Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City of Victoria held Monday, November 1, 2004

Committee Present: Mayor Lowe, in the Chair; and Councillors Coleman, Fleming, Fortin, Holland, Hughes, Madoff and Thornton-Joe

Staff Present: D. Atkinson – Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Development; J. Basey – City Solicitor/Director of Planning and Development; R. Dennis – Director, Human Resources; K. Dowdall – Director of Finance; M. Hill – Downtown Community Development Co-ordinator; M. Leskiw – Manager, Parks Division; M.B. MacKenzie – Committee Secretary; J. Martignago – City Manager; M. Mayhew – Executive Assistant to the Mayor; P. O'Reilly – Director of Engineering; E. Robertson – Manager, Support Services; N. Taylor – Project Manager, Victoria Agreement; R. Woodland – Corporate Administrator; and W. Zink – Manager, Community Development

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. CITY OF VICTORIA DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN RESPONSE 2004

2.1 Completed Projects as of October 2004

The City Manager reviewed 2004 Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) accomplishments.

Comments from the Committee included:
- concerns regarding the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority's upcoming control of the causeway including sales of goods, buskers, hanging baskets and bylaw enforcement;
- the need for a survey similar to the one conducted by the former Business Improvement Area, to use for CSP initiative benchmarks;
- the need to identify opportunities for regional projects;
- the need to focus on promoting the downtown and develop an investment strategy; and
- ensuring leadership training is tailored for local government.

2.2 In-Process and Upcoming Projects

The City Manager reviewed CSP in-process an upcoming projects.

Comments from the Committee included:
- the need to prioritize completion of the Downtown Plan;
- possible promotion of parking passes as Christmas gifts;
- concerns that the City's applications for regional grants may affect the City receiving fewer grants for City projects;
- lack of resources and the need for a workshop to discuss the City's global objectives while considering the 2005 budget and Victoria 2020 issues;

- the need for measurements and benchmarks to track progress on CSP initiatives;
- consideration of a long-term strategy for downtown that would see initiatives carried out over a period of time, rather than all in one year;
- setting financial goals in the CSP; and
- a correction on Page 7, "Develop and present Secondary Suites Policy to Council" showing completion in the 4th Quarter of 2004 – not 2005.

2.3 Strategic Plan Response – Coriolis and 2020 DVCA Reports

The Committee discussed Strategic Plan items relative to the Coriolis and 2020 Downtown Victoria Community Alliance reports, and agreed there needed to be an additional workshop, perhaps with a facilitator, to discuss priorities.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

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Mayor Lowe, Chair