

**MINUTES
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2

MARCH 12, 2015

Present: Chair: Councillor Haynes

Members: Bill Mumford, Blair Echlin, John Schmuck, Mayor Atwell (Ex-officio)

Staff: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Guests: Joy Davies, Interim Director, Community Relations, UVIC; Carmen Charette, VP External Relations, UVIC; Gayle Gorrill, VP Finance and Operations, UVIC; Jim Dunsdon, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs, UVIC; Haji Charania, North Quadra Community Association; Rob Wickson, Gorge Tillicum Community Association; Bob and Katie, Prospect Lake Community Association; Leslie Laird, Grange Road Blockwatch; Donna Roth, C.A.R.S.; Mark McInnes, Royal Oak Community Association

Absent: Suzanne Bartel, Jeremy Krogh, Andrea Mercer, June Klassen, Travis Lee

MINUTES

MOVED by J. Schmuck and seconded by B. Mumford, "That the minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held January 8, 2015 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

UVIC PRESENTATIONS

Economic Impacts:

The Chair introduced Ms. C. Charette, VP External Relations, who provided an overview of the economic impact UVIC has on the community. The following was noted:

- UVIC has recently unveiled a new look/brand, the UVIC Edge, which shows UVIC's commitment to dynamic learning, vital impact and an extraordinary environment.
- A video was shown to build colleagues understanding of what makes UVIC distinctive and how the new brand will engage people to attend UVIC.
- UVIC Alumni – over 50% of graduates remain on Vancouver Island and 94% are employed within two years of graduation.
- Over 31,000 UVIC alumni live/work within the region.
- The co-op program placed 1444 students in the Capital Region 2014-2015.
- The total annual economic impact of UVIC is \$3 billion.
- Vancouver Island Technology Park (VIATec) which currently holds 31 companies and has capacity to expand.

- UVIC has been a sustaining patron of VIATec since 1989.
- VIATec brings significant dollars in for research.
- UVIC Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurship (ICE) provides services that take businesses from concept to investor ready. ICE has already created four new companies in the first three months of 2015.
- The workforce impact of Faculty of Engineering Partnerships has resulted in 813 jobs.

Student Impacts:

Mr. Dunsdon, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs, provided the Committee with an overview of the impact of UVIC students on the community. The following was noted:

- UVIC attracts over 20,000 students annually with 70% (14,000) from outside Vancouver Island.
- Over 1000 First Nations students are enrolled at UVIC.
- International student enrollment has grown by 15%.
- All first year students are guaranteed on-campus housing.
- On campus student housing breakdown:
 - First year students 93%
 - Student staff 4%
 - Upper year students 6%
 - Graduate students 1%
- Approximately 5000 UVIC students live in Saanich.
- The Student Affairs website contains information along with expectations of off-campus conduct and how to be a community member.
- CARSA and CanAssist support people with disabilities and accessibility needs.
- Many continuing studies programs are provided.
- The student mental health strategy provides a range of programs to support students.
- UVIC offers community access to UVIC fields and recreation facilities.

Community Impacts:

Ms. G. Gorrill, VP Finance and Operations, provided the Committee with an overview of the impact UVIC has on the community. The following was noted:

- UVIC has been awarded the Gold rating in the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (Star). Only four other Canadian universities have achieved this distinction.
- The 2009-2014 Sustainability Action Plan was completed and an updated 5 year plan for 2014-2019 was done, which looks at waste reduction, buying local and other recognized sustainable corporate practices.
- The Sustainability Action Plan 2014-2019 sets building construction, management, commuting and dining services targets with a goal of attaining LEED Gold in construction projects.

- Under the Sustainability Action Plan, reducing single occupant vehicle use and increasing bus use by 70% by 2019 are targets.
- With consideration of achieving the transportation target, BC Transit has added ten more bus bays.
- Efforts to engage the community with UVIC have been made. Over 500,000 people go the campus yearly for various events, camps and courses.
- Information is shared with the community via Community Associations Liaison Committee (CALC) which include 4 community associations and a SCAN representative.
- There is growing collaboration with Saanich around campus security and emergency preparation planning.
- Saanich and Victoria will interact around diverse campus access development and management concerns.
- UVIC are involved as stewards to Mystic Vale/Bowker Creek.
- “Engaging our Neighbours” guidelines were prepared in 2013 in an effort to clarify levels of community consultation in land use initiatives.
- A drop-in forum was held February 4, 2015 for ideas to assist with the Campus Plan Update. A draft of the Campus Plan is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2015 and will be taken to the Community Associations and other stakeholders for feedback and discussion.

Ms. Davies spoke to the upcoming “Catalyst to Conversation” that is planned for early June 2015. The event engages post-secondary leaders with municipal elected officials to explore ways of working collaboratively for the benefit of the region. All 91 leaders, other universities and post-secondary institutions are invited to participate.

Ms. Gorrill spoke to UVIC ownership of Swans Pub. The property was donated to UVIC in 2003, as a real estate endowment, provides UVIC with ongoing funding, and is managed by a separate Board.

In response to Committee questions, Ms. Gorrill spoke to the future plans for several UVIC owned off-campus properties and the following was noted:

- Mystic Vale:
 - Property experiences trouble with erosion. Stabilizing measures include bank repair, retaining walls and fencing.
 - Invasive species management requires on-going efforts.
 - Currently there is no formal written plan for the property.
- Ian Stewart Complex:
 - Houses a rink and offices. No plans to close the rink.
 - A consultant has been hired to study the condition of the building.
- Dunsmuir Lodge:
 - Property was donated in 1985, and was used as a conference centre.
 - Financially unfeasible to continue ownership of this property and it is currently for sale.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The openness and collaborative culture of UVIC is appreciated.
- Economic impact of UVIC is impressive.

- Alternative transportation modes should continue to be promoted and encouraged.
- Upgrades to McKenzie Avenue with the addition of the bike lane have had an impact on reducing single occupant vehicle traffic to the University.
- Underground bicycle storage for approximately 200 bicycles is available under UVIC Centre.
- The Transit Commission has a small short fall and is unsure of how to maintain service.
- Additional land for student housing is being explored. Increasing housing density on campus and off campus opportunities are being investigated.
- Revenue from student housing is re-invested into University facilities.
- Using apps for way-finding on campus could be considered.
- Important to have satellite campus/downtown classes. This could be an area to study with respect to UVIC's strategic planning. More hi-tech companies/jobs are located in the downtown area compared to VIATec Park.
- Bike lane is not continuous. Tuscany Village has created cyclist commuter problems.

The Committee thanked the speakers for their informative presentations.

TRAFFIC FLOWS AND SAFETY ON RESIDENTIAL ROADS

The Chair facilitated a discussion of traffic flows and safety on residential roads and the following was noted:

- Approximately 80% of the roads in Saanich are residential roads.
- Streets for speed reduction pilot studies should be identified.
- Victoria has more 40km/hr zones and these do not appear to be changing driving habits.
- Reviewing the results from the speed limit reduction project undertaken by the City of Victoria should be done once the outcomes of the project are available.
- Representatives from the City of Victoria could be invited to present on their experiences with the speed limit reduction project.
- Many people seem to be advocating for speed limit reductions on residential roads.
- Quadra Street has been mentioned numerous times as a possible road for consideration for a speed limit reduction.
- There are many issues in the Gorge Tillicum area with excessive speed and limited enforcement.
- The Gorge Tillicum Community Association has been asking for speed limit change for 17 years.
- The Director of Engineering will provide the Committee with a list of the speed limits within Saanich.
- Continuity with speed limits would be beneficial.
- Missing is the input from residents in areas that have speed limit concerns. A forum should be made available to residents to come forward with their concerns about speed limits in their neighbourhoods.
- The addition of more sidewalks is not always a financially feasible option.

- ICBC often provides funds for upgrades.
- Healthcare sector could be approached to contribute funds.
- Relabeling speed limit signs maybe a cost saving measure. The start of every block will require a new sign otherwise the new speed limit will not be enforceable.

Ms. L. Lard, Grange Road Blockwatch, inquired how to approach Saanich about traffic calming and other speed limit reduction measures. The Director of Engineering stated that Grange Road is a collector Road.

Ms. D. Roth, Community Advocates for Reduced Speed (CARS), stated they have worked to have traffic calming elements installed in the form of humps and circles and found they work for the most part. They will look at having some of these elements placed in other speed concern areas.

Mr. R. Wickson, Gorge Tillicum Community Association, stated that a recent SCAN meeting consensus was that Community Associations support a pilot project to study the effects and feasibility of reducing speed limits on residential roads. Discussion at the SCAN meeting supported a default speed limit of 40 km/hr on all residential roads except on those roads that are well designed to handle higher speed.

MOTION: Moved by J. Schmuck and seconded by B. Mumford: "That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee requests that the Community Advocates for Reduced Speed (CARS) be invited to present information about reducing default speed limit to 40 km/h on Saanich residential roads."

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2015.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary