

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
February 5, 2020, 6:03 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Chambers

Members: Claire Atwell, Carren Dujela, Ryan Henderson, Jasindra Jawanda, and Nadia Rajan.

Staff: Cristina Caravacas, Senior Manager, Community Services; and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff; Teri VanWell (SD 63)

Guests: Silvia Mangué Alene, President, Kulea Love Community Support Services and Kulea Culture Society; Paul Schachter, Treasurer, Kulea Culture Society; Katie Underwood, Owner, Elemental Farms

MOTION

MOVED by J. Jawandra and Seconded by C. Atwell: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held November 27, 2019 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2020, before providing an update on Council business. The following was noted:

- Recently appointed as the Council liaison to the Victoria Family Court Committee.
- Feels privileged to be representing Saanich in restorative justice efforts.
- Council endorsed a recommendation to seek an increase Active Transportation Plan spending by \$2,000,000.00 as part of the 2020 Financial Plan.
- Submitted two notices of motions to Council:
 - Letter of support for the Wet’suwet’en
 - Letter of support for Free Contraception
- Considering an additional motion with regard to the practice of conversion therapy.

The Chair then convened a round table of introductions.

KULEA LOVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES & KULEA CULTURE SOCIETY

The Chair introduced, Silvia Mangué Alene, President of Kulea Love Community Services, who provided the committee with an overview of the service. The following was noted:

Kulea Love Community Support Services

- Kulea is a Swahili word that means “caring from the heart” and encompasses the services philosophy of care.

- Kulea Love Community Support Services (KLCSS) is a social enterprise that was created to enhance community living by providing help with everyday life activities.
- KLCSS employs immigrant women in an effort to help overcome employment barriers (education/accreditation, language, adapting to new customs etc.) and achieve the financial independence they need to support their families.
- KLCSS provides non-medical support for anyone in Greater Victoria who needs it. Support is provided by vetted and bonded staff who provide flexible, customer-centered services to help people with everyday activities.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- KLCSS currently employs three women.
- Additional employees will be hired as the service expands their client base.
- The service has not partnered with any other organizations at this point.
- The service helps new immigrants build their cultural capacity for indigenous persons with whom they often share a historic legacy of colonialism.

Kulea Culture Society

The presentation was turned over to Paul Schachter, Treasurer, Kulea Culture Society (the society) who provided committee with an overview of the society and their initiatives. The following was noted:

- The purpose of the society is to raise awareness about, and reduce instances of ethno-racial prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping by encouraging respect for diversity, inclusion and equity.
- The society is a registered non-profit society.
- The society utilizes education, information, consultations, programs, conferences, cross-cultural exchanges and research to help achieve their goals.
- Kulea Culture Society has a vision of fostering a community where diversity is embraced and appreciated in a way that every single human is valued and
- Diversity is not a trend, it is a way of living and a culture that needs to be learned.
- Coordinating a two-day *Colourful Business* conference that will focus on entrepreneurs from racialized and indigenous communities.
- The topics for workshops and lectures will be chosen by the participants.
- The conference will feature 50 racialized entrepreneurs.
- The majority of the conference will be closed to the general public; however, there will be a public showcase where the public will have an opportunity to interact and meet with entrepreneurs.

Committee discussion ensued:

- The event will be held at the Victoria Conference Center on September 26, 2020.
- The intent of the public showcase is to help break down barriers, biases and prejudices.
- The event will utilize a social media campaign.
- Currently seeking grants and contributions (monetary and in-kind) to help these racialized entrepreneurs overcome barriers to their participation.
- The event meets the criteria of the Victoria Foundation. The society will submit an application as soon as the funding window opens.
- City of Victoria is providing \$5000 in in-kind services.
- Charitable receipts will be provided.
- Healthy Saanich would appreciate an update on the event as it progresses. The Clerk will follow up prior to the summer break.

CHEF’S CHALLENGE

The Chair introduced Katie Underwood, Owner of Elemental Farms, who provided the committee with an update on 2020 Chef’s Challenge event. The following was noted:

- Elemental Farms is located at Haliburton Farm.
- Haliburton Community Organic Farm is a publicly-owned farm within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- The farm was saved from development by a group of concerned citizens and the District of Saanich, who purchased the land.
- The farm has been developed as a community and educational certified organic farm.
- The farm provides a model for improving the long term economic viability of farming through cooperative and community-based organic farming.
- The farm will allow farmers entering the profession the opportunity to make a living in agriculture while learning and building skills and demonstrates the importance of financial and community support for farmers.
- Haliburton Farm is most profitable farming co-op in BC.
- Planning on resurrecting the Chef’s Challenge events that were organized by, and held at Councillor Chamber’s Madrona Farm.
- The event will be held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, with a tentative date of September 27, 2020.
- The event will promote collaboration between wholesalers, farmers and participating chefs.
- The event will include indigenous chefs.
- This will be an alcohol free event.
- An application has been submitted to Saanich for a Community Building Grant: Special Event and will be notified in May if they have been approved.
- Outreach to community partners is ongoing.
- Would be happy to come back in the spring with a status update.

MOTION

MOVED by C. Dujela and seconded by N. Rajan that: “The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee support the Haliburton Farms, Chef’s Challenge event to be held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific.”

COMOX VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

The Clerk circulated the Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan Update, dated September 23, 2019 (previously distributed) and the Comox Valley Food Policy Council.

The Clerk advised that the

DIVISION UPDATE – COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Senior Manager, Community Services provided an overview of the community services report dated February 5, 2019.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROCEDURES & DATES

The Clerk circulated the District of Saanich 2020 Advisory Committee Member Information Package, dated January 14, 2020; The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee 2019 Member’s Reference Guide; and the revised Committee Terms of Reference, dated January 28, 2020.

The Clerk provided a high-level overview of the documents, and advised that Legislative Services will be hosting a more formal orientation workshop at the end of February.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2020.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary