

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
February 19, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Paul Gerrard

Members: Jean Fraser, Franca LaBella, Nancy McDuffe, Dorthy Rosenberg, Nadia Rajan, Shirley Woods

Staff: Kelly-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Guests: Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director, Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness; Henry Kamphof, Senior Manager, CRD Housing Secretariat

Absent: Fred Haynes (SCAN), Jean Hodgson

MINUTES

MOVED by J. Fraser and seconded by D. Rosenberg, "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held January 15, 2014 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

VICTORIA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

The Chair introduced Mr. A. Wynn-Williams, Executive Director, Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. Mr. Wynn-Williams presented the Committee with an overview of the role of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness in reducing homelessness in the region. The following was noted:

- The Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness is an organization that facilitates collaboration between the various agencies that are involved with the issues and challenges surrounding homelessness.
- Significant housing shortages exist in Greater Victoria for those with lower incomes.
- The shortage of affordable housing is the key driver of homelessness in the region.
- Cost of providing affordable housing will be less than the cost of managing homelessness as a crisis. Emergency shelters cost between \$13,000 and \$42,000 per person per year, supportive and transitional housing costs \$13,000 to \$18,000 per person per year and affordable housing cost \$5,000 to \$8,000 per person per year.
- Investing in affordable housing could potentially generate a per person savings of 41% per year.
- Federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments could commit to funding the minimum 250 units of supportive housing required to address those most at need in Greater Victoria.
- Federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments could commit to funding an additional 500 units of supportive housing that could be converted into subsidized, affordable housing should further supportive housing not be required.

- Federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments could implement coordinated affordable housing strategies that increase the market supply of both non-market affordable and market affordable housing in Greater Victoria by 1,500 units.

A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Council Houses have been successful in England and Australia.
- Capital projects and rent supplements have been successful in Canada.
- Vancouver Island Health has a successful program called Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). This program utilizes intensive case management team supports to assist the homeless with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.
- Housing criteria for homeless persons:
 - Choice
 - No strings attached
 - Programs
 - Supports
 - Long term independence
- The homeless with chronic mental health issues and/or substance abuse issues are the most visible homeless demographic.
- Ultra low barrier shelters have to be provided along with other more restrictive shelters.

Mr. Wynn-Williams was thanked for his presentation.

CRD HOUSING PRESENTATION

The Chair introduced Mr. H. Kamphof, Senior Manager, CRD Secretariat. Mr. Kamphof presented an overview of the housing environment in Saanich and in the Capital Regional District. The following was noted:

- Affordable housing is identified as one of the Regional Sustainability Strategy priorities.
- Regional Housing Affordability Strategy was adopted in July 2007.
- Secondary suites are currently approved in 11 of 13 municipalities.
- A Regional Housing Trust Fund has been created. This Trust Fund was the priority of the original Regional Affordability Strategy.
 - The funding is to provide start up capital grants strictly for “bricks and mortar” for the acquisition, development and retention of affordable housing targeted to those in median and lower income.
 - Original funding leveraging target was 5:1, achieved 14:1.
 - To date approximately 500 units have been created in community affordable housing assets.
- CRD Housing Secretariat and multi-stakeholder CRD Housing Action Team. Regional response to homelessness through the creation of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.
 - Established a 10 year plan to eliminate homelessness.
 - Created municipal affordable housing initiatives.
 - Collaboration with senior governments to develop a Housing Procurement Action Plan.

- Future housing directions include:
 - Densification and development of housing within villages and on major transportation corridors.
 - Expansion of the Regional Housing Trust Fund to take advantage of senior levels of government, community and private sector funding.
 - Improving housing data and Municipal Housing Statements.
 - Improving secondary suite and other policies to facilitate higher performance use of present housing stock, homeownership, condominium and rental use.

The committee asked questions of the Secretariat and the following was noted:

- Programs to combine seniors within their homes could be developed. Often one senior living in large single family home.
- Large oversupply of houses. One or two people living in very large homes.
- Multigenerational homes should be considered.
- Funding for homeowners wishing to suite their home could be developed.

The committee thanked Mr. Kamphof for his presentation.

N. Rajan left the meeting at 7:00 pm

JOINT WORKSHOP

The Chair provided an update on the Healthy Community Joint Workshop. A document has been compiled for the Workshop data and has been given to the Planning Department for further input.

RECREATION UPDATE

A report from the Senior Manager, Recreation Services was circulated to the committee. The following high-lights were noted:

- Cedar Hill Arts Centre is hosting “Embrace Aging Through the Arts and Community”.
- An “Olympic Corner” was set up at Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) for patrons to view the Olympics.
- The annual, all girls “Pro-G Day” was held at SCP on February 21, 2014.
- Community Kitchen for Seniors has been successful in securing a \$4000.00 grant from the Eldercare Foundation to continue funding the community kitchens through both the Pearkes and Gordon Head Recreation Centres.
- Fitness programs continue to be full at Pearkes Recreation Centre since the start of the year. Several new classes have been added to meet the demand.
- Registration for the full year preschool program took place in early March. The Nature Preschool at Swan Lake program was filled, while the new program at Elk Lake had moderate registration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2014.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary