

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
April 24, 2019, 6:06 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Chambers

Members: Claire Attwell, Merie Beauchamp, Ryan Clayton, Ryan Henderson, Jean Hodgson (SCAN), Jasmindra Jawanda, Ryan Painter (SD 61) and Nadia Rajan.

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

Regrets: Zhongwhen He and Teri VanWell (SD 63)

Guests: Debra Donahue, General Manager - Horticultural Centre of the Pacific

MOTION

MOVED by R. Clayton and seconded by N. Rajan: "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held March 27, 2019 be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair provided the committee with an update on Council related initiatives and items of interest. The following was highlighted:

- Has received numerous phone calls and emails regarding the use of pesticides on both public spaces and Saanich farmland.
- The *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* allows for the use of herbicides such as glyphosate (Roundup).
- The Falaise Community Association will be hosting the Tree Love Town Hall at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, from 7-9 p.m., Saturday, April 27, 2019.
- The facilitated forum will bring together local experts to discuss the future of the remnant Garry Oak forests.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Monsanto is facing numerous legal challenges with regard to glyphosates.
- The notion of Green Crime is gaining momentum. Green Crime pertains to those corporations that are knowingly allowing/facilitating environmental harm and degradation through their practices and products.
- Tree loss is serious issues for Saanich, and the region as a whole.
- There is a significant need for a biodiversity strategy in Saanich.
- Efforts to engage private property owners to plant more trees are needed.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATION: HORTICULTURAL CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC

The Chair introduced Debra Donahue, General Manager - Horticultural Centre of the Pacific (HCP). The General Manager provided the committee with a brief overview of the centre and its initiatives. The following was highlighted:

- HCP is charity garden that covers over 109 acres, 10 of which are privately held.
- HCP is proposing to host the Saanich Farmer's Market, formerly held at Braefoot Park, starting this summer.
- The market would coincide with the bi-weekly, summer Picnic in the Garden events held on Wednesday nights.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Parking for the centre remains an issues, increasing on-site capacity would be extremely difficult.
- There are nearby facilities including the Galloping Goose Trail and the BC Transit located at the nearby Camosun College.
- The on-site restaurant is open on picnic nights.
- Food trucks could be considered as well; however, the matter of on-site parking capacity is a barrier.
- Outreach to the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition could be considered in order to develop / incorporate active transportation linkages to the market.
- There are approximately 3-4 elementary school visits a month to HCP.

MOTION

MOVED by C. Attwell and seconded by J. Jawandra that: "The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee supports the proposal to host the Saanich Farmers Market at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific starting in the summer of 2019."

CARRIED

MARKET ANALYSIS UPDATE

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided the committee with an overview of the recently completed Recreation Market Analysis. The following was highlighted:

- The analysis was conducted over 15 months.
- The scope and mandate was to undertake a deep dive into the relevant statistics such as fill and utilization rates.
- This Market Analysis Study is intended to inform and guide the District in charting its recreation, wellness and health programs, activities, services and experiences and will enhance readiness and the ability to address the needs and expectations of Saanich residents by:
 - Ensuring our offerings and operations are appropriate, accessible, affordable, and sustainable; and
 - Identifying capital investment opportunities that ensure that District recreation facilities infrastructure have the ability and potential to accommodate and provide the services expected by the community.

- Extensive engagement with the public, stakeholders, and partners has informed all aspects of the analysis and recommendations. Engagement included:
 - Open Houses:
 - June 14, 2018 at Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP): 150 participants (est.)
 - February 5, 2019 at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre; and,
 - February 6, 2019 at G.R.Pearkes Rec. Centre: 100 participants respectively (est.)
 - Online survey: June 11 -July 15: 550 responses
 - Online survey - January 28 - February 25, 2019: 1,058 responses (80% of respondents were Saanich residents)
 - Statistically valid telephone survey with a margin of error of +/-5.7% at the 95% confidence level: 300 respondents
 - Interactive displays at recreation centres, golf course, municipal hall, and three special events: June 19 - July 15, 2018.
- Key findings of the study included, but not limited to:
 - Changing demographics – significant increases to number of older adults, youth and young families over next ten years resulting in increased demand for programs and services.
 - Affordability
 - Families struggling to participate in recreation – time, affordability and availability of childcare and/or out-of-school programs remain significant concerns.
 - There is increasing awareness of the need to be more inclusive and welcoming for everyone including Indigenous, LGBTQ2+, persons with disabilities, and new Canadians.
 - Rates of chronic disease are on the rise, and, as such, there is increasing demand for services to support both physical and mental health and wellness.
 - Significant support for volunteerism.
- The District's top programs are: fitness and health (12,206 registrants) followed by swimming (12,154 registrants)
- Drop-in participation exceeds registered programming; there is demand for more drop-in programs.
- The District's fitness centres are significantly smaller than those being built today.
- There is a demand for additional indoor dry floor sports gymnasium space to accommodate a wide range of activities including basketball, volleyball and pickle ball. This demand also identifies an additional ice surface (that could also be used for dry floor sports like lacrosse).
- Health and Wellness is an area of growing demand.
- Affordability remains a concern, ongoing support for the L.I.F.E. pass is noted.
- Partnerships will be critical to maintaining and improving the District's ability to serve the community.
- Key partnership areas include physical and mental health and wellness services; serving those with special needs, diverse populations, and Indigenous people; childcare and serving children and youth; and development of new facilities.

- The report recommends the following Strategic Directions:
 - Align Saanich Recreation with community health and wellness
 - Be flexible and adaptable
 - Use community benefits as a driver of decision-making
 - Develop and expand partnerships
 - Improve tracking of metrics to validate success and identify areas for improvement
- The implementation plan:
 - Identifies actions for each recommendation
 - Sets priorities, responsibilities, timelines
 - Identifies cost, where applicable
 - Does not supersede the budget process and decision-making by Council
 - Some recommendations will require a shift of focus and effort, rather than new funding.
 - This is a living document that will be adjusted and further developed as implementation occurs.
 - Revisiting the implementation plan annually is recommended.
 - This is a path forward, not a commitment to spend.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- The Youth Development Strategy is in its third year and will require a refresh in the next couple years.
- Residents are beginning to view our recreation centres through the community centre/hub lenses.
- The department will also undertake an (internal) Staffing Strategy that will help identify capacity issues and certification requirements for program delivery.
- The analysis established a baseline set of metrics with which to track progress on a go-forward basis.
- Saanich continues to analyse data, explore best-practices and program delivery to ensure a reasonable balance between affordability and programming options at competitive rates.
- Numerous considerations are taken into account when setting the price points for camps and programs.
- The current review of the L.I.F.E. program may provide additional opportunities for discounted participation in summer camp programming.
- School partnerships will be key going forward. Opportunities exist for the development of new facilities that could help offset some of the dry floor and sports field demand.
- There will be new seismic upgrade requirements under the new building code.
- Sports tourism remains a major priority for the region. High performance swimming events at SCP remain the major draw in Saanich.
- P.I.S.E. needs additional spaces as well as new turf infield.

MOTION

MOVED by M. Beauchamp and seconded by J. Jawandra that: “The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee receive the Market Analysis Study: Recreation, Wellness and Health Programs, Services, Activities and Experiences staff presentation for information.”

CARRIED

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the February Parks Division Update report dated, April 16, 2019.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE – FINAL EMBRACE SAANICH REPORT UPDATE

The final draft of the *Embrace Saanich!* Municipal Cultural Planning Report will be submitted to staff by the end of the week. All of the committee’s recommendations will be implemented.

The report and the recommendation will go forward to a future Council meeting. The Clerk will advise committee of the date as soon as it is confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2019.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary