

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
May 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Dorthy Rosenberg, Nadia Rajan, Jasindra Jawanda, Marsha Henderson, Philip He, Peg Orcherton, School District #61 Representative

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Troy McKay; Jason Jones, Programmer II Recreation; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Marlene Davie, Jean Hodgson, Merie Beauchamp

Guests: Dave Lau, Executive Director, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre; Michelle Sealy; Scott Treble, Saanich Police; Niki Sundher, Saanich Police

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Henderson and Seconded by N. Rajan: “That the Minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held March 29, 2017, be adopted.”

CARRIED

PRESENTAION FROM THE VICTORIA IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE

The Executive Director of the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre (VIRCS), provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Centre. The following highlights are noted:

- Saanich’s Program Coordinator works with the VIRCS developing programs and outreach to assist new comers.
- Settlement/newcomer integration should have a place in municipal government.
- There is no formal welcome to the region.
- Numerous community groups have supported VIRCS events to support newcomers.
- Last year an event was hosted by the Songhees First Nations with support from the Township of Esquimalt and the Westshore Chamber of Commerce and VIRCS to highlight services available to newcomers/immigrants to the region.
- Feedback from last year’s event highlighted the need for transportation to and from events, hosting events in warmer weather and having tours of municipal halls.
- Resettlement planning is a service offered by VIRCS and partners Saanich, VIH and others.
- Tours of Council Chambers should be given to explain how local government works and to encourage immigrant/newcomer participation in local government.

PRESENTATION FROM THE SAANICH POLICE

The members of Saanich Police updated the Committee with outreach to diverse groups within Saanich and the following was noted:

- Saanich Police have a long history of supporting culturally diverse groups within Saanich.
- Mountain bike section has had success building relationships through the Native Friendship Centre.
- When reaching out to diverse groups the police will often participate in group events in civilian attire. As trust is fostered with the group officers will start to attend events in uniform.
- The police have helped host sports events (basketball) to foster relationships with youth.
- It is hoped to have some sponsored bursaries available for the Fall of 2017.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The ** updated the Committee on the Active Transportation Plan. The following highlights are noted:

- More than 2000 residents have been involved in the public engagement opportunities.
- Health is the number one reason why survey respondents say they walk and bike.
- Gaps in the network is the top barrier to walking and cycling, as reported by survey respondents.
- Two reports have been prepared based on the results of the first phase of public engagement. These reports are available online.
- The Moving Saanich Forward team is currently developing a draft pedestrian and cycling network plan along with recommendations for the draft Active Transportation Plan.
- The second round of public engagement opportunities are currently being developed.

OLDER ADULT STRATEGY

The Manager Community Services and the Programmer II Recreation updated the Committee on the Older Adult Strategy. The following Committee comments are noted:

- Recreation passes that clearly show what is included would be helpful.
- Considering renaming recreation centres as both “Community Centres and Recreation Centres” was mentioned.
- Global cafes with ethnic foods to encourage ethnic participation could be considered.
- Hosting a “Seniors Resource Fair”.
- Creating community health hubs at the recreation centres should be investigated.

RECREATION UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services presented a report of the Recreation Highlights for April and May, 2017. The Recreation Manager distributed a draft report on the LGBTQ Committee to the Committee.

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair updated the Committee on two items:

- 2017 Pride participation and a request for 1000 stickers to be purchased for distribution at the 2017 Pride Parade.
- A policy addressing inclusionary zoning with respect to housing affordability should be explored by Saanich.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary