

# Anmore Advisor

FALL 2020



## Council Update

- MAYOR JOHN McEWEN

### CAPITALIZING ON OPPORTUNITIES

**In a year packed with unprecedented challenges, there is still lots of good news to share with our community.**

As we head into winter, the days not only feel shorter and darker because of the season, but also because of the pandemic fatigue that has set in around the world. 2020 has been a year unlike any other in recent history, and there have been significant challenges for so many. On the brighter side though, it has also been a year of seized opportunity for the Village. On behalf of Council, I am happy to share some of the projects that the Village has been able to undertake as a result of Council's fiscal prudence and planning over the past number of years.

#### **Saved more than \$1 million on 2020 construction cost.**

In 2020, the Village was able to leverage almost \$570,000 in grant funding from TransLink to support our 2020 construction projects. This grant provides 75% of the total eligible costs, which I was able to lobby for with TransLink as an increase from the 50/50 cost share agreement that most other Metro Vancouver municipalities receive. Our grant application was successful because we were well prepared with our plans to improve Sunnyside Road and pathways along both East Road and Sunnyside. We also received extremely competitive pricing given the construction industry climate due to COVID-19.

#### **Set budget and finalized detailed design for Anmore Community Hub.**

After reviewing its options, Council has established a funding plan for the Anmore Community Hub project so that the responsibility for the cost is shared between current and future residents. With an overall budget set at \$8 million, the Village has reserves that are adequate to fund the entire project; however, this would mean that current residents are covering the entire cost. Instead, Council wanted to choose a funding model that would provide fairness for both current and future residents and users of the facility by diverting some of the costs to future residents through a long-term payment schedule. To achieve this, we decided to borrow \$2.5 million through the Municipal Finance Authority using long-term borrowing for repayment. The balance of the costs will be funded using \$970,000 from developer contributions and secured provincial grants, and \$2.03 million from capital reserves. We will be applying for a federal/provincial grant to cover the remaining \$2.5 million. We believe we meet the criteria for the grant, and we anticipate that our application will be successful as Anmore has seen minimal grant funding provided by senior levels of government in past years compared to our neighbours. However, if we are not successful in securing additional funding, we will consider options such as using reserves, increasing our loan amount or a combination of the two.

We also made great progress on the design plan for the Anmore Community Hub. With input from our residents, we were able to finalize the detailed design in October and are now moving ahead with development of the working drawings for construction. See the Anmore Community Hub Update for an overview of the final design and next steps, or visit [anmore.com/community/thehub](https://anmore.com/community/thehub) for more details about this exciting project for the Village.



#### **Holiday Season Hours**

- Village Hall will be closed beginning December 24, 2020 and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Garbage and recycling collection are not affected by statutory holidays this year – your usual collection days apply, and garbage and recycling will be picked up as scheduled (weather permitting).

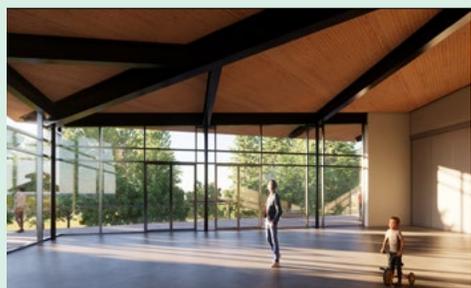


**COVID-19 Funding Support.** Anmore's short and long-term COVID-19 support measures got a boost thanks to receiving \$882,000 through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant program. The grants are being awarded to all local governments within British Columbia to help address some of the challenges experienced by municipalities as they support their communities. Given Anmore's limited budget for a prolonged emergency, this funding is immeasurably important for helping offset costs to adapt to new protocols and safety measures while serving residents.

**Eligible costs for the funding include:**

- Addressing revenue shortfalls;
- Facility reopening and operating costs;
- Emergency planning and response costs;
- Bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- Computer and other electronic technology costs for improving interconnectivity and virtual communications;
- Services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- Other COVID-19 related costs.

The funding will be used to cover costs related to COVID-19 in 2020, and Village staff will be developing a list of additional projects for Council's consideration as part of the 2021 budget process. Some of the key projects will likely include purchasing new technologies to increase Village-wide communications and bolstering our ability to be self-sufficient in emergency situations.



# AGE Sewer Connection

## APRIL 2021 DEADLINE SET BY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

The Village has been advised that the Ministry of Environment has issued a letter to Anmore Green Estates property owners that the sewer connection must be completed by no later than April 5, 2021.

In the letter, which will be posted on the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change website, the Ministry notes that a sewer connection is now available “as a result of significant effort from all parties involved” including the Village of Anmore. The Village completed multiple, comprehensive steps to ensure all of the legislative requirements were in place to become a member of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, and to allow for a sewer connection through Port Moody for discharge of effluent.

The letter also includes direction to the Strata to provide a schedule for completing the sewer connection, noting that the Ministry will refrain from enforcement at this time, provided that “Anmore Green Estates acts promptly and diligently in completing such connection and keeps the Ministry apprised of such work.”

The provincial government facilitator has notified the Village that the AGE Strata members agreed in principle to proceed with the facilitator’s most recent recommendations. This includes a recommendation to have the Village collect a parcel tax from AGE property owners on behalf of School District 43 to cover the \$140,000 payment required to access to the School District’s right-of-way. To set up this parcel tax, Village staff will be bringing forward a new Local Area Service Bylaw and Parcel Tax Bylaw for Council’s consideration. This will complete all actions required by the Village to enable the completion of the sewer connection.

# Anmore Community Hub Update

Following the first community engagement on the proposed design, Council made some key decisions to reflect the feedback.

In response to comments about the project cost and the importance of keeping to a budget, Council set the budget at \$8 million - \$6.85 million plus \$1.15 in contingency. The original estimated cost was \$6-\$10 million. Council also approved a funding model that will spread the costs for the project out over a longer term so that the cost can be shared between current and future residents.

In response to input about the design, Council directed that a number of updates be made, and the updated design was presented to residents at an open house on November 6, 2020.

Some of the key updated design features include:

- A site plan that shows how some of the outdoor plaza and patio spaces will be incorporated with the building.
- Updates to the entry including a food service area for use at events and when it is used as an emergency operations centre.
- Different configurations for the community room, showing how the space will be multi-functional so it can be used for a variety of community events.

Council has approved the detailed design. The next step involves converting the design drawings into working drawings, which are the detailed construction documents that can be used both for tendering the project and constructing the building.

## NEXT STEPS TIMELINE

**APRIL – JUNE 2021: Complete tender process to collect competitive bids from qualified contractors**

**DECEMBER 2020 – APRIL 2021:**  
Complete working drawings for detailed construction documents

**JULY 2021 – JULY 2022: Complete construction of the new building**

# Community Safety



## WINTER ROAD SAFETY

We have prepped all of our winter road maintenance equipment and have lots of salt on hand for what is expected to be a colder than usual fall and winter. During a snow event, please remember to remove your cars from the roadway so that our crews can clear your street.

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

We are pleased to introduce Anmore's Public Safety Committee members: Robert Boies, Gord McRae, Bryan Mitten and Sky Zhu. The new committee schedule is being developed, with the first meeting planned for December.

## FORM A BLOCK WATCH GROUP

We encourage residents to sign up for the Anmore Block Watch program. Residents can form a Block Watch group to watch out for each other's homes and report suspicious activities. For more information about Block Watch, please visit [anmore.com/community/safety/block-watch-program](https://anmore.com/community/safety/block-watch-program).

## COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

We will continue to take direction from Dr. Henry and the Fraser Health Authority regarding health safety measures. As part of current restrictions, we now require that visitors wear a mask when entering the Village Hall or Council Chambers. Staff and Council are also required to wear masks when in common areas. Other restrictions, such as limiting access at Village Hall, will be based on provincial requirements. Please visit [anmore.com/covid-19](https://anmore.com/covid-19) for updates on COVID-19 requirements for the Village.

# Anmore Events and Activities

## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY AND THE SEASON

While we are not able to host an official Light Up Spirit Park event this year, we will still be setting up the lights, and we encourage Anmore residents to come out to enjoy them. Going outside for a walk under the lights is a great way to celebrate the good things in our community as we work together to keep our distance and stay healthy.

With 2020 almost behind us, let's look to 2021 as being much brighter and a continuance of only the good things that happened this year. We wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

Visit [anmore.com](https://anmore.com) for the most reliable information about Village projects, initiatives and events and to sign up for our email notifications to be advised of all the latest info.



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