

**MINUTES OF THE
FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 AT 1:00 PM**

Present: Chair: Councillor Susan Brice
Members: Mayor Haynes, Councillors Harper and Mersereau
Staff Members: Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer; Valla Tinney, Director of Finance; Paul Arslan, Senior Manager; Jennifer Downie, Administrative Assistant.

MEETING BY ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Due to COVID-19 measures, the Saanich Municipal Hall is currently closed to the public.

Registration deadline to gain access to listen to the proceedings by teleconference was 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday, March, 2021. There was no public interest expressed by the deadline.

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

MOVED by Councillor Harper and seconded by Councillor Mersereau: “That the minutes of the Finance and Governance Standing Committee meeting of January 18, 2021 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTION GRANT – SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE – 3100 TILlicum ROAD

The Director of Finance presented the report dated March 2, 2021.

Moved by Mayor Haynes and seconded by Councillor Mersereau: “That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee recommend that Council endorse in principle a permissive tax exemption for Saanich Neighbourhood Place and approve a grant for 2021 in accordance with Council’s Permissive Tax Exemption Policy and funded from Council’s Strategic Initiatives Contingency.”

CARRIED

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The Director of Finance left the meeting at 1:06 pm
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2021 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS and 2021 COMMUNITY BUILDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Two reports of the Director of Finance dated March 3, 2021 were presented.

There are 26 requests for funding in 2021 totaling \$414,514.00 and the total grant budgeted for both the Strategic Priorities and Community Building Grants for 2021 is \$202,081.00.

Consensus was to review all the grant applications with a formal motion being made at the end of the review.

Individual motions will not be made after review of each item. The Senior Manager of Finance will keep a running tally with the Committee doing a final review at the end, at which time a formal motion with a recommendation to Council will be made.

The total amount of grant funding last year was \$202,081. The committee discussed not exceeding this limit for 2021. The total of 2021 Strategic Priorities Grant Applications and 2021 Community Building Grant Applications should not exceed \$202,081; the amount given out last year.

Moved by Councillor Harper and seconded by Councillor Mersereau: “That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee not exceed \$202,081 in the grants review process.”

CARRIED

Strategic Priorities Grant	Amount Requested This Year	Amount Recommended for Approval
676 Kittyhawk Sponsoring Committee Society (on behalf of 676 Kittyhawk Air Cadet Squadron)	\$2,000	\$0
Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable	\$15,000	\$13,000
Cedar Hill Golf Club, Ladies Division	\$0	\$0
Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria	\$50,000	\$10,000
Creatively United for the Planet Society	\$5,500	\$1,650
Crisis Intervention & Public Info Society of GV-Need 2 Suicide Prevention	\$10,000	\$5,000
Elk-Beaver Lake Equestrian Society	\$25,000	\$0
FED Urban Agriculture Society	\$7,500	\$0
Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society	\$2,530	\$2,530
Greater Victoria Acting Together	\$49,200	\$3,000
Greater Victoria Sports Tourism Commission	\$2,500	\$2,500
Greater Victoria Visitors & Convention Bureau (Destination Greater Victoria)	\$15,000	\$15,000
Greater Victoria Volunteer Society (Volunteer Victoria)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Habitat Acquisition Trust	\$0	\$0
Human-Nature Counselling Society	\$8,500	\$0
Junior Achievement B.C. (JABC)	\$10,000	\$0
Leadership Victoria Society	\$1,000	\$1,000
LifeCycles Project Society	\$18,000	\$18,000
Peninsula Streams Society	\$25,000	\$20,000
Saanich Marine Rescue Society	\$10,000	\$10,000
Saanich Neighbourhood Place (\$9,100 in Kind)	\$40,000	\$20,000
Shelbourne Community Kitchen Society	\$10,000	\$10,000
The Nature of Us Project	\$14,684	\$0

The Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	\$1,100	\$1,100
Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission	\$45,000	\$39,300
Victoria Brain Injury Society	\$2,000	\$0
Victoria Community Food Hub Society (VCFHS)	\$10,000	\$0
Victoria Sexual Assault Centre	\$25,000	\$5,000
	\$414,514	\$187,080
Community Well-being and Place-making		
Gorge Tillicum Community Association	\$5,000	\$5,000
Kulea Culture Society	\$1,250	\$0
Prospect Lake District Community Association	\$4,000	\$4,000
	\$10,250	\$9,000
Community Events		
Friends of Bowker Creek Society	\$1,500	\$1,500
Greater Victoria Festival Society	\$2,021	\$0
The Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society	\$7,500	\$4,500
	\$11,021	\$6,000
Grand Total	\$435,785	\$202,080

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Mayor Haynes recused himself (1:48 to 1:50) during discussions relating to Prospect Lake District Community Association.

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The Committee suggested that staff include a clarifying comment in the correspondence being sent out to all the grant recipients noting that each application is considered on its merits each year and that it is no indication of the likelihood of support in future years.

Following the review of the grant applications the following motion was made:

Moved by Mayor Haynes and seconded by Councillor Mersereau: "That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee advance their recommendations for grant funding totaling \$202,080 to Council."

CARRIED

2021 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS – SCHEDULE A

Report of the Director of Finance dated March 3, 2021 was reviewed.

With the update to the Saanich Community Grants Program Policy, Council designated six organizations as eligible for Other Community Service Provider Grants. These organizations do

not need to submit annual applications for grant funding as funding levels are to be established through the development of multi-year Contribution Agreements that are approved individually by Council. Per policy where a Contribution Agreement is not yet finalized, Council is to confirm funding levels during the annual budget process.

Organizations eligible for Other Community Service Provider grants include:

1. Goward House Society
2. Haliburton Community Organic Farm Society
3. Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
4. Saanich Heritage Foundation
5. Saanich Volunteer Services Society
6. Silver Threads Service

Moved by Mayor Haynes and seconded by Councillor Mersereau: “That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee recommend to Council keeping the grant amount for 2021 the same as 2020 for Schedule “A” organizations in the Community Service Provider grants category (as noted in the report of the Director of Finance, 2021 Community Service Provider Grants – Schedule A, dated March 3, 2021).”

CARRIED

The Committee suggested that staff invite and schedule each of the groups to attend a future Council meeting to provide a 10 minute presentation on their organization. This would be an opportunity for them to showcase their organization and the programs they offer, and to provide members of Council with an understanding of the wonderful work they do.

ANNUAL LIABILITY INSURANCE GRANT TO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

The report of the Director of Finance dated March 3, 2021 was reviewed.

Noted in the report, the Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) presented a request and sought guidance from the Finance and Governance Committee regarding any increase to the annual liability insurance grant due to changes in the liability insurance being purchased by community associations and the increasing cost of premiums.

Moved by Mayor Haynes and seconded by Councillor Mersereau: “That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee recommend to Council changes to the annual liability insurance grant section of the Saanich Community Grants Program Policy; increasing the budget to allow for \$825 per community association depending on further information becoming available.”

CARRIED

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that there will be an increase to core budget as a result of this recommendation.

Community associations would need to provide a receipt prior to receiving reimbursement.

REVIEW ROLE OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

Councillor Mersereau noted that the District's approach is very unstructured in terms of how it interacts with community associations. The fact that privileges are extended to the groups as well as public funding; it should be tied to particular governance practises, etc.

Councillor Mersereau noted that this is problematic and would like formality in addressing how community associations are interfaced with development application processes and the expectations that they have. Council often hears that community associations feel they have not been recognized in the process and this could be a result of not having clear expectations on paper. There is a need for discussion about how this organization interacts with community associations and there is a need to recognize that they are autonomous entities in most cases.

MOVED by Councillor Mersereau and seconded by Councillor Harper: "That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee recommend to Council to direct the Finance and Governance Standing Committee review the roles and responsibilities of Community Associations in relation to the District."

**This motion was defeated
With Mayor Haynes, Councillors Brice, Harper and Mersereau opposed.**

Councillor Mersereau agreed that having information around the expectations or requirements of community associations would be useful for future discussions.

MOVED by Councillor Mersereau and seconded by Councillor Harper: "That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee direct staff to bring back to a future meeting any current documentation, outlines, and requirements, in relation to community associations that are a part of Saanich."

CARRIED

The Chief Administrative Officer will have staff put together this information for the Committee. Committee members noted that asking for information is a good first step in understanding how the District works together with community associations.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion from Councillor Brice the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary