

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
May 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Nancy McDuffe, Dorthy Rosenberg, Marsha Henderson (SCAN), Jean Fraser, Nadia Rajan, Peg Orcherton, School District #61 Representative

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

Absent: Jean Hodgson, Marlene Bergstrom

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Henderson and seconded by N. McDuffe, "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held April 15, 2015 be adopted."

CARRIED

THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT: THE CASE OF RF RADIATION EXPOSURE FROM CELL TOWERS

The Chair introduced Ms. Katharina Gustavs, Katharina Consulting. Ms. Gustavs gave the Committee an overview of RF radiation exposure from cell towers and the following was noted:

- Canada currently has one of the highest allowable exposure limits in the world for non-ionizing radiation.
- Precautionary guidelines tend to be 10,000 times lower.
- On May 11, 2015 the International Electromagnetic Field Scientist Appeal to the United Nations to:
 - Make EMF standards more protective;
 - Encourage manufactures to develop safer technologies;
 - Inform the public about the potential health risks from EMF and teach people how to reduce risks;
 - Protect children and pregnant women from EMF;
 - Establish EMF free areas.
- Canadian Antenna Tower Siting Procedures currently list notification distance within a radius of three times the tower height. Cell antennas below 15 metre are no longer exempt from the consultation process.
- "Exposures were generally greater at microcell sites than from macrocell sites when location of measurement was within 50 metres from the antennas were considered." From a study funded by the United Kingdom Department of Trade and Industry (2004).
- Telus installed 33 microcells in the Cadboro Bay area. Spot RF measurements taken with a Gigahertz Solutions HFE59B RF meter with ultrabroadband antenna on May 18, 2015 showed a peak hold of 20,000-30,00 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ with a correction factor of 10 = 200,000-300,00 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ within 10 metres of the utility pole.
- Austria Antenna System Siting Guideline (2012/2014):

- Precautionary target threshold level less than 1000 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ sum total of all fixed wireless transmitters inside or outside a building;
- Applies not only to cell tower emissions but any fixed wireless transmitter from 100kHz;
- Applies to sensitive areas where humans spend more than 4 hours per day.
- Communication Antenna Policy 2009 The City of Colwood:
 - To minimize exposure to EMR where people live, work or attend school;
 - Maximize RF threshold level 1000 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ from a single or combined devices.
- For ionizing radiation the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principle has been applied since the 1950s. For non-ionizing radiation such as RF radiation, the application of the ALARA principle is now being recommended.
- The B.C. Local Government Act 1996 states that:
 - A board may, by bylaw,
 - (a) Regulate and prohibit for the purposes of maintaining, promoting or preserving public health...
- Saanich should review and update the Administrative Policy for Antenna Applications requiring applicants to:
 - Provide information regarding the increase in ambient RF exposure levels (peak);
 - Demonstrate strategies on how to minimize RF radiation exposure to the public;
 - Require public consultation process regardless of the height of the cell antenna;
 - Choose a large notification distance;
 - Include the precautionary principle.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Municipal consultation process should be reviewed. Updating the Planning policy regarding siting of cell towers and/or antennas should be considered.
- The discussion of the siting of cell towers and or antennas should be continued at an upcoming Committee meeting.

The Chair thanked the Ms. Gustavs for her presentation.

*** D. Rosenberg arrived at 5:45 p.m.***

MOTION: Moved by J. Fraser and seconded by N. Rajan “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee requests that Planning staff provide a review of the Saanich Administrative Policy for Antenna Applications to the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee at a future meeting.”

▪ **CARRIED**

SCAN UPDATE

An update on SCAN activities was provided and the following was noted:

- Tourism Victoria requested that Saanich forward community experience stories for Tourism Victoria’s marketing campaign.
- Tourism Victoria has an Events Calendar that allows the free posting of community events. Saanich should consider posting to this calendar.
- Currently only two CAs are inactive at SCAN events.
- Continued discussions around updating the SCAN Terms of Reference have been productive.

- Looking forward, efforts will be focussed toward the CAs planning community events and membership drives.

Committee consensus was that the HSAC should undertake a review of the HSAC Terms of Reference at an upcoming Committee meeting.

The Chair left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

M. Henderson left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

The Committee appointed N. McDuffe as Acting Chair.

CONTINUED REVIEW OF THE HEALTHY SAANICH COMMUNITY WORKSHOP DOCUMENT-FOOD SECURITY SECTION

The Acting Chair facilitated a Committee discussion on the Food Security Section of the Healthy Saanich Community Workshop Document. The following was noted:

- Communities in Harvest still on-going. Registration for the Communities in Harvest program is done via recreation centres.
- The inclusion of Panama Flats into the ALR is still an on-going process.
- A presentation on Farming, the ALR and Panama Flats was given to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee in 2014.
- The OCP has the goal of one community garden in each neighbourhood.
- Using school property to teach youth about gardening could be considered.
- Food security can be linked to emergency preparedness.
- Local markets that could sell locally grown/produced foods should be supported.
- Children's classes on cooking and gardening should be encouraged.
- Good Food Box program that showcases local foods is a good idea.

N. Rajan left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

RECREATION UPDATE

A report dated May 14, 2015, from the Senior Manager of Recreation Services, was circulated to committee members.

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair asked the Committee members for items that they would like to bring forward for discussion at future Committee meetings. The following was noted:

- Review of the Healthy Saanich Terms of Reference.
- Cell phone and RF radiation continued discussion.
- Safe Route to School presentation.
- LGBTQ issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2015.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary