

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE, & COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue

February 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Pamela Carroll, Barbara Elson, Mark Leiren-Young, James Hesser, Susan Hendricks (5:03 p.m.), Danielle Lemon (via Teams), and Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysen (via Teams)

Staff: Sarah Faria, Community Programmer II - Events, Volunteers and Film, Community Services Division; Tiana Solares, Parks, Recreation and Community Services (via Teams); Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk; and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

Guests: Shelley Cook, Executive Director, Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria

AGENDA

MOVED by M. Leiren-Young and Seconded by B. Elson: "That the agenda of Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held February 28, 2024 be adopted."

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by K. Van Nieuvenhuysen: "That the Minutes of Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held October 25, 2023 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members, and the following was noted:

- Saanich could play part in a multi faith annual conference with a focus on kindness and kinship.
- A future presentation could be on the opioid crisis.

POINT IN TIME HOMELESSNESS COUNT

The Executive Director of the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria gave a presentation on the Point in Time homeless count (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Unique solutions to homelessness that focus on a personal approach and may be worth exploring.
- Calgary developed a team to address domestic violence in the court system.
- The non-profit community could play a role in supporting homelessness prevention and mitigation.
- Potential systems could be put in place to provide parents with direction on how to support their children in times of crisis.
- Art could act as a way of expression, benefiting mental health, and promoting a sense of community.
- The school system could be involved in supporting youth through challenging times.
- Homelessness knows no borders and requires collective cooperation.
- Further discussion on this matter would be appreciated.

S. Cook exited the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

WINTER FESTIVAL PROPOSAL

The Community Programmer II gave a presentation on the Winter Festival Proposal (Report on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Adverse weather may pose a risk to an outdoor event.
- A celebration in January or February may appeal to more audiences.
- Other holidays such as family day and Groundhog Day could serve as alternative times for celebration.
- December is a busy time for celebrations and shopping.
- This event could have a multicultural focus and be approximately 4 to 5 hours in length.
- There is potential for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) to provide telescopes for entertainment if weather permits.
- This event could diversify itself by taking place in a location such as Panama Flats.
- Uptown could be more accessible for attendees as it has additional parking compared to the Municipal Hall.
- Option 2 of the report (Uptown Light Up) is preferred.

J. Hesser exited the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

UPDATE ON THE RECREATION DIVISION

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was moved to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from P. Carroll the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be on April 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor Karen Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

DRAFT