



MINUTES – JOINT COMMITTEE CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

July 22, 2019, 2:00 P.M.

Joint Meeting of Victoria & Saanich Committees

Victoria City Hall - Council Chambers - 1 Centennial Square

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People

CITY OF VICTORIA:

PRESENT: Mayor Helps, Councillor Young, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Alto

STAFF PRESENT:

J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, M. Fedyczkowska – Legislation and Policy Analyst, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, P. Angelblazer - Committee Secretary

DISTRICT OF SAANICH:

PRESENT: Mayor Haynes, Councillor Brownoff, Councillor Chambers, Councillor Plant

STAFF PRESENT:

P. Thorkelsson – Chief Administrative Officer, A. Bains – Manager, Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk, L. Merry – Senior Committee Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Committee remarked:

- *Words of welcome to Saanich Councillors, staff, and members of the audience*
- *Expression of willingness for a well designed, and facilitated process*
- *Mandates of both committees in relation to their respective councils*

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.2 Discussion on Terms of Reference for Citizens' Assembly

1.0 Objectives:

Saanich:

- Emergency services were implied, however appreciation of the added clarity of the Victoria draft wording.

Victoria:

- Importance of including explicit mention of emergency service integration in the draft terms of reference.

General Agreement:

- Saanich will refer to Council

2.1 Openness & Transparency:

Saanich:

- Need for clarification on the wording of “ongoing and predictable basis.”

Victoria:

- Public expectations around transparency of the process, needed ability for citizens to follow the progress of the process as it develops.

General Agreement:

- Saanich will refer to Council

2.5 Independence:

Saanich:

- Concerns around Victoria’s draft wording on the voiding of the role of the consultant.

Victoria:

- The aim of the draft wording is to ensure the independence of the assembly’s decision-making.

Recommended changes:

- **Revert to previous wording provided by Saanich**

2.6 Well-informed:

Saanich:

- Intention of the technical report wording is to ensure that decisions of the Assembly are well informed.
- Concern that Victoria draft wording removes explicit requirement of informed decision-making.

Victoria:

- Apprehension to having wording that may require the Assembly to base their final decision on the recommendation provided in the technical report.
- Appreciation of new insight into the original wording provided by Saanich.

Recommended changes:

- **Victoria Council will consider original wording**

2.7 Balance:

Saanich:

- No issue with extra wording that adds clarification.

General Agreement:

- Saanich will refer to Council

2.8 Collaborative Decision-Making:

Saanich:

- Concern around the lack of specificity as to when consensus has not been reached.
- Concern of Saanich versus Victoria voting splits
- Concern of adding operational principles into guiding principles section.

Victoria:

- Discussion as to what should happen when a consensus has not been met, and how divergent views can be considered in a final report.

Recommended changes:

- **Revert to previous wording, add “where consensus is not realized, document divergent views.”**

3.0 Mandate:

Saanich:

- Will not endorse any changes to the mandate of the Assembly outside of what was decided by referendum.
- The Assembly should be allowed to come to an indeterminate conclusion.

Victoria:

- Should the mandate, or any other part of the document not prescribe that the Assembly comes to a decision and recommends a yes or no outcome on amalgamation, then the conclusion of the process could be unsatisfactory to all parties involved.

Recommended changes:

- **That the draft alterations to the mandate be removed and placed as section 3.1. of the terms of reference.**

General Agreement:

- The revised wording will be sent back to respective councils, with discussion to take place on whether or not the word “may,” could be added in the draft 3.1. in between ‘Assembly’ and ‘advise’.
- Victoria staff will consider if 3.3., 3.4., and 3.18. can be combined.
- Victoria and Saanich will ask for clarification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Committee recessed at 3:23 p.m. and returned at 3:29 p.m.

3.6 Cultural and Land Use Priorities:

Saanich:

- Importance of Saanich’s unique rural community, and ensuring recognition of this difference within the process.

Victoria:

- Wording of 3.6 reflective of an intention to allow the Assembly to examine similarities of the communities and how it might be impacted by amalgamation.

General agreement:

- Victoria and Saanich staff shall meet to resolve numbering differences ahead of the Friday meeting.

4.0 Constraints on the Assembly:

Recommended changes:

- **Victoria will remove the proposed deletion for the consideration of information for a third party technical team.**

General agreement:

- Whether the assembly provides a yes/no recommendation will be referred to the next Joint Committee meeting upon clarification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

- The wording differences around Councils being constrained or not constrained by the outcome of the Assembly are of no effect.

5.0 Schedule of the Citizens' Assembly:

Saanich:

- Due to the current timeline, it might not be possible to begin in 2019.
- Chair and facilitator are the same, simply different words.
- There should not be constraints on how many roundtables the Assembly would be able to schedule, so long as there are multiple.
- There should not be a prescribed schedule for the Assembly.
- Meetings of the Assembly should not be attended by the public. Public attendance component can be satisfied by a webcast and by the roundtables.

Victoria:

- Appreciates the flexibility of the wording provided by Saanich for multiple sections.
- As the Assembly is a vital democratic process, importance of having the possibility for public attendance in the process was noted.

Recommended changes:

- **Revert to previous wording for all proposed changes, aside from facilitator/chair**

General agreement:

- Discussion on facilitator/chair shall be referred to respective Councils.

6.0 Reporting & Communications:

Saanich:

- Preference for original wording for final report, however flexibility is important for the Assembly.
- Disagreement with the ability to allow for letters from members of the Assembly.
- Explanation that the original wording providing for the Chair to approve all public communication is to ensure that individual members are not seen as speaking for the Assembly as a whole.

Victoria:

- April timeline for the final report is unlikely.

- Correspondence from members being included in the final report would allow for members with divergent views to express those officially as opposed to over other platforms.
- Initial apprehension for the original wording providing for the facilitator to approve all public communication due to an understanding that the outcome would mean that only the facilitator would publically be allowed to comment.

Recommended changes:

- **Keep original wording on the drafting of an interim document.**
- **On the final report timeline, revert to original wording and change “45 days” to “45-90 days”.**
- **That the “requirement” to include correspondence from members in the final report be changed to be an “option”.**
- **On the public communication section, revert to original wording and change “exclusive spokesperson” to be “official spokesperson” and that “public communication” becomes “official communications”.**
- **Strike the language indicating “free to share personal views,” though the change does not preclude the ability for members to do so.**

General Agreement:

- Refer the discussion on the final report timeline to respective councils.
- The discussion on including correspondence from members be referred to respective councils.

7.1 Recruitment Process:

Saanich:

- Business owners also have a stake in the discussion on amalgamation. The original wording was left over from previous discussions that had included non-resident property and business owners.

Victoria:

- As residents can also be business owners, the civic lottery would likely provide for the inclusion of business owners in the lottery.

General Agreement:

- The discussion should be referred to respective councils.

7.2 Number of Members:

Saanich:

- Concerns that members of amalgamation lobby groups would influence the process by gaining membership in the assembly

Victoria:

- Concerns around the lack of clarity as to what would be considered an interested stakeholder group, particularly what level of association with that group would warrant being considered a part of interested stakeholder.

General Agreement:

- Saanich will refer consideration of the wording of 'business owner transfer eligibility to employee' back to Council.
- Saanich and Victoria will refer the definition of 'interested stakeholder group' to their respective Councils, and potentially to a consultant.

Discussion on further items was concluded due to time considerations

D.3 Next Meeting

The Joint Committee will meet next on July 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Saanich Council Chambers.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR