

Happy New Year!

Here's wishing everyone had a very happy holiday season and is off to a great start in the New Year with (hopefully) minimal power outages this winter season! I have only had a couple of meetings in the past month, see below:

Corporate Planning Process Work

Since our last meeting in November, I completed an initial pass at a timeline analysis of the steps within the process to align with the Financial Budget process, Trust Council meetings and Strategy process. The CAO is going to gather the various existing policies and procedures so they can be reviewed for completeness against the draft Corporate Planning Process. As part of the process, we will be conducting a gap analysis and identifying areas that require new or revised policies and procedures to be completed.

December Trust Council Meeting Highlights

Meeting and Development Application Procedures and Public Notice Requirements: To reduce spending and create efficiency, Trust Council asked that staff prepare a draft amendment to the Trust Council Meeting Procedures Bylaw so that it applies to all 13 LTC's and add an amendment to require the release of the LTC agenda outline two days before the release date of the full agenda package. This will provide communities with an opportunity to write in comments pertaining to the agenda items in a timely manner.

In addition, a draft LTC Development Procedure Bylaw and a Public Notice Policy is being created to establish standard procedures applicable to all LTC's and Trust Council.

Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Change Leadership Steering Committee

Appointee: Congratulations to Deb Morrison who was appointed to this position.

Vision Statement Work: A draft vision statement was developed and is to be sent to First Nations already engaged in the Trust Policy Statement review. As a Vision Statement is intended to be included in the Trust Policy Statement, it should be received for input by First Nations as part of the review currently taking place. The report included in the agenda package is intended to accompany the statement for background material as well.

Trust Policy Statement: Trustees have not yet seen the revised the Trust Policy Statement as it went to First Nations for their review and input first. Once they have completed their review and sent us their input, then Trust Programs Committee will receive the package for review. This is anticipated early Spring as First Nations requested additional time to finish compiling their input. Trust Programs Committee wholeheartedly supported this request in November.

Financial Planning Draft Budget: Trust Council reviewed the Business Cases and Operational Initiatives that feed into the Budget as well as the Islands Trust Conservancy Board Requests.

Creating an Annual Performance Review and Employment - Chief Executive Officer: Under New Business, this topic was discussed as we currently don't have a policy that adequately covers this area.

As our only employee, it is incumbent upon us to have a robust policy regarding the CAO's performance review to provide timely, constructive feedback regarding their position and job performance. A draft policy was presented to Council, and it was agreed that the draft policy would be passed on for review and comments to the consultant that gets hired to conduct the CAO's annual performance review early in the new year and included in the overall work request package.

Trust Council Meeting Schedule and Agenda: Another topic under New Business. This discussion revolved around the current set up of Trust Council meetings and the ineffective way decision making that has become common practice. The suggestion is to move Briefings, Reports and Delegations to short monthly zoom meetings (2-4 hours). That will then free up time and space to allow for better discussion and decision-making.

By creating space to have a full discussion prior to a decision-making meeting, we can improve our decision-making process and make better informed decisions.

Regional Planning Housing Work: An impressive Housing Options Toolkit draft was presented for early information. A draft Trust Council Housing Strategic Action Plan was also presented for approval of priority actions.

Meeting Dates for 2024: Trust council dates have been agreed to for the 2024 calendar year and will be posted with the minutes.

All in all, the December meeting had a packed agenda with a lot of discussion on many topics. The next Trust Council meeting is currently scheduled for March 12-14 in Nanaimo. As always, please feel free to reach out if you would like an in-person discussion.

Trustee Kristina Evans