

AGENDA
ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To be held at Saanich Municipal Hall
Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
Wednesday November 26, 2025 at 4:30 PM

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. September 24, 2025

B. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

1. CHAIRS REMARKS

2. MENTAL HEALTH CONNECTIONS

- Presentation by Dr. Bruce Pinel

3. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

4. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

C. ADJOURNMENT

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Nathan Cernusca at 250-475-5494 ext. 3642 or nathan.cernusca@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
September 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Mena Westhaver (Chair), Pamela Carroll, Kristen Kay, Colin Newell, Nathan Papps, Peter Quinn, Isak Serhan
Regrets: James Hesser, Mark Leiren-Young
Guests: Anne McIntyre, Founder and Executive Director, Soap for Hope and Vera Wynn-Williams, President, Gorge-Tillicum Community Association
Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Sharon Froud, Deputy Corporate Officer

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by P. Quinn and Seconded by I. Serhan: “That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held June 25, 2025, be adopted as circulated”

RESULT: Carried 7 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Westhaver, Carroll, Kay, Newell, Papps, Quinn, Serhan

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members and guests, acknowledging the importance of community and giving back to the community.

SOAP FOR HOPE

The Founder and Executive Director from Soap for Hope gave a presentation on the organization's mission of changing lives by providing hope, and dignity through hygiene (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Opportunities for volunteering are available by contacting volunteer@soapforhomecanada.ca.
- They employ five staff and 120 volunteers assist weekly.
- Social enterprises, including a thrift store and handmade soap products, help fund the organization. The intent is to build social enterprise funding.
- Soap for Hope bins are available in strategic community locations throughout the year.
- The top items needed are deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.
- The Soap for Hope Impact Report is available online: www.soapforhomecanada.ca

GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The President, Gorge Tillicum Community Association gave a presentation on community association initiatives, the Gorge Canada Day Picnic and its challenges including insurance requirements, and support from Saanich (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The scale of the Canada Day Picnic and its location related to the roadway results in more complexity with insurance coverage.
- The Music in the Parks program are managed and funded by Saanich and the liability insurance is covered by the District's blanket insurance policy. Third party operated events are required to adhere to permit requirements, like insurance.
- There is a low cost membership fee for the Gorge Tillicum Community Association. Communication with members is through a printed newsletter, digital newsletters, email distribution list, and social media.
- The operational budget for the picnic is \$45,000. Artisans and not-for profits pay a small fee. Food vendors pay a percentage of revenue. Other revenue sources are sponsorship and the strawberry tea.
- A walk around is planned with Parks staff to discuss the park design as it relates to crowds.
- The Senior Manager noted that Saanich contributes significantly particularly with behind the scenes and logistical support aspects.
- Is it possible for another support model for community events as it relates to insurance and other support. There would be a need to determine financial costs. A motion can be considered at a future meeting if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by P. Quinn and Seconded by J. Hesser: "That the meeting be adjourned."

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Westhaver, Carroll, Kay, Newell, Papps, Quinn, Serhan

OPPOSED: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER