

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
March 28 at 6:00PM

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Merie Beauchamp, Ryan Clayton, Marlene Davie, Jasmindra Jawanda, Nadia Rajan, Dorthy Rosenberg

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning, Megan Squires, Planner and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Absent: Wayne Hunter (SD63), Victoria Martin (SD63) Jean Hodgson (SCAN), Zhongwen He; Peg Orcherton (SD 61 Representative)

Guests: Kathleen Burton, Executive Director of the Swan Lake Nature/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Davie and seconded by N. Rajan, “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held January 24, 2018 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members to the meeting and extended thanks to Kathleen Burton, Executive Director of the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, for hosting the meeting.

The Chair provided the committee with an overview of the meeting’s agenda and advised that deliberations pertaining to Item 7 – Working Group Update would be held, “in-camera” and in accordance with Section 91 (1) (a) of the *Community Charter*.

The Chair noted that the annual LGBTQ Pride Parade would take place on Sunday, July 9, 2018 and that HSAC would again provide funding.

SWAN LAKE / CHRISTMAS HILL NATURE SANCTUARY

Kathleen Burton, Executive Director of the Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary provided the committee with an overview of the Sanctuary’s history and current programs and initiatives. The following highlights are noted:

- The Vision for the Swan Lake Sanctuary was initiated in 1960 and was a joint effort between Saanich, the CRD and UVIC.
- The Christmas Hill lands were acquired in 1970.

- The Nature Sanctuary Society has operated through a land management agreement with Saanich since June, 1975 when the first staff were hired to undertake habitat restoration and trail development.
- The Sanctuary area is approximately 84 hectares.
- Trail system consists of over 4.4km of trails and connectors that take visitors around Swan Lake and through the meadows to the summit of Christmas Hill.
- The society relies on the considerable contributions of volunteers for the ongoing management of the trails, meadows and natural areas that make up the Sanctuary.
- In 2017 nearly 6884 hours of volunteer service were recorded by over 100 volunteers.
- In an effort to deliver high-quality and diverse programming the sanctuary has developed many strategic partnerships with like-minded agencies including Bug Zoo, Wild Arc and the Raptors (Pacific Northwest Raptors).
- In 2017 the Sanctuary participated in 362 school programs and have recently partnered with the Victoria Optimist Club who will fund 20 classroom/school programs for underserved communities.
- The Sanctuary generates additional revenues through facility rentals, including weddings.
- The Sanctuary has initiated Boardwalk Phase II, with completion anticipated in the fall of 2018.
 - Existing boardwalk built in 1990.
 - New design will include 2 teachings pods, and a natural wildlife passage corridor.
 - District will provide fund in the event of a shortfall – not anticipated.
 - Sanctuary had a “Give a Sheet” campaign to raise fund for the floating decking.
- Healthy Saanich committee members are encouraged to talk about, and share information regarding upcoming initiatives and events occurring at the Sanctuary amongst their respective networks and community.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Trails are to help minimize the impact to the sanctuary.
- There are ongoing issues pertaining to dogs in the sanctuary. Dogs are not permitted in the Sanctuary or on the designated trail network by way of a municipal Bylaw.
- Current outreach efforts are geared towards area schools, as mandated by the funder.
- Outreach to new immigrant communities would be welcomed if funding and resources were available.
- Three existing staff are bilingual.

GARDEN SUITE STUDY

Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning, introduced the Planner, Megan Squires, who provided the committee with an overview of the Garden Suite Study. The following highlights are noted:

- A Garden Suite is a small detached house that is in the rear yard of a single family lot. It is accessory to the primary dwelling.
- Council approved the Terms of Reference for the study in September of 2017.

- The study area is limited to single family (RS-Zoned) properties in the Sewer Service Area.
- Currently in Phase 2 which includes stakeholder and public engagement efforts to explore interests and concerns and test ideas for potential regulations.
 - Staff hosted 2 open-houses in March
 - Staff administered a Garden Suite Survey.
 - Staff attended pop-up engagements
 - Information displays were set up at two local libraries
- Key issues going forward are:
 - Support for legalization
 - Location
 - Regulations for: size, height, parking, owner occupation.
 - Design review
 - Approval process.
- A second statistically significant survey will be launched in May and staff will host a technical workshop in June to explore the regulations in more detail.
- Staff will develop draft regulations as part of Phase 3 (if there is support for the initiative).

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Numerous legal examples exist throughout Victoria, and in particular the Fairfield neighborhood.
- Size and scale will be determined as part of the draft regulatory framework. Accessory buildings are currently limited to 10% of the total lot area.

The Chair thanked the Planner for the presentation and encouraged all members of the committee to complete the survey.

CORDOVA BAY AND CADBORO BAY LOCAL AREA PLANS

The Manager of Community Planning, provided the committee with an overview of the status of the Local Area Plan (LAP) process for both Cadboro Bay and Cordova Bay. The following highlights are noted:

- Terms of Reference adopted by Council in November, 2017.
- Saanich will initiate 2 LAPs per year with a targeted timeline of 18 months per plan. Quadra and North Quadra are next in the queue.
- Planners meeting with Advisory Committees.
- Preparing for public engagement.
- Planning Village Design workshops.
- The LAPs will provide detailed guidance to Council, staff, property owners, developers, and the public, to address growth and change within a neighbourhood area.
- LAPs aid in decision making, provide a reasonable level of certainty about future uses, development and quality of life and set the context for considering development proposals.
- New areas of focus for the LAPs include:
 - Climate change
 - Range of mobility options
 - Housing affordability and choice
 - Centres and Villages

- Numerous opportunities for public engagement before targeted adoption in Spring of 2019, including (but not limited to):
 - Open houses and workshops
 - Pop-up events
 - Walking tours
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
- Saanich has developed a speaker series; the first event, Building Neighbourhoods for the Future, featuring Gordon Price was held on March 21, 2018.
 - Second event, Our Community in a Changing Climate, to be held on Monday, May 7th.
- Initial comments received by staff include:
 - Affordability and diversity of housing options
 - Active transportation facilities
 - Engaging with young families
 - Multicultural outreach
 - Student engagement

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Communities are experiencing significant demographic changes.
 - Young families, generational families will require different designs and styles of housing.
- Staff are encouraged to engage with those persons who are not traditionally engaged. These communities offer important perspectives that staff may not typically receive.
- Many families are busy with sports and recreation, and community groups, staff are encouraged to also engage with these families in places they congregate.

RECREATION UPDATE

The Senior Manager of Recreation provided an overview of the February Recreation Report Memo, dated March 15, 2018.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Chair invited Jasindra Jawanda to provide an overview the Intercultural Sub-Committee Working Group project proposal, The Municipality of Saanich: Embracing Cultural Diversity & Encouraging Engagement, circulated on March 27, 2018. The Chair reminded the committee that all discussion and debate of the matter would occur in-camera. The following highlights are noted:

- The final report (October) will encompass the items A-F of the January 10, 2018, Intercultural Sub-Committee Working Group report.
- The scope of the project will include an analysis of jurisdictions within the CRD and the lower mainland.
- The proposed budget for the project is \$1700.
- The budget, as presented, does not include a line for contingencies.
- The Intercultural Sub-committee Working Group will be comprised of Jean Hodgson, Merie Beauchamp and Zhongwen He.
- The working group will provide ongoing oversight to the study.

- The researcher will provide the working group with regular progress updates.

 Jasmindra Jawanda declared, pursuant to Section 91 of the Council Procedure Bylaw, that she is not entitled to participate in further discussion on the item as she is listed in the report as the potential researcher. J. Jawanda left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

MOTION

MOVED by R. Clayton and seconded by M. Beauchamp that “In accordance with Section 90 (1) (a) of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed to the public as the subject matter being considered relates to personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the District or another position of the District.

CARRIED

On a motion by R. Clayton the meeting adjourned to In Camera at 8:15 p.m.

Rise and report from the March 28, 2018 In Camera Meeting

“That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee approve the Intercultural Sub-Committee Working Group project proposal, The Municipality of Saanich: Embracing Cultural Diversity & Encouraging Engagement, as presented by Jasmindra Jawanda on March 28, 2018, to an upset limit of \$2000.”

CARRIED

The Regular Advisory Committee Meeting reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th, 2018

 Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

 Committee Secretary