

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held virtually from Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
March 2, 2022 at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Ned Taylor.

Members: Basil Langevin, Clare Attwell, Carren Dujela, and Kam Judge.

Staff: Brenda Weatherston, Community Programmer; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services; and Austin Winters, Committee Clerk.

Absent: Liz Miller (SCAN), Ryan Henderson, Silvia Mangué Alene and Jasmine Noble.

MINUTES

MOVED by K. Laberee and seconded by B. Langevin, “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held February 2, 2022, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

Nil.

MENTAL HEALTH REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

There was a roundtable discussion led by the Chair on potential recommendations for the proposed mental health report. The following was noted during discussion with the committee members and staff:

- The Block Watch Program partnered with Island Health to put on a presentation to the community via Zoom on the overdose and addictions crisis.
- Block Watch may be a useful resource to have come and present to the Committee at some point.
- Certain communities (i.e. those with disabilities, youth, BIPOC, and the elderly) do face greater health disparities, thus when prioritizing recommendations these communities must be considered.
- The recommendations made by Committee Member Dr. Noble at the previous meeting were reviewed to assist with achieving a better understanding of how to approach any recommendations the committee may make.
- The Senior Manager of Community Services is creating a mental health report of an inventory of what Saanich is doing in relation to mental health initiatives and employee care.
- The report is to be brought forward to Council in April or May.
- Before anything is recommended the mental health theory should be examined to ensure appropriate steps are being taken.

- Potentially investigate how “story of place” can be included into the scope of the mental health report.
- More needs to be done to combat some other underlying policies that indirectly impact one’s mental health such as an appropriate housing strategy that ensures everyone has a safe place to sleep or seek shelter.
- It was decided that further discussion on this subject will be had at the next meeting.
- A request was made to reach out to the Director of Corporate Services, Laura Ciarniello, to come present at a future HSAC meeting.

ADOPTING THE DYNAMIC SYMBOL OF ACCESS

Committee Member B. Langevin presented to HSAC on the need for Saanich to adopt the dynamic symbol of access. The following was noted:

- The original international symbol of accessibility was developed in the 1960’s.
- Throughout the 2010s accessibility organizations and activists pushed for a contemporary symbol of accessibility that better reflected the abilities of those with disabilities rather than the supposed constraints.
- From this push came the introduction of the dynamic symbol of access which better reflects the mobility and motion of those with accessibility needs.
- This new symbol has been adopted in many jurisdictions such as Toronto, Hamilton, Nanaimo, Squamish, and Victoria.
- Some municipalities phase in the signage changes over time when new signage is required while others make the change immediately.
- The change to the dynamic symbol of access is more so a symbolic change that recognizes the lived experience of those with accessibility needs and does not create greater access.

The following was noted during discussion with the committee members and staff:

- There needs to be better representation of individuals and this symbol does that by being dynamic and moving in contrast to the old symbol which is static.
- Supporting people with intellectual disabilities who may also have physical disabilities is integral to community building.
- The new symbol of access is empowering and engaging.
- Staff noted at the end of 2021, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department through an initiative of the “Older Adult Strategy” created the “Signage and Wayfinding Strategy for Saanich.”
- The Strategy covers all four recreation centers and the golf course located in Saanich and this document outlines the use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access for all of the previously listed facilities moving forward.

MOVED by B. Langevin and seconded by K. Judge, “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to adopt the Dynamic Symbol of Access and that this updated symbol replace the International Symbol of Access moving forward.”

CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The following was noted during the roundtable discussion with committee members:

- The prospect of inviting individuals or a group to present to the Committee on the topic of community weaving was brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022.

Councillor Ned Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Austin Winters, Committee Secretary