

**MINUTES**  
**HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held electronically via MS Teams  
**September 1, 2021 at 6:24 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Clare Attwell, Ryan Henderson, Silvia Mangué Alene Kam Judge, and Carren Dujela.

Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Regan Pemberton, Community Programmer II, Child & Youth Services; Chris Filler, Programmer II, Recreation; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk.

Absent: Jasmindra Jawanda, Jasmine Noble, Nadia Rajan and Liz Miller (SCAN).

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by S. Mangué Alene, and seconded by C. Attwell: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held June 2, 2021 be adopted as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

The Chair provided an update on items of interest to the committee, the following was noted:

- The regularly scheduled October 6 Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee (HSAC) meeting date had to be moved due to a Special Council meeting. HSAC will meet on Thursday October 7, 2021 instead.

**SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYGROUND PROGRAM AND RECREATION SUMMER CAMPS**

R. Pemberton, Community Programmer II Child & Youth Services; C. Filler, Programmer II Recreation; presented information on the 2021 Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program (SNPP) and Recreation Summer Camps initiatives. The following was noted:

- In early 2021 Saanich staff began creating safe and welcoming summer camp programs that could be adapted to changing health orders, restrictions and uncertainties related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- There was over 500 summer camps and programs were offered to the public. This is a decrease of 20-25% of pre-COVID programming. There was more than 8,000 registrations, providing care for approximately 2,000 families in the region.
- The pandemic also brought challenges to hiring summer staff as interviews had to be conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams. More than 65 summer staff were hired to run the programs, as well as a new mentored leadership placement program called Willing Youth Leading Diverse Communities (WYLD).
- There was a 60% increase in the Federal grant for summer student placements.

- Despite regulations and restrictions, the District was able to offer a wide variety of safe and fun summer camp options to families, with over 20 partner organizations and seven park locations to serve all areas and demographics of Saanich.
- Saanich camp leaders work to ensure all kids have the best possible summer experience. Inclusion is an important aspect of Saanich programs, many one on one spaces were supported, as well as designated spaces for low income families.
- Programs averaged a 92% fill rate, which is a testament to the great staff and programming. Unfortunately there were many families left on wait lists.
- Twenty youth were selected for the WYLD program. Those who were not selected for the WYLD program were encouraged to take part in the junior leadership program which was an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills.
- WYLD volunteers were asked to commit a minimum of 2 weeks, however most enjoyed the program and chose to participate repeatedly throughout the summer.
- The WYLD program participants were mentored by the program leaders, learning leadership skills, gaining experience and confidence in leading children's activities.
- Recruitment and retention of staff was complicated by the pandemic, it was difficult to find staff that was available on-call in case of illness. The leadership programs help to develop youth that could potentially become program leaders in the future.
- Parents were really grateful and found the programs to be safe and welcoming.

In response to questions and comments from the Committee, the following was noted:

- The efforts to ensure inclusivity for all is greatly appreciated.
- The increase in the summer jobs grant was in part due to the pandemic, there were fewer limits on how it could be used
- Funding for an inclusion pilot program was also granted. This program allowed for funding an inclusion worker who floated between programs as needed, rather than being assigned to a designated child in a specific program.
- There is interest in intergenerational programming or programs that enable children to work with the elderly. This has been discussed by programmers, however it was not an option with the pandemic this year, there may be opportunities in the future.
- There were First Nations speakers, as well as beading and drumming that took place at some of the teen camps this year. There are opportunities to consider more diversity and future learning.
- Education and information sessions about the Saanich Natural Intelligence program have been useful to share knowledge and training to all staff. Team leaders have knowledge of ecosystems, ecological sensitivity and ecological literacy. They can then pass this information on to the children in summer camps.
- The Leisure Involvement for Everyone (LIFE) program assists individuals and families living on a low income to access recreation services and programs. There were child care spaces designated for LIFE participants at SNPP.

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

The Division Reports were included with the agenda for information.

## **COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The committee's strategic priorities were discussed, the following was noted:

- The Connections Place Society is a local organization that provides mental health

support to those in the community. Council recently granted the society \$18,000 from the Council Strategic Priorities fund in support of mental health.

- The HSAC recommendation to add mental health to the Strategic Plan will be discussed at the upcoming Strategic Plan Check-in.
- The HSAC recommendation related to the Conversations for a One Planet Region will be sent to Council now that the June minutes have been approved.
- Committee members would like to have a round table discussion included on the next agenda. Meeting virtually removes the human aspect from meetings, and it would be helpful to have a creative brainstorming opportunity during the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

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

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Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary