

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
May 21, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Paul Gerrard

Members: Jean Fraser, Fred Haynes (SCAN), Franca LaBella, Dorthy Rosenberg
Nadia Rajan

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Cameron
Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Silvia Exposito, Planner;
Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Guests: Caroline Herbert, Coordinator of Volunteers, Saanich Volunteer
Services; Ian Gibbs, Blockwatch Captain.

Absent: Jean Hodgson, Nancy McDuffe, Shirley Woods

MINUTES

MOVED by F. LaBella and seconded by J. Fraser, "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held April 16, 2014 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

SAANICH VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Chair introduced Ms. C. Herbert Coordinator of Volunteers, Saanich Volunteer Services. Ms. Herbert presented the Committee with an overview of the Saanich Volunteer Services organization. The following was noted:

- Saanich Volunteer Services (SVS) was founded 22 years ago.
- Saanich Volunteer Services is an organization of "Neighbours helping Neighbours".
- The SVS is under the direction of a Board of Directors.
- As a direct service organization SVS has approximately 1000 clients, 150 volunteers and 4 paid staff positions.
- To become a client of the SVS a person must live in Saanich and be 19 years of age or older.
- Cores services offered:
 - Companionship
 - Supported transportation-cannot keep up with the demand
 - Income tax and form completion
 - Light gardening and home repair
- Saanich has the greatest over 85 year old population in the CRD.
- In 2013 SVS had 4421 client contacts, and 8201 volunteer hours.
- Numerous organizations and businesses have formed partnerships with SVS.
- Volunteer drivers are recruited by advertisements in the papers and by word of mouth.

The Chair and Committee thanked Ms. Herbert for her presentation.

BLOCKWATCH

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services introduced the Mr. I. Gibbs, Blockwatch Captain. An overview of the Blockwatch program in Saanich was presented and the following was noted:

- The philosophy behind Blockwatch is “Crime prevention thru social interaction”.
- In 1996 there were 200 homes participating and currently 8600 homes are registered with Blockwatch.
- The premise of Blockwatch is to get to know your neighbours and report any unusual activity in your neighbourhood to the police.
- Saanich has a “No call too small” policy, so every call is followed up.
- Police calls are reviewed daily and crimes within Blockwatch neighbourhoods are forwarded to the Captain for the particular area. The Captain then forwards the crime information to the Blockwatch houses in the neighbourhood.

STUDY OF SECONDARY SUITES - NORTH OF MCKENZIE

The Manager of Community Planning and Planner provided the Committee with an overview of the secondary suite study and the following was noted:

- The study was undertaken, with residents living in the study area, to explore the issues and examine possible regulations regarding the potential legalization of secondary suites north of McKenzie Avenue.
- Residents’ feedback was collected from surveys (telephone, online, and paper surveys, open houses) and written comments (e-mails and letters).
- All of the feedback provided by the residents will be presented to Council for review and consideration in early summer 2014.
- Results of the study indicate residents are supportive of legalizing secondary suites north of McKenzie.
- Regulations that residents reported as being important if suites were legalized:
 - Providing off street parking space
 - Owner occupied home
 - Increased bylaw enforcement for nuisance complaints
 - Appearance to remain as a single family home from the street view
 - Limiting the secondary suite to 40% of the family dwellings total floor area.

SCAN UPDATE

The Chair of SCAN provide the Committee with an update of Scan activities.

LEISURE INVOLVMENT FOR EVERYONE - L.I.F.E.

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services provided an overview to the Committee. The following was noted:

- The L.I.F.E. Program is designed for individuals and families in Saanich who are earning below the federal government set LICO scores.
- L.I.F.E. Program participants have the choice of two programs:
 - One Access Card with Coupon stickers attached.
 - Saanich Annual Membership at 50% discount
- The application process is straight forward.
- All other Greater Victoria municipalities have adopted the Saanich L.I.F.E. program to assist residents with low incomes to access recreation programs.

RECREATION UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services provided an update to the Committee. The following was noted:

- The “Moving Forward” program for youth at risk and the ‘Educating Children Outdoors – nature preschool” programs won Program Excellence Awards from the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association.

****F. LaBella and N. Rajan left the meeting at 7:00 pm.****

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2014.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary