

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

DATE: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Memorial Hall
290 Esplanade Avenue, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Ed Wood
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Michie Vidal

Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Finance Officer/Deputy CAO, Scott Schultz
Community Services Coordinator, Christy Ovens
Operations Manager, Jace Hodgson

ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
Mayor Wood acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

Mayor Wood apologized for the last-minute cancellation of the Town Hall Meeting that was scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2023.

Mayor Wood introduced the new Operations Manager, Jace Hodgson.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the Committee of the Whole agenda dated August 22, 2023 be approved.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-08-01

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Strategic Planning

Mayor Wood explained the strategic planning process and introduced the Municipal Advisor and Strategic Planning Facilitator, Mr. Ron Poole.

Mr. Poole provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the strategic planning process.

Mr. Poole explained the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis process.

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Mr. Poole asked Council to identify strengths of the Village. Council identified tourism, the natural beauty of the Village, strong emergency services, the trails and parks layout and walkability of the area, the unique ambience of the Village, competent staff members who contribute to the effective operation of the Village, and Village infrastructure including the waste water treatment plant, reservoir and flood pump, as strengths. Council discussed additional strengths including the small community feel of the Village, the public communication between staff and residents, the flexibility of the Village to adapt to changes, the available daycare and school and the Harrison Lake water source.

Mr. Poole asked Council to identify weaknesses of the Village. Infrastructure planning was mentioned, including concerns related to overdevelopment and empty residential units. Council also highlighted challenges associated with the implementation of master plan recommendations. The overdevelopment of residential properties on Esplanade was discussed as a pressing issue, leading to vacant units and negative effects on the economy. Additional concerns were raised about the ability to effectively deal with interface fires and the need for improved water quality of the lagoon. The inadequacy of the dike system was identified as a vulnerability that needed addressing, especially in the context of flood protection. Council also expressed concern about the limited space available at the village office, which affects staff. Council discussed the need for affordable housing options for local workers in the Village. The Village's lack of control over the hot springs source was noted as a limitation as well. Council brought forward concerns about the Village's heavy reliance on tourism, noting that diversification of industries could provide better economic stability. The heavily used highway of Hot Springs Road on to Lillooet Avenue was seen as a weakness. Lastly, the absence of a designated emergency exit route was identified as a key weakness.

Mr. Poole asked Council to identify external opportunities for the Village. Council discussed the proposed Aquatic Centre in the District of Kent and the prospect of increased transportation options facilitated by BC Transit. Additionally, Council recognized the opportunity of enhanced emergency services through collaboration with organizations such as the District of Kent for their ambulance service, BC Emergency Health Services (BC EHS) and the RCMP. The Village's active participation in the progressive Community to Community (C2C) Forum was also highlighted as an opportunity for the Village to engage in collaborative projects and initiatives with neighbouring communities.

Mr. Poole asked Council to identify threats to the Village. There was discussion surrounding losing the RCMP and the consequences to community safety and security. It was noted that the RCMP officers that police the Village are come from the Provincial allotment, and that changes in structure from the Province could lead to a loss of RCMP presence. The quality of the lake water was identified as a possible threat, as well as the nature that surrounds the Village being threatened. The potential threat of residential density increase stemming from Bill 43 was discussed. The absence of medical services was also brought forward.

Mr. Poole explained the differences between a vision statement, mission statement and values.

Mr. Poole invited Council to start with the vision statement from the Official Community Plan and revise it. He provided vision statements from other municipalities as examples. Council agreed to revise the vision statement to:

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A residential and resort community focused on maintaining an attractive and inviting Village core, with a strong commitment to maintaining the scenic qualities, environment and the quality of life.

Mr. Poole discussed the purpose of values for the Village and invited Council to provide approximately six words that describe the Village's values. Council agreed on the values being respect, integrity, accountability, positivity, collaborative and communicative.

Mr. Poole asked Council for input on a mission statement. Council discussed the delivery of core services, a desire to remain a vibrant community for people to live, work and play, ensuring development contributes to a positive economy and maintaining connections to neighbouring Indigenous groups. Council agreed on the following mission statement:

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs will provide exceptional leadership to its residents, businesses and visitors through partnerships and the provision of effective and community focused services.

Mr. Poole explained strategic priorities and their importance in a strategic plan and presented a PowerPoint on the strategic planning survey submissions from the public.

Moved by Councillor Vidal

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting take a recess at 10:42 am and reconvene at 10:52 am.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-08-02

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting be reconvened.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-08-03

Discussions continued regarding strategic priorities and priority actions. Council suggested public safety, organizational development and smart development. Council discussed the term "smart development" and agreed to change it to "sustainable development".

Mr. Poole provided some examples of strategic plans from other municipalities listing their strategic priorities.

Council continued discussing strategic priorities, including healthy, livable community and environmental protection as additional priorities.

Mr. Poole sought input from Council regarding priority actions within the public safety strategic priority. Council identified securing an evacuation route, obtaining a FireSmart community designation and enhancing flood protection as the key priorities for public safety.

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Mr. Poole asked Council for input regarding priority actions within the organizational development strategic priority. Council highlighted conducting a village facilities review, establishing priorities for a Village office and other facilities, and updating master plans as key priorities for organizational development.

Mr. Poole asked Council for input on priority actions within the sustainable development strategic priority. Council identified pursuing attainable and affordable housing, investigating Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) development and developing a streetscape plan as key priorities for sustainable development

Mr. Poole asked Council for input on priority actions for the healthy livable community strategic priority. Council identified senior's housing/resource centre, parks and trails master plan, and investigating a recreation facility as key priorities for healthy livable community.

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting take a recess at 12:24 pm and reconvene at 1:00 pm.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-08-04

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting be reconvened.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-08-05

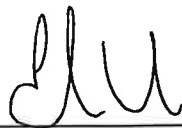
Discussions continued with Mr. Poole asking Council for input regarding priority actions within the environmental protection strategic priority. Council highlighted developing a climate action and mitigation plan, conducting an environmental review of the Miami River, and developing an action plan for a portion of the lagoon.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-08-06



Ed Wood
Mayor



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer