

**MINUTES**  
**HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2  
**March 29, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Marlene Davie, Jean Hodgson, Dorthy Rosenberg Merie Beauchamp, Nadia Rajan, Jasindra Jawanda

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner; Chuck Bell, Planning; Jason Jones, Programmer II Recreation; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Marsha Henderson, Philip He, Peg Orcherton, School District #61 Representative

Guests: Winne Lee, Director of Operations, Intercultural Association; Michelle Sealy

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by J. Hodgson and Seconded by D. Rosenberg: “That the Minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held February 22, 2017, be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR UPDATE**

The Senior Planner updated the Committee on the proposed Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan. The following highlights are noted:

- The overall vision for the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan is to create spaces for people, the heart of Saanich.
- Design workshop to discuss land use provided information to help develop a draft of strategies for the Uptown Douglas Corridor.
- The information from the design workshop has been integrated into themes/layers:
  - Green layer: Parks, open space, natural environment, green building, cultural/recreational connections and sustainability.
  - Mobility layer: recognizes the need for all transportation modalities.
  - Land-use layer: building form and character, economic vibrancy and place making.
- A “new idea” was raised regarding turning Blanchard Street back into a two way road and updating Vernon Avenue into a neighbourhood street. This proposed adjustment in the roadways would result in improvements for active transportation modes.
- Health of the watershed was highlighted as important with emphasis on future daylighting efforts for Cecelia Creek.

- Increasing the tree canopy using aggressive targets to shift the corridor from grey to green.
- A transit hub is being planned for this area.
- The Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan will be a guiding document with a 30 year timeline.

### **RADIO ANTENNAE UPDATE**

The Planner updated the Committee on Saanich roles in radio antennae. The jurisdiction over radio antennae is federal. Saanich reviews antennae applications but does not charge a fee to the applicant. With the advancement in radio antennae technology, fewer applications have been coming to Planning for review.

### **PRESENTATION FROM THE INTERCULTURAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

The Director of Operations, Intercultural Association (ICA) gave a presentation on the role of the ICA in Saanich and the surrounding municipalities. The following highlights are noted:

- The ICA has been assisting members of the community for over 40 years.
- The ICA ran Folkfest for many years. Folkfest was suspended as the financial cost of hosting the event became too expensive for the association.
- The ICA assists newcomers with housing, English, employment, cultural bridging and resettling (refugees).
- The ICA is a sponsorship agreement holder and additionally there are private sponsorship groups that assist with ICA clients.
- Community partnerships are an integral part of the ICA network. Saanich has a long successful history of partnering with the ICA.
- Vancouver Island sees approximately 2500 newcomers annually.
- The CRD welcomed 415 government sponsored refugees in 2016. With half of the 2016 refugees being school aged children.
- The children will become vibrant contributing members of the community.
- Majority of the funding is provided by the government with some private donors contributing to the ICA.

### **WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Committee member D. Rosenberg facilitated a discussion on the working group. The following highlights are noted:

- The working group could be called Cultural Communities in Saanich.
- Several themes have emerged during the working group sessions:
  - How to encourage cultural communities to participate in public processes
  - HSAC hosting a summit/workshop on cultural communities within Saanich maybe premature. Conducting a needs assessment of the cultural community could be a preliminary step.
  - Hosting an intercultural event based on results of the needs assessment.
  - Investigating how cultural diverse groups/organizations communicate among themselves.

- Saanich Parks and Recreation and Saanich Police have a long history of supporting culturally diverse groups within Saanich. These two Saanich departments should be invited to update the Committee on work they have been doing.
- Welcome signs on Saanich buildings in different languages is a good idea.

**RECREATION UPDATE**

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services presented a report of the Recreation Highlights for March, 2017 and the newspaper article stating that The Food Share Network is now up and running.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017.

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Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary