

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
November 27, 2019, 6:01 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Chambers

Members: Claire Attwell, Merie Beauchamp, Ryan Clayton, Zhongwhen He, Ryan Henderson, Jean Hodgson (SCAN), and Jasmindra Jawanda

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation; Cristina Caravaca, Sr. Manger, Community Services; Jason Jones, Recreation Programmer II Recreation (Community Services); and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Ryan Painter (SD 61); and Teri VanWell (SD 63)

Guests: None

MOTION

MOVED by and Seconded R. Clayton by: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held June 26, 2019 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

Prior to providing committee with a Council update, the Chair took the opportunity thank both the members and staff for a very successful, 2019 term. Highlighting some of the accomplishments of the committee, the Chair noted that this has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the job thus far.

The Chair’s Council update noted the following:

- The Development Cost Charges Bylaw received three readings.
- The Strategic Plan was adopted by Council.
- It was a long-process, but in the end Council found common ground.
- Staff are to be commended for their efforts and support.
- The plan will be subject to 3 “check-in” over the course of the term of Council.
- Council working together to develop a tool to measure the success and effectiveness of the plan’s strategic objectives. This tool will be vital to the “check-in” process.
- Unfortunately, there were some items that were not funded as part of this process.

Noting that it was the last meeting of the term, the Chair provided the members with an opportunity to share best wishes and thanks to their fellow members.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MULTICULTURAL SERVICES UPDATE

The Manager of Community Services introduced, Jason Jones, Programmer II. Mr. Jones presented an overview of the District's numerous multi-cultural services, and initiatives. The following was highlighted:

FIRST NATIONS:

- On November 27, 2017 Saanich Council passed a motion to commence formal Government – Government relationships with neighbouring First Nations. The enabling motion gave authority to the following:
 - Relationship building.
 - Council to Council meetings.
 - Development of an Interdepartmental Working Group.
 - Staff to implement projects or initiatives that do not involve costs.
- Projects and initiatives that have been undertaken since 2017 include:
 - Development and protocols of the Territorial Acknowledgement.
 - Traditional welcome at the Inaugural 2019 – 2023 Council meeting and searing-in ceremony.
 - Engagement and consultation in the Local Area Plan update process.
 - The opening of the Shelbourne Memorial Lane, Strawberry Festival, and Cadboro Bay Festival all began with a Territorial Welcome
 - Corporate wide support and participation of Orange Shirt Day
 - Information and resources published to Saanich.ca and the corporate intranet.
- Going forward the District plans to establish staff training modules, continue to attend indigenous events, work with First Nations on restoration efforts for natural areas and waterways and watersheds such as the Colquitz, promote and incorporate indigenous arts (i.e. the Earth Drum Installation at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center) and culture throughout the district.

MULTI-CULTURALISM:

- Saanich has the largest and most diverse population in the region.
 - 22% of our population are immigrants (24,755)
 - 2,905 new Canadians to Saanich during the last census period
 - The country of origin for newcomers has changed over time, with the fastest growing ethnic group being from the Philippines.
- Connections with these communities are enabled through numerous partnerships and initiatives, including:
 - Work with Inter-Cultural Association and Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society.
 - The Community Partnership Network (Saanich was a founding partner).
 - Building relationships with our cultural communities.
 - Attending community cultural events.
- The District has a number of multi-cultural programs and services, that are advertised and communicated via:
 - A translation tool on Website.
 - Multilingual Recreation Guide.
 - Translation of forms and other related information.
 - Google Translate tablets at each recreation centre.

- These programs and services include:
 - SpeakWell ESL Program
 - Chinese Seniors Drop-In
 - Victoria Dian Punjab
 - Muslim Women and Girls
 - Intro to Recreation for new Canadians in conjunction with the Inter-cultural Association.
- Saanich plays host to a number of cultural events and festivals, including:
 - Moon Festival
 - Iftar Dinner
 - Cultural Stage at Strawberry Festival
 - Lunar New Year
 - Diwali
 - Punjabi Mela
 - World Refugee Day

LGBTQ2:

- The District has a wide compliment of programs and services for the LGBTQ2 community, including:
 - Two-Spirit, Queer and Trans Dinner and Drop In (SCP)
 - QT2IPoC Dinner Program
 - LGBTQ drop-in
 - Queer Prom
 - Queer Youth Open Mic's
 - Annual participation in Pride Parade
 - Pride and Trans Flag raising event.
- Through meaningful engagement and continued relationship building, the District will continue develop and deliver services and programs that are representative of our diversity.

SCAN UPDATE

Prior to their regular update, the SCAN representative advised that this will be their last meeting as committee member. SCAN will appoint their new representative in 2020. The Scan representative noted the following:

- Governance discussions have continued.
- SCAN prefers to continue with an informal networking approach as opposed to formal presentations.
- Some members believe that the network is moving beyond its original intent.
- The more established associations were not keen on the idea of developing a singular terms of reference for all associations.
- Smaller associations could benefit from some administrative support.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Concern that more volunteers aren't stepping up to support SCAN.
- It is vital to determine what the root causes of this are.
- Many members are heavily involved in their own community associations, asking them to take on additional tasks at SCAN is difficult.

- A dedicated administrator/coordinator would be of great benefit.
- City of Victoria community associations benefit from a paid coordinator.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the November Recreation Division Update report dated, November 11, 2019.

- Winter programming registration opened today. By midday over \$750,000 in registration fees were collected. Approximately \$600,000 was processed through the District web based registration portal, Rec-online.
- Staff is bringing forward a LGBTQ2+ Report to Council in Q1 of 2020.
- The report will recommend matters such as staff awareness, gender neutrality, inclusive and welcoming language and branding.
- The report will also outline a formalized Pride and Trans (week) flag raising ceremony, events and participation in the annual parade.
- The Mayor will announce 2020 Committee Chair appointments at the December 2, 2019 meeting of Council.
- Council will announce the 2020 Advisory Committee member appointments on December 9, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan 22, 2019.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary