

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
January 6, 2021 at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Ned Taylor

Members: Nadia Rajan (via telephone), Clare Attwell, Carren Dujela, Silvia Mangue Alene (via telephone), Jasindra Jawanda (via telephone), Abigail Toledo (Youth) (via telephone), Kam Judge, Liz Miller (SCAN), Jasmine Noble (via telephone)

Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Ryan Henderson

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Dujela, and seconded by C. Attwell “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held November 4, 2020 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S COMMENTS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed new members to the committee. The Chair encouraged all members to contact him if they have any questions, concerns or ideas about the committee. Members of the committee and staff participated in roundtable introductions.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

The Chair presented a list of ideas that was compiled from committee member suggestions on items that the committee could potentially act on. The committee discussed new additions to the brainstorming idea list, the following were noted as important items:

- Support and resources for Community Associations.
- Participatory democracy opportunities and participatory budgeting opportunities, the City of Victoria has implemented My Great Neighborhood program, as well as considering their budget process through equity.
- Partnerships/collaboration with the Native Friendship Centre.
- How Saanich is responding to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), how we are following through with UNDRIP recommendations and how we are building indigenous reconciliation into our governance structures.
- Mental health, potentially the development of a post-COVID mental health strategic recommendation report which may include:

- Recommendations around potential digital and other mental health supports/strategies that we could recommend Saanich Council support in anticipation that COVID has and will continue to result in a significant mental health burden on Saanich residents.
- Presentations from front-line experts (e.g., Dr. Vincent Agyapong on Text4Hope, a Text-messaging service structured by cognitive behavioral therapists).
- Consideration of other free digital options.
- Evidence-supported no-cost therapies to support mental health that can be implemented by Saanich residents themselves. (e.g., nature therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness, meditation).
- Report could have recommendations for Council's consideration but also for Saanich residents to consider (presentation of the evidence, our recommendations to them, lists of free resources that could prove helpful), which could be a public facing document.
- Recommendations would be tailored to be at a municipal level.
- The housing crisis and affordable housing including possible partnerships with the Province, alternative models, new approaches, intergenerational living. Addressing housing issues in a way that is cohesive.
- Increasing awareness ending stigma of peoples with diversabilities.

The following topics were identified as items the committee is interested in learning about in 2021:

- Saanich Council's Strategic Plan.
- Current work on Indigenous Reconciliation.
- Summary of calls to action/recommendations to date.
- Council to direct staff to report back on naturescape.
- Social Purpose Real Estate Collaborative (SPRE), organization working on:
 - State of non-profits in our community, impacts of COVID.
 - One Planet region.
- Check in with Saanich Community Association Network and School District 61.
- Learn about strategic plan items such as the housing needs assessment and housing strategy.
- Greater Victoria Acting Together.
- Climate change and Saanich's Climate Plan.
- Participatory democracy, participatory budgeting, better support for local projects and new community-led initiatives.
- Youth recreation/sport.
- Can we write letters/send ideas to other advisory committees?
- Sanctuaries cities, welcoming cities, welcoming newcomers.
- Update on Braefoot Community Association/Braefoot building .
- Recent land acquisitions at Swan Lake.
- Current food security initiatives, roadside stands, backyard gardening, biodiversity.
- Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommendations from 2020.
- Increasing awareness and ending stigma of peoples with disabilities.
- What worked and what didn't work throughout the pandemic.
- Is Saanich Archives connected with Royal BC Museum for COVID experience data?
- Protections for sensitive ecosystems.
 - What are other communities doing and what is Saanich/Saanich Council doing?
 - Indigenous, racial, and gender perspectives must be taken into consideration.
- Election processes, democratic processes, transparency, voting records, conflict of interest.

The following items were identified as being high priority for the committee to address in the near future:

- Mental health, youth mental health and increasing access to mental health supports.
- The overdose crisis.
- Climate change and Saanich’s Climate Action Plan.
- The housing crisis, homelessness, safe and affordable housing.
- Participatory democracy, participatory budgeting opportunities.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair confirmed that meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, except for July, August and December.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference were provided to members of the committee for information.

DIVISION REPORT – COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Senior Manager of Community Services presented a division report. The Community Services team has been focused on providing safe activities to small groups.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:58

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary