

**MINUTES OF THE  
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
**October 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Present:           **In Person:**  
                          Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), Silvia Mangué Alene, Clare Attwell,  
                          Carren Dujela, Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Terri Van Well (School District 63)

**Via Teleconference:**  
                          Rosie Croft, Ryan Henderson and Abigail Toledo

Staff Present:     Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Tiana Solares,  
                          Senior Manager, Recreation; Jason Jones, Programmer II Recreation  
                          (Community Services); and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets:           Jasmindra Jawanda, Nadia Rajan, Holli Rockerbie

Guests:            Claudia Copley and Al MacLeod

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**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Silvia and Seconded by Abigail: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meetings of February 5, 2020, March 4, 2020 and September 2, 2020 be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIR’S REMARKS**

The Chair provided information about glyphosates as follows:

- Glyphosates are sprayed on forests that have been logged to kill species that may inhibit the growth of trees with commercial value.
- Deciduous trees sequester more carbon than coniferous trees.
- There are health concerns linked to glyphosates.
- Spraying glyphosates also impacts non-target plant and animal species.

Committee members made the following comments:

- There is significant research on the impacts of glyphosates on the food supply.
- Glyphosates also impacts the soil and insects.
- It would be helpful to find out what the School Districts use on their properties.
- It may be appropriate to recommend that Council write to the Province to ask for a ban on the use of glyphosates and ask that other municipalities support the initiative.
- The Sierra Club could be asked to attend a future Council meeting to provide information on what could be done before a letter is sent to the Province.

**INTRODUCTION - SENIOR MANAGER, RECREATION**

C. Caravaca introduced T. Solares, the new Senior Manager, Recreation who previously was the Manager of Policy and Business Services in Parks, Recreation and Culture Services with the City of Coquitlam.

**UPDATE – COUNCIL DIRECTION ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

C. Caravaca provided an updated on Council’s direction on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and stated:

- In December 2019, Council directed staff to move forward on the creation of a Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan which would include undertaking a community-based process.
- Because of the amount of time it would take to complete the Strategic Plan, staff were directed to create a temporary Equity and Diversity Statement which could be used immediately.
- Regular review of the statement would be needed to ensure that it remains meaningful.
- With respect to the Strategic Plan, a consultant would assemble a working group of representative members of the community to help shape the plan.
- Outcomes of the Strategic Plan would include a permanent Diversity and Equity Statement and a Council Policy on Racism.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Diversity work should be considered with a lens on justice.
- Energy must be put into reaching hard-to-reach populations.
- Diversity must be reflected in the makeup of those designing the Multicultural Strategic Plan.

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 The Senior Manager, Recreation exited the meeting at 6:38 p.m.  
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**FEEDBACK ON THE CREATION OF A TEMPORARY EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**

C. Caravaca and J. Jones provided draft Equity and Diversity Statements for the committee to review and stated:

- Acknowledgements are meant to be shaped to the speaker’s personal beliefs and could include recognition of multiple groups.

Committee members made the following comments:

- “Values” may mean different things to different people.
- If words such as “diverse” are used several times in a statement, they may lose their power.
- Simplicity is best.
- Identifying different groups in a statement may result in other groups feeling overlooked.
- Acknowledging barriers of racism and discrimination is important.
- In First Nations Acknowledgements, it is appropriate to mention “waters” as well as “lands”.

The committee proposed the following temporary Equity and Diversity Statement:

*We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.*

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The Programmer II Recreation (Community Services) exited the meeting at 7:31 p.m.  
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**5G NETWORK/CELL TOWERS**

Al MacLeod presented and highlighted:

- It is recommended that Saanich follow the precautionary principle regarding management of radio frequency (RF) radiation and halt 5G until it is proven safe.
- Saanich should also update its cell tower siting policy to review every new antenna installation.
- It is concerning that it only takes a software upgrade to turn 4G into 5G.
- It is also concerning that home owners may be permitted to put cell towers on their residences in the future.
- There are several large scale studies that show RF radiation to be a carcinogen.
- It is concerning that there is no opportunity for public input for antenna applications.
- There are cancer clusters around 5G towers.

Committee members made the following comments:

- It is concerning when cell towers are located near schools and food sources.
- There is a direct link to 5G and health concerns.
- Radiation impacts smaller wildlife species.
- There needs to be consistent, skilled professional facilitation to encourage public input on the location of cell towers.
- Technology is changing so there is a need to review policies regularly to ensure they are up-to-date.
- 5G is a weaker signal and cannot penetrate walls or skin.
- There does not seem to be evidence that 5G is harmful to people.
- The evidence presented was not strong.

**MOVED by C. Attwell and Seconded by C. Dujela: “That it be recommended that Council direct staff to review the Antenna Applications – Procedures for Processing policy in comparison to policies from other municipalities with the intent of improving notification to neighbours and public input opportunities on antenna applications.”**

**CARRIED**

**POLLINATORS**

Claudia Copley presented and highlighted:

- Pollinators include wind, water, bats, hummingbirds, beetles, flies and bees.
- There are 483 species of native bees in BC.
- 1/3 of bees that occur in Canada, occur in BC, mostly in the Okanagan.

- Residents should try to mimic nature to assist pollinators.
- Saanich’s grounds have no wildlife value for pollinators.
- Saanich Council endorsed the principles of Naturescape for their properties but they are not being utilized.

Committee members made the following comments:

- When creating pollinator gardens, there is a need to have a 30 feet distance between food, water and forage.
- Farmers are the largest users of pesticides; education is needed on what pesticides are safe.
- Pollinator corridors and grants to assist residents with the creation of these corridors could be considered in Saanich.
- It would be helpful to have a staff member attend a future meeting to give a report on the status of the Naturescape Program in Saanich.

**MOVED by C. Dujela and Seconded by C. Attwell: “That it be recommended that Council direct staff to follow its recommendations and commitment to naturalized gardening and habitat restoration including the commitment to the Naturescape Program.”**

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 6-8 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary