

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
April 23, 2025 at 5:01 PM

In Attendance: Councillor Westhaver (Chair), Colin Newell, James Hesser, Mark Leiren-Young (5:07 p.m.), Pamela Carroll, Peter Quinn (5:04 p.m.)
Regrets: Isak Serhan and Kristen Kay
Guests: Belinda Macey, Program Coordinator, Victoria Child Care Resource & Referral Program; Bob Yates, Research Support to Child Care Resource & Referral Centre
Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Molly Rose, Agriculture and Food Security Planner; Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Newell and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held March 26, 2025, be adopted as circulated."

RESULT: Carried 5 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Leiren-Young

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIRS REMARKS

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

- Introductions were made.

THE CHILD CARE SYSTEM IN SAANICH - THE MUNICIPAL ROLE AND THE NEED FOR POLICY FRAMEWORK AND AN ACTION PLAN

The representatives from Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral Program gave a presentation on the Childcare System in Saanich (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Each summer, there is an open federal funding application available for municipalities, non-profits, indigenous organizations, and others to apply for support to create or renovate childcare spaces.
- The City of Burnaby recently allocated \$3.5 million to renovate a space in a community centre for a childcare facility. \$2.28 million of this was funded through a Provincial grant.
- Families across the Capital Regional District (CRD) are actively searching for childcare, as access remains limited.
- The \$10 a day childcare program is available only in licensed group care settings. Many families are specifically seeking this more affordable option.
- The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) helps improve affordability by providing funding to eligible, licensed childcare providers to reduce and stabilize monthly fees.
- Most childcare centres participate in the CCFRI. When combined with families receiving the

Affordable Child Care Benefit, some parents are paying around \$10 per day for childcare, without utilizing the \$10 a day childcare program.

- It is often difficult for families to determine which centres offer \$10 a day childcare, as there is no economic assessment included in the application process for becoming a \$10 a day provider.
- Workplace childcare centres are especially beneficial for parents, particularly mothers returning to work.
- Locating childcare centres in or near retirement homes offers a unique opportunity to create bonds among different generations.
- In some cases, grandparents have assumed legal custody of their grandchildren due to parents not being able to attain childcare.
- The City of Victoria conducted a comprehensive childcare study in 2020, developed a licensing package for prospective providers, and has continued to advance this work.
- Responsibility for childcare falls to individual municipalities as there is currently no inter-municipal committee addressing childcare at a regional level.

MOVED by P. Quinn and Seconded by M. Leiren-Young: “That the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee recommend that Council work in collaboration with other community partners to develop a three to five year plan that will increase the supply of childcare spaces in the municipality.”

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Leiren-Young, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell

OPPOSED: None

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by P. Carroll: “That the meeting be adjourned.”

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Leiren-Young, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell

OPPOSED: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK