

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
June 17, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Jean Hodgson, Marlene Bergstrom, Dorthy Rosenberg, Marsha Henderson (SCAN), Jean Fraser, Peg Orcherton, School District #61 Representative

Staff: Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Absent: Nancy McDuffe, Nadia Rajan

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Henderson and seconded by M. Bergstrom, "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held May 20, 2015 be adopted."

CARRIED

BACKYARD ANIMALS

The Chair introduced Ms. Jillian McCue. Ms. McCue provided the Committee with an overview of backyard miniature goats and the following was noted:

- Backyard miniature goats are an environmentally friendly way to mow lawns and control many types of invasive plants.
- The Town of Esquimalt recently "hired" some goats for maintenance.
- Miniature goats produce fertilizer that can be used within the Municipality.
- Miniature goats can produce up to half a quart of milk per day.
- Miniature goats are quiet if given attention and enjoy being kept in pairs.
- Miniature goats make good therapy pets.
- Seattle allows for backyard miniature goats but the males must be neutered and de-horned.
- Seattle has had a Goat Bylaw since 2007. In the eight years Seattle has permitted backyard miniature goats there are fifty licenced miniature goats in the Seattle urban area.
- The Seattle Animal Shelter reports that they do not receive complaints with respect to backyard miniature goats.
- Denver, San Francisco and Portland also have bylaws that allow for backyard miniature goats.
- The City of Burnaby is currently considering allowing backyard miniature goats.
- Allowing backyard miniature goats is a good fit with Saanich's Strategic Plan model of a sustainably community.
- In the Gordon Head area 132 people signed a petition to allow for backyard miniature goats.
- Miniature goats are approximately the size of a medium sized dog.

The Committee asked questions of Ms. McCue and the following was noted:

- Lot size restrictions would need to be determined.
- Restrictions on the number of miniature goats per lot would need to be determined.
- Miniature goat life expectancy is 8-16 years.
- Miniature goats do not require a high fence to keep them contained.
- Education about hygiene, hand washing after handling goats would need to be stressed.
- Beacon Hill Petting Farm could supply some of the miniature goats should miniature goats be permitted in Saanich.
- More public consultation is required.
- Speaking to the Mayors and Councillors of other cities, towns and municipalities that have permitted backyard miniature goats would be a good idea.
- Limitations on the number of small animals permitted in backyards would need to be determined by staff.

The Committee asked about costs associated with the development of a Backyard Miniature Goat Bylaw. The Director of Planning estimated that the cost for the development of a Backyard Miniature Goat Bylaw could be in the range of \$10,000 - \$20,000. This figure is based up on the costs incurred when developing the Backyard Chickens Bylaw for Saanich. The cost range is dependent on if the research and public engagement process are completed with Saanich Staff or if outside consultants are hired to perform the work.

The Committee thanked Ms. McCue for her presentation.

MOTION: Moved by M. Bergstrom and seconded by J. Hodgson: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee supports, in principle, a bylaw allowing backyard miniature goats in the Municipality of Saanich.”

CARRIED

MOMS LIKE US

The Chair introduced Mr. Ben Kangasniemi from the Moms Like Us Advocacy Group. Mr. Kangasniemi gave the Committee an overview of the work done by Clubhouse International. The following was noted:

- Moms Like Us (MLU) is an advocacy group of volunteers with personal experiences with mental illness and available services.
- MLU is advocating to establish an accredited Clubhouse in Greater Victoria.
- Clubhouses are an evidence based approach for providing Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) for persons with serious and persistent mental illness.
- MLU report that experience within the Greater Victoria area with PSR needs improvement, more options, increased capacity and better integration.
- Establishing an accredited Clubhouse in Greater Victoria would address the above noted deficiencies.
- Clubhouse International has 36 accreditation standards some of which are listed below:
 - Open to all adults 18 years and older
 - Membership is voluntary and never expires
 - Open a minimum of five days per week

- Evening and weekend activities must be provided
- Work-ordered day where members run the Clubhouse and programs
- Employment programs: transitional employment, supported employment and independent employment
- Supported by mental health authorities
- Collaborates with other organizations
- Assists members with achieving educational goals
- Assists members with accessing community resources
- Key staff and members receive training at an accredited training base
- The first Clubhouse was established in 1948, currently there are 322 Clubhouses in 33 countries. Currently Canada has eighteen accredited Clubhouses, but none in Victoria.
- The Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond, BC is accredited by Clubhouse International and is funded by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, the City of Richmond and others.
- The Richmond Clubhouse is cost effective producing a return on investment of \$14.00 for every \$1.00 invested.
- Currently there is strong community support from local Police Chiefs and Boards, Municipal Councils, and MLAs.

Mr. Kangasniemi introduced Ms. Cherry Lynn Brown. Ms. Brown spoke of her difficult experiences having an adult child with serious mental health issues. Ms. Brown stated that having access to a facility like a Clubhouse could provide tremendous quality of life improvements for her son and others struggling with serious mental health issues.

The Committee thanked the speakers for their presentation.

MOTION: Moved by M. Bergstrom and seconded by D. Rosenberg: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee requests Council consider inviting Moms Like Us to give a presentation to Council on the development of an accredited Clubhouse in Greater Victoria.”

CARRIED

CELL TOWER UPDATE:

The Director of Planning provided the Committee with an overview of cell towers in Saanich and the following was noted:

- Regulation of broadcasting and radio communication systems, including the installation of antenna systems, is the jurisdiction of the Federal government.
- Industry Canada is the authority which ultimately approves or denies antenna applications: however, their application process requires applicants to contact the local government and undertake public consultation.
- Industry Canada also excludes certain types of installations from requiring a public consultation process.
- The Municipality can only provide comment regarding their preferred locations, design and development preferences and are requested to provide a letter of concurrence or non-concurrence to Industry Canada.
- Comments regarding health concerns are not considered to be the local government’s purview. Health Canada has the jurisdiction to determine limits for safe human exposure to radiofrequency and electromagnetic fields.

- Saanich's Administrative Policy on Antenna Applications sets out the procedures to be followed by staff when processing an application.
- Building permits are not required for the construction of antenna systems because antenna systems are under Federal jurisdiction.
- Prior to submitting a proposal for a new antenna system, Industry Canada requires that applicants first investigate opportunities to co-locate on, or modify, an existing antenna system.
- Applicants are also required to investigate other infrastructure that may be suitable such as, rooftops, utility poles, or water towers.
- If local government has a consultation process, Industry Canada expects the applicant to follow the process.
- Saanich's consultation process includes the following steps:
 - Applications are internally referred to the Engineering Department and the Parks and Recreation Department;
 - A staff report addressing environmental and aesthetic impacts of the proposal is prepared for Council; and
 - Notification is mailed to surrounding properties within a 50 m radius of the proposal.
- The default consultation process that Industry Canada requires includes:
 - Written notification to the public, local government and Industry Canada. Notification must be provided to residences within a radius of three times the tower height and provide at least 30 day period for comments. If the proposed tower is above 30 m then a notice in the local paper is also required;
 - Engagement with the local government and public; and
 - A reasonable period to allow for stakeholders to provide written comments regarding reasonable and relevant concerns. Applicants are required to address all reasonable and relevant concerns and provide a response (written or verbal) within 60 days.
- Industry Canada does not require consultation with the local government or general public for:
 - Maintenance of existing antenna systems;
 - Addition or modification of existing systems provided any increase in height is 25% or less above the existing;
 - Maintenance or existing painting or lighting to comply with Transport Canada requirements;
 - Temporary installations for special event of limited duration; or
 - New antenna systems of a height of 15 m or less.
- Saanich's policy exempts:
 - Receiving television antenna and satellite dishes;
 - Small antenna (1.6 m²) affixed to existing structure, not including utility poles;
 - Small antenna affixed to a utility pole having a height of 21 m or less provided that such pole does not exceed the height of adjacent poles by more than 7 m and it is not within an area identified below; or
 - Antenna systems less than 15 m in height.
- For antenna systems on utility poles, Saanich's policy would require consultation if they were located:
 - Where the municipality has indicated they intend to relocate overhead utilities underground; or
 - Anywhere from the north end of Shelbourne Street through Mount Douglas Park, along Ash Road or Cordova Bay Road.

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association recently released an Antenna System Siting Protocol Template for municipalities.
- One of the objectives of the protocol is to provide a clear and consistent process whereby municipalities can guide, facilitate and influence the antenna system siting process by:
 - Communicating their local land-use preferences;
 - Developing design guidelines for antenna systems; and
 - Establishing a community consultation process.
- The protocol template includes recommendations for the following steps:
 - Pre-consultation with the local government;
 - Development guidelines including location and design preferences;
 - The information to be included in a proposal submission;
 - Fees that will be required;
 - The public consultation process; and
 - Issuance of a letter of concurrence or non-concurrence by the local government.
- Currently a review of Saanich's Antenna Policy is underway.
- This review will take into consideration the recommendations from the Protocol Template and feedback received from the public as part of the Council review process.
- It is important to note, that even with the New Protocol Template, that where a local government does not support a proposed installation, it cannot prevent Industry Canada from granting permission for the installation.

Planning will continue the Cell Tower discussion with HSAC in the fall.

RECREATION UPDATE

A report dated June 11, 2015, from the Senior Manager of Recreation Services, was circulated to committee members. Highlights from Recreation include:

- Saanich Recreation Centres are gearing up for summer, with many programs already fully booked.
- The Youth Development Strategy is moving along. The recently held Youth Summit had a group of Saanich citizens collaborating and six themes have emerged from the feedback.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Item tabled.

SCAN UPDATE

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

- Saanich staff have done a good job with the EDPA progress and the Streamside Development Atlas.
- SCAN recognizes the importance of protecting, and restoring environmentally sensitive areas within Saanich.
- The Community Associations suggested that additional public consultations could be held with respect to the EDPA.

- “Super-mailboxes” and their potential impacts to property owners and seniors were discussed.
- Importance of regular Farmer’s Markets in Saanich was discussed.

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. Presentation from Planning fall 2015.
- Food security
- Website and SCAN interconnectivity
- LGBTQ issues
- Youth Development Strategy

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2015.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary