

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
March 3, 2021 at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Clare Attwell, Carren Dujela, Kam Judge, Liz Miller (SCAN), Abigail Toledo (via teleconference), Jasmindra Jawanda (via teleconference), Nadia Rajan (via teleconference), Jasmine Noble (via teleconference).

Guest: Stewart Guy, Chair of Resilient Saanich Technical Committee.

Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk

Absent: Silvia Mangué Alene and Ryan Henderson.

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Dujela, and seconded by L. Miller: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held February 3, 2021 be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

AGENDA

MOVED by C. Dujela, and seconded by L. Miller: “That the March 3, 2021 Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee agenda be amended to include “Strategic Priorities” on the agenda as item 8.”

CARRIED

RESILIENT SAANICH FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives overview (Powerpoint on file). The following was noted:

- Resilient Saanich is a framework of existing/improved/new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures. This includes a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the Climate Plan and enhanced stewardship opportunities.
- The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has been appointed to work with staff to shape the "Resilient Saanich" Environmental Policy Framework.
- The Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives have been published. Public engagement is currently taking place to gather feedback.
- When the engagement is complete, staff will present the proposed goals and objectives to Council. Council will decide on the final goals and objectives.
- Members of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee are encouraged to provide feedback on the Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives.

In response to comments from members of the committee, the following was noted:

- Members of RSTC were appointed by Council. The committee membership includes professionals with a variety of environmental related backgrounds including public servants, First Nation’s representatives, and trained biologists. More information on each of the members is available on the Saanich website.
- Marine regulations and protections are needed, such as bylaws and policies to protect the shoreline during developments. The Islands Trust staff are a great resource for information on shoreline development permits and regulations.
- The public engagement includes committee feedback, virtual open house sessions, feedback forms, videos, newspaper advertisements, information at senior’s centres, as well as targeted stakeholder engagement.
- Kristi Bridgeman created the artwork for messaging related to the RSTC, which depicts the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of the community that can impact biodiversity.

 A. Pollard and S. Guy exited the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

CLIMATE PLAN REPORT CARD

The Manager of Sustainability provided a verbal update on the Climate Plan Report Card (Powerpoint on file) the following was noted:

- The Climate Plan is a detailed plan to reduce Saanich’s greenhouse gas emissions. There are six focus areas, which detail 131 actions to achieve the Climate Plan goals.
- The Climate Plan Report Card is an annual report on progress made towards the goals and actions outlined in the Climate Plan.
- Saanich received an “A” grade through the global Carbon Disclosure Project for monitoring and reporting on sustainability initiatives and environmental impacts.
- Changes have taken place with how Saanich reports emissions regionally, in addition to global methodology changes. These changes have improved the accuracy of reporting.
- Considerable progress was made in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on financing and community engagement opportunities.
- Highlights of the actions taken are provided, along with progress on corporate targets, overall progress on 2020 actions, progress by focus area and detailed summaries.

In response to comments from members of the committee, the following was noted:

- Community Engagement targets and actions are being adapted as festivals and events are not happening with the ongoing pandemic.
- There is a lack of decentralized programs that foster neighborhood engagement. The Saanich Neighbor to Neighbor program is currently being discussed with One Planet Saanich and Greater Victoria Acting Together to get input on how to bring people together in a safe manner during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- There could be benefits to providing free bus passes for youth.
- The off-street parking review will improve the walkability of neighborhoods, as well as enable neighbors to engage meaningfully within the community.
- It is helpful to understand opportunities or barriers that users of active transportation and public transportation experience, especially when it comes to equity. Decision makers having experience with the services they provide is beneficial for all.
- Rebates do not benefit those who cannot afford to purchase the items up front.
- Car pollution is an issue, it is important to get youth using active transportation.

 J. Jawanda exited the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The members of the committee provided a verbal update on the feedback related to the Saanich’s Strategic Plan. The following was noted:

- The COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to significantly impact the mental health of the general public.
- Presentations on innovative ways to manage mental health effects can be arranged.
- The committee could make recommendations to Council on what can be done locally.

MOVED by J. Noble, Seconded L. Miller: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council make the following additions to the District of Saanich Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

Page 6 of the Strategic Plan, under “Goals: Community well-being: A healthy community is a worthy investment,” add text:

- **Support the mental health and well-being of our residents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Page 11, under “Initiatives/Actions Community well-being” Add:

Initiative:	Description:	Timing:
“Explore ways to support the mental health of Saanich residents, in response to the COVID pandemic.”	Implement initiatives that improve or support the mental health of Saanich residents through policy development, education and public outreach programs. The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee to develop a special post-COVID mental health strategic recommendation report for Council’s consideration and response.	2 years.”

During committee discussion, the following was noted:

- The local government has the closest connection to residents. There is an opportunity to look at how the mental health of residents can be supported. The Healthy Saanich Advisory Council (HSAC) has identified mental health as a priority topic.
- Mental Health is not mentioned in the Strategic Plan.
- There is ongoing research to help manage mental health related repercussions of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. HSAC could explore low cost or free recommendations to support mental health for consideration by Saanich Council, tailored to ensure recommendations fall within the local government jurisdictional boundaries.
- It is important to support community groups (such as Block Watch) that promote decentralized participatory learning and community engagement. This helps to improve the quality of neighborhood relationships and build resilience.
- Workshops for residents and the community associations about the Saanich Neighbor to Neighbor program and other local initiatives would be appreciated by all.

- Mental health should be a priority in all aspects, not just in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOVED by L. Miller and seconded by K. Judge: “That the motion be amended to remove the wording: “in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” in the “Goals” section.

The amendment was **CARRIED**

The main motion, as amended was **CARRIED**

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council make the following additions to the District of Saanich Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

Page 6 of the Strategic Plan, under “Goals: Community well-being: A healthy community is a worthy investment,” add text:

- **Support the mental health and well-being of our residents.**

Page 11, under “Initiatives/Actions Community well-being” Add text:

Initiative:	Description:	Timing:
Explore ways to support the mental health of Saanich residents, in response to the COVID pandemic.	Implement initiatives that improve or support the mental health of Saanich residents through policy development, education and public outreach programs. The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee to develop a special post-COVID mental health strategic recommendation report for Council’s consideration and response.	2 years

Further discussion on feedback related to the Strategic Plan took place, the following was noted:

- It is important to look at some of the colonial aspects of the Strategic Plan.
- The Saanich motto is provided in English and Latin, but there are not any indigenous language translations or considerations.

MOVED by C. Dujela and second L. Miller: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Saanich Council consider the Strategic Plan through a post-colonial lens and to visit the language and structure of the Strategic Plan to ensure that it is equitable and reflects the diversity of the community.”

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Marginalised communities may not be able to interpret the Strategic Plan as the primary format the plan is provided is a document written in English.
- It is important to consider equity in the way we communicate materials.
- Council should look at the plan from a place of unpacking colonialism.

MOVED by K. Judge, seconded by L. Miller “That the motion be amended to add “and is accessible to all”.”

The amendment was CARRIED

The Main Motion, as amended was CARRIED

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Saanich Council consider the Strategic Plan through a post-colonial lens and to visit the language and structure of the Strategic Plan to ensure that it is equitable, that it reflects the diversity of the community and is accessible to all.”

UPDATE ON OVERDOSE CRISIS

The Chair provided an update on recent Council actions related to the overdose crisis, the following was noted:

- On February 8, 2021 Saanich Council unanimously passed a motion to submit a resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) declaring the overdose crisis as a national public health emergency.
- On March 1, 2021 Council unanimously passed a resolution to advocate for appropriate funding and commitments to new policy, budget and legal framework that fulsomely supports creation of a separate and distinct system to address the volume and variety of mental health calls requiring rapid response through the Provincial Government.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The strategic priorities will be added as a standing item on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary