

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held virtually from Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
April 12, 2022 at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Ned Taylor.

Members: Clare Attwell, Carren Dujela, Liz Miller (SCAN), Ryan Henderson, and Jasmine Noble.

Staff: Alison Chamberlain, Community Programmer II Older Adult Services; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; and Austin Winters, Committee Clerk.

Guests: Cathy Peters, BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator; and Ben Barnes, Advocacy Lead for Victoria Pride Society

Absent: Silvia Mangué Alene, Basil Langevin, and Kam Judge.

MINUTES

MOVED by L. Miller and seconded by J. Noble, “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held March 2, 2022, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair thanked the HSAC Committee Clerk for the work he has done as he is leaving the role at the end of April.

OLDER ADULT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Older Adult Services Community Programmer delivered a presentation on the Older Adult Strategic Plan update. The following was noted:

- Saanich’s Older Adult Strategy is a visionary Saanich crafted response to strengthening the social and cultural participation of citizens.
- There are 34 goals and 95 actions in the strategy over the past four years the focus has been on four key priority areas:
 1. Age-friendly spaces
 2. Collaboration
 3. Enhancing communication
 4. Ensuring programming continuum
- Over 2000 community members and staff contributed to the Strategic Plan.
- There has been a lack of funding for the Plan over the last four years.
- In 2017, the Plan was approved; in 2018 and 2019, the Plan was partially funded; and in 2020 and 2021 there was also partial funding and the pandemic was taking place.

- Without full staffing and technology approval to use Zoom, pivoting services was limited.
- An age-friendly signage strategy for Saanich recreation facilities was completed in late 2021.
- The signage strategy draws together professional easily understood and age friendly communication at Saanich's recreation sites.
- A washroom strategy for parks and trails came about in 2019 and the strategy makes parks and trails more age-friendly to visit.
- Outdoor walkways have been improved at recreation sites for those with diverse mobility needs.
- Older adult fitness and skill abilities have become more commonly offered since 2017.
- There has been increased collaboration inter-municipally and inter-sectorally.
- Communication has been increased substantially as the Older Adult Activity Resource Guide was circulated to over 247,000 homes by using newspaper distribution in 2021.
- Social programming in the rec centres need to be improved.
- 3 part-time programmer I positions and 1 full-time health therapist will be recruited in the near future to help sustain health intersectionality in the many supported programs.
- An age-friendly parks, elder college, user friendly trail guide and a communication plan for those 75 or older are all to be developed in the future.

The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- COVID had a large impact on the reasoning there was only partial funding from 2018 to 2021.
- Getting access to the programs for seniors can be challenging, thus an inquiry was made over whether or not additional transportation to these programs has been considered.
- There are some initiatives to enhance the partnership with BC Transit, but transportation is largely not within the scope of this department.

2021 CLIMATE REPORT CARD

The Manager of Sustainability delivered a presentation on the 2021 Climate Report Card. The following was noted:

- The updated Climate Plan was approved by Council in January 2020.
- The Plan provides a renewed policy framework and action plan for a comprehensive response to climate change in Saanich over the next 10 years.
- The Plan aims to cut community wide greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.
- The Plan also sets new targets for municipal operations which assists in Saanich's aim to lead by example.
- Saanich has a goal to cut GHG emissions in half operationally by 2025 and then to get to net zero by 2040.
- The focus areas of the Plan include mobility; buildings and infrastructure; food and materials; ecosystems; community well-being; and leadership in district operations.
- The 2021 Report Card is about positive action that is being taken in Saanich, but Saanich is cognisant of the climate emergency that is taking place currently.
- There has been a 17% reduction in GHG emissions since 2007 community wide in Saanich.

- There are 131 actions in the Climate Plan with 86 of those actions were to be initiated within the first two years of the Plan and 62 of those actions are ongoing or on track.
- 24 actions are currently behind schedule or on hold for the Plan.
- 46% of Saanich's total community wide emissions are related to transportation for 2020.
- Accelerating the objectives of the Active Transportation Plan is a key priority of the Climate Plan.
- The e-bike incentive program is also a key part of the Climate Plan to encourage e-bike use.

The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- An inquiry was made over whether the decrease in GHG emissions may rise again now that COVID restrictions are lifting.
- It is expected that GHG emissions from transportation may increase with car use increasing once again.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN BC AND HOW TO STOP IT

A BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator provided an overview on human trafficking, sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking in BC. The following was noted:

- Human trafficking is the recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring, or exercising control over a person for the purpose of exploiting them.
- The BC Anti-Human Trafficking Law has four parts:
 1. It targets the demand by targeting the buyer of sex;
 2. It recognizes the seller of sex as a victim who is usually female and is immune from prosecution;
 3. Exit strategies are put in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade; and
 4. There is a robust prevention education program in place to ensure that youth, children and the vulnerable are not pulled into the sex industry.
- The law focuses on the source of the harm, the buyers of sex and the profiteers.
- Vancouver and Toronto are global sex tourism hotspots, while Canada is known as a child sex tourism destination.
- The sex industry is growing quickly and is targeting children.
- 13 years old is the average age for recruitment into the sex industry.
- 54% in the sex industry are of indigenous background.
- 82% of those involved in prostitution dealt with sexual abuse or incest and 95% want to leave the industry.
- Council can assist by reducing the demand by targeting complicit businesses and diminish the supply by education and public awareness.
- Visit Cathy Peters' website for more information:
 - <http://www.beamazingcampaign.org/>

The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- There should be greater engagement on this subject with schools.

- Those who identify with the LGBTQ+ community are targeted at a high percentage with regards to sex trafficking.
- A lot of the luring takes place online.

HOW TO BETTER SUPPORT 2SLGBTQIA+ PEOPLE

The Advocacy Lead for Victoria Pride Society delivered a presentation on how to better support 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The following was noted:

- 2SLGBTQIA+ people face discrimination across Canada.
- The three guiding principles to better support 2SLGBTQIA+ people focus on equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Addressing the needs of this community requires provisions to specifically target transgender people, people of colour, indigenous peoples and other people facing intersectional harm.
- Local government is limited fiscally in the amount they are able to provide supports to these communities.
- Programs must be ongoing to ensure these communities are continually supported.
- Diversity must be celebrated, greater equitable outcomes must be delivered and inclusion opportunities need to be created within the community.
- Diversity can be celebrated by implementing provisions within bylaws or policies to specifically address 2SLGBTQIA+ discrimination; raising pride flags and supporting pride celebrations.
- Establishing anti-racism resources and acknowledging systemic racism goes a long way in promoting equity and diversity.
- It important to establish resources to ensure seniors who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ are heard and recognized.
- Inclusion opportunities can be introduced by for example creating a 2SLGBTQIA+ people advisory committee or if that is not possible ensure that there is appropriate representation on advisory committees.
- The Victoria Pride Society is trying to bring forward the idea of report cards that evaluate key task progress in municipalities such as Saanich.

The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- A new world view needs to be established so that those who are part of a marginalized community such as indigenous peoples, people of colour, and 2SLGBTQIA+ are appropriately recognized, heard and included.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

The following was noted during the committee roundtable discussion:

- A breakdown in public trust is being noticed on both social media and commentary in newspaper reporting.
- The biggest flashpoints seem to be between the masked and unmasked and the polarization of society over whether masking is still necessary at this point in the pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2022.

Councillor Ned Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Austin Winters, Committee Secretary