they are used with patrons being more at risk at falling if they attempt to move to closer to the ice/event surface level.

Adjournment

Motion It was moved and seconded;
That The meeting be adjourned.
Motion Carried

Policy & Bylaw Review Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2019

Present

Mayor Basil Stewart
Deputy Mayor Norma McColeman, Co-Chair
Councillor Bruce MacDougall
Councillor Justin Doiron, Co-Chair
Councillor Barb Ramsay
Councillor Cory Snow
Councillor Greg Campbell
Councillor Brian McFeely
Councillor Carrie Adams, Chair
Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer
Rob Philpott, Director of Financial Services
Brian Hawrylak, HR Officer
Members of the Media

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor Adams

Bylaw, Policy Review – working group

Purpose:

To add flexibility and to streamline policy work of the BPR Committee by assigning a special working group.

Analysis:

An expanding list of policy related issues requiring work have been identified by residents, staff or Councillors. This list now includes:

- Affordable Housing Program (Phase 2)
- Street Naming Policy
- Licensing Bylaw
- Staffing Bylaw
- Procedural Bylaw (presentations, delegations)
- Travel, Hospitality Policy (mileage, other)
- Stormwater Policy (Ditch Infill, could be different team)
- Taxi Bylaw

The scope of effort to properly address these matters is significant and beyond the reasonable capacity of a brief committee meeting once a month. The monthly committee setting may be well-suited to making

recommendations and seeking Council direction, but less suited to reviewing research, doing comparative or other types of analysis, meeting with management, drafting documents, word-smithing, public or stakeholder consultation and detailed review.

A small working group of two councillors (Chair and Vice) and whatever specific senior staff may require on any given issue could be assembled to perform this background work. This group would be accountable to BPR and Council, reporting on its work, revising it as directed, presenting status on projects, developing options and recommendations. A small group can schedule flexible meetings dates/times outside of the set monthly dates. Importantly, this approach would relieve the burden of excessively long committee meeting nights.

To clarify the roles and responsibilities of the working group, it could produce a *Terms of Reference* to be approved by Council.

ALTERNATIVES:

- Council could direct the CAO to address all these issues, bringing back the administration's options and recommendations.
- The BPR Committee along with other members of Council could attempt to deal with the issues at the regular monthly meeting of Committees

ADVANTAGES: (of a working group)

- Flexibility to set meeting dates/times outside of set monthly dates
- Shorter duration of regular monthly committee meetings
- Informal discussions, brainstorming, modeling, document drafting
- Dedicated time to review research, analysis (not on same meeting slate as other committees)
- Flexibility of bringing in stakeholders, staff, to assist

DISADVANTAGES:

- Without reliable, accurate reporting back to BPR or Council, the group's direction may appear uncertain or too remote
- If the group appears to be presenting a "finished product" too soon, input from all councillors may be choked off
- It adds work time and responsibilities to plates of the councillors and senior staff in the work group

COST/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The working group suggested should exert minimal to no impact on city finances.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Council should authorize the appointment of a BPR Working Group comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair and the CAO to address those priority matters of policies and bylaws mostly recently identified by residents, councillors and staff.
- The CAO should invite the expertise of senior management whenever relevant
- The Working Group should produce a draft *Terms of Reference* to be approved by Council
- The Working Group should report on its activities through the monthly report to Council

Discussion:

Council seemed to be in support of the working group as any final decision would have to come to Council for approval.

Mayor Stewart inquired as to if some potential items that may be dealt with the working group, such as the Taxi Bylaw should be dealt with the Police Committee. His concern is that it may be taking away the work of the committee.

Council has decided to leave things as the status quo.

Adjournment

Motion It was moved and seconded;
That The meeting be adjourned.
Motion Carried