

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
March 27, 2019, 6:06 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Chambers

Members: Claire Attwell, Ryan Clayton, Ryan Henderson, Zhongwhen He (6:10 p.m.), Jean Hodgson (SCAN), Jasmindra Jawanda, Nadia Rajan and Teri VanWell (SD 63)

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Merie Beauchamp and Ryan Painter (SD 61)

Guests: Councillor Plant (6:20 p.m.); Ian Gibbs, Coordinator of Volunteers, Crime Prevention Program, Saanich Police

MOTION

MOVED by N. Rajan and seconded by J. Hodgson: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held February 27, 2019 be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair advised the committee that the CRD is looking to their municipal partners to provide feedback and assess available public land for the development of regional farmland trust that would secure space for food creation and agricultural use. The trust is intended to assist new farmers in overcoming the high cost barrier of accessing land, which in turn will help with the increase the region’s food security.

The Chair noted that there has been strong support from the community for the enhanced tree protection opportunities as outlined in Councillor Mersereau’s report titled, Recommendations to Strengthen Tree Protection in the Short-Term and dated, March 1, 2019.

There is a Co-op housing event planned for June 14, 2019 at the Horticultural Centre for the Pacific, details of the event will be circulated to the committee as they are available.

BLOCK WATCH

The Chair introduced Ian Gibbs, Coordinator of Volunteers, Crime Prevention Program, Saanich Police. The coordinator provided the committee with an overview of the Saanich Police’s Block Watch program. The following was highlighted:

- Block Watch is a neighbour-helping-neighbour program.

- Not about spying on each other, but rather about residents watching out for each other and reporting suspicious activity to the police to reduce the likelihood of potential crime.
- Block Watch is crime prevention through social interaction.
- Benefits of Block Watch include:
 - Increased communication;
 - Information on how to mark personal property;
 - Crime prevention tips on how to better protect your home;
 - Discounts on home insurance are available (5%-15%);
 - Protective window decals;
 - Access to current crime statistics;
 - In most cases, a general reduction in crime; and
 - A greater sense of safety among residents.
- Program start up is easy and is a great tool for community building.
- There are 530 Block Watch groups that capture over 10,000 homes in Saanich.
- The program goal is to see continued growth.
- Participants are encourage to make the right call and promptly report suspicious activity.
- Statistical data is derived only from the information that is been reported.
- Block Watch also facilitates services such as the home security checks that are conducted Saanich's by reserve officers.
- Theft from vehicles remains one of the highest reported property crimes in Saanich. There were 1318 incidents for the period of March 2014 – March 2019.
- The program is responding to the significant increase in cyber-crimes, particularly fraud.
- The program has a current staffing compliment of one due to a budget reduction. Prior to the reduction the program was also supported by a dedicated assistant.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following is noted:

- Block Watch is a deterrent to crime.
- Able to provide timely information to their network.
- Most correspondence is electronic; however materials are available in hard-copy for those that don't have ready access to a computer.
- Due to budget pressures the program is struggling to maintain its current levels, this could have an impact downstream.
- The program utilizes geo-specific data to identify underserved areas and encourage participation.
- Citizens can contact the department to find out if there is a program in their neighbourhood.
- Block Watch helps to promote and distribute resources for the Emergency Program through the Block Watch email listserv.
- The committee can support the program by helping getting the word out, and help people to understand that there is more to the program than just crime prevention.

2019 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Senior Manager of Recreation provided the committee with an overview of their report, Summary of Presentation and Goals/Objectives Ideas and dated March 20, 2019.

The report will assist the committee with focusing on those areas that are of most interest to the members, while staying within the scope and mandate.

MOTION

MOVED by C. Attwell and seconded by Z. He that: “The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee receive the Summary of Presentation and Goals/Objectives Ideas report, dated March 20, 2019.”

CARRIED

SCAN REPORT

J. Hodgson provided the committee with an update on the recent activities of Saanich Community Association Network. The following was highlighted.

- The network is continuing their work on governance and capacity building.
- Membership growth remains an ongoing challenge for community associations.
- An association member is developing an index and map of existing community library boxes as there are gaps throughout the community where there are no boxes. These library boxes are a great community amenity and contribute to place making.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE – DRAFT REPORT

The Cultural Planner provided an overview of the previously circulated Embrace Saanich draft report. The Cultural Planner also circulated on table, the draft executive summary and recommendations.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- The recommendation document seems too long, it could be streamlined.
- It is the mandate of Council to reconcile the programming and departmental/committee overlaps arising from this report.
- Noting that there are similarities between some of the recommendations, consideration should be given to combing those recommendations in order to improve the flow.
- There is no timeline on the Cultural Plan update.
- Recommending municipal cultural initiatives and events as the top priority provides Council with an option to kick-off multi-cultural engagement with a celebratory event or initiative.
- The idea of the Spirit of Saanich festival could be a great event to tie into the kick-off.
- A stakeholder round-table or workshop could be incorporated into a kick-off event.
- There is an opportunity for existing Saanich programs to provide new opportunities for cultural diverse programming.
- All eight recommendations identified in the executive summary will be brought forward to Council; however the following three recommendations have been identified by the committee as their priority, short-term goals:
 - Municipal Cultural Initiatives and Events
 - Municipal Partnerships
 - Cultural Mapping

MOTION

MOVED by C. Attwell and seconded by J. Hodgson that: “The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee adopt the Embrace Saanich! Municipal Cultural Planning Report, including the draft executive summary and eight recommendations.”

CARRIED

MOTION

MOVED by R. Clayton and seconded by N. Rajan that “The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council:

- 1. Receive the Embrace Saanich! Municipal Cultural Planning Report.**
- 2. Consider the following, priority, short-term goals as noted in the executive summary:**
 - a. Municipal Cultural Initiatives and Events**
 - b. Municipal Partnerships**
 - c. Cultural Mapping**
- 3. Refer the report to the Strategic Planning process for consideration.”**

CARRIED

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Senior Manger Recreation provided an overview of the recreation report dated March 20, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary