

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2  
**October 27, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Dean Murdock (Chair), Al-Nashir Charania, Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, Jude Coates, Mary Haig-Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner Current Planning; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: George Klima

Guest: Larry Leyne

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**Minutes**

**MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held September 22, 2015, be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

**UPTOWN-DOUGLAS CORRIDOR PLAN**

The Senior Planner, Current Planning, provided a background of the Uptown/Douglas Corridor Plan and noted the Terms of Reference (available online) were approved by Council on September 14, 2015. The following was noted:

- The City of Victoria is doing a similar plan and Saanich will be working with them.
- With the jurisdictional areas and transportation issues, staff will also be working with the ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as BC Transit and the CRD.
- A map of the plan area was presented. This is a 20-30 year land use plan that is not large in area but a significant mix of commercial, industrial and residential properties.
- Six key themes guide the plan, and there are ten plan objectives, some of which include: creating a more vibrant and walkable urban centre; having a connected, sustainable and balanced transportation network that encourages more walking, cycling and transit use; enhancing the network of parks, open spaces and culture/community facilities; restoring and enhancing key environmental assets; and, promoting green buildings/renewable energy.
- A consultant will be hired to work with staff and the public to develop a vision and community plan that will guide development for Uptown major centre, the Douglas corridor and surrounding area.
- An advisory committee will be established and will be comprised of about 16 individuals that broadly represent the area demographic and interests. Their role will be to advise on public engagement techniques to ensure outreach is effectively undertaken in the community; promote the project and public engagement opportunities within the community; and, provide feedback to staff on plan concepts and content.
- A consultant will be hired to work with staff and the public to develop a vision and community plan

Committee comments were noted as follows:

- The entire area should be studied for the most comprehensive land use plan.
- Care should be taken to capture all the sustainable and environmental potential when developing the future land use plans.
- Consideration should be given to the density that can be supported by this area and Saanich in general.
- The plan should include provisions for affordable family housing.
- Potential for increasing tree cover in this area.
- The history of the land adjacent to Cecilia Creek and the creek itself should be studied to develop a plan exploring what can be done to revitalize this watercourse.
- Area is under-served by green space, park space and meeting spaces.
- Trail connections through this area need considerable improvement.
- Land use plan updates and zoning changes may be fairly extensive.
- This area has an increased complexity with a diverse combination of owners and users of the land. A culture shift on how building occurs may be needed to fully realize the potential of maximizing sustainable land use for the area.
- Consideration of how to bring the regional context into the long range plans for the Douglas-Uptown Corridor should be given.

Committee thanked the Senior Planner for the information.

## **EDPA TOWN HALL**

The Environmental Services Manager updated the Committee on the EDPA Town Hall scheduled for November 12, 2015. The Town Hall will be the final public event held to discuss the EDPA. A facilitator will be present to assist with the event.

## **PRIORITIES**

Postponed

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS-BLUE DOT TOUR**

The Chair facilitated a discussion on the issues relating to the development of an Environmental Bill of Rights and the highlights were noted as follows:

- Environment Benefits and Burdens:
  - Benefits:
    - Accessible green-space, natural areas, and trails.
  - Burdens:
    - Some areas lack appreciable green-space
    - Proximity to landfill
    - Congestion, poor air quality and noise pollution
- **Action:** walking, cycling and transit friendly
- Infrastructure and Development and the protection of the environment
  - Saanich has environmental protocols
  - ESR
  - Climate and sustainability section of development reports
  - Tree Protection Bylaw
- Reducing greenhouse gases and adoption:
  - Key initiatives from Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan
- Responsible Density:
  - Official Community Plan identifies increasing density in major centres and

- villages
- Prioritize walking, cycling and transit:
  - Sidewalk construction, inclusion of bike lanes
- Infrastructure for safe and accessible drinking water:
  - Pipes, pumps and water mains
- Availability of safe foods:
  - Farmlands protection and accessible local foods
- **Action:** Farmlands Trust, rooftop gardens, community gardens, not endorsing ALR removal
- A suggestion to tie indicators for the Environmental Bill of Rights into the Strategic Plan.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2015

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Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary