

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Saanich Police Building, Kirby Room
Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 5:00 pm – 6:45 pm**

Due to COVID-19 measures, Saanich is unable to accommodate the public for any Council, Committee of the Whole, Advisory, Board or Foundation meetings while maintaining the limits on large gatherings due to the Public Health Order.

As per the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M192, public attendance at the meeting is not required if it cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the Public Health Act.

To register to hear this meeting by telephone, please email clerksec@saanich.ca or telephone 250-475-5501. You are asked to provide your name and an email address where instructions can be sent to you, along with the name and date of the advisory committee meeting you wish to hear. The registration deadline is 12:00 p.m. noon on the day of the meeting.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- August 20, 2020 and September 10, 2020 (attachments)

2. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

3. SIPP FUNDING

- Presentation and a Committee recommendation (info to be circulated)

4. SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION PILOT PROJECT

- Presentation – Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Services (info to be circulated)

5. E-MOBILITY STRATEGY

- Committee recommendation

6. UPTOWN-DOUGLAS PLAN

- Committee recommendation

* Adjournment *

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Tania Douglas at 250-475-5494 ext. 3505 or tania.douglas@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

August 20, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Present: Councillor Zac de Vries (Chair), Ericka Amador (5:30 pm via teleconference), Sophia Baker-French, Sonja Cunningham (5:25 pm), Brittany Higginson (6:00 pm), Richard Michaels, Shawn Steele

Staff: Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Services; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Debra Herbert, Senior Sustainability Planner; Nadine Kawata, Planner, Community Planning; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Taylor Alexander, William Bedford, Lois-Leah Goodwin, Peter Rantucci

The meeting was brought to order at 5:10 pm. As quorum was not yet met, the adoption of the February 13, 2020 meeting will be considered later if quorum occurs.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members back and advised that he has been acting Mayor on the South Island Prosperity Partnership and he is also a member of the Rising Economy Task Force. Additionally, Council has endorsed the Terms of Reference for a new Housing Strategy Task Force and the Uptown Douglas Corridor plan review will be coming down the line shortly.

HOUSING STRATEGY

The Planner presented detailed information regarding the Saanich Housing Strategy. Items still to be completed include a community engagement report, Housing Strategy Task Force meetings followed by recommendations to Council, a public survey on those recommendations, a draft Housing Strategy and then final approval by Council hopefully by Spring 2021.

The Planner asked committee members for input and the following comments were noted:

- In reply to a question about liaising with other CRD municipalities, staff noted discussions have occurred with the City of Victoria regarding a recent housing strategy done in that municipality and the district meets with other municipalities that are concurrently developing housing needs assessments.
- In reply to a question about the survey, staff noted the initial survey will be open to all, not just Saanich residents.
- Saanich has a well-developed urban area and there are not many areas to re-develop.
- Regarding how University of Victoria housing will fit into the plan, staff noted during focus groups the University of Victoria staff and Student Association representatives were consulted.
- Comment made that it would be good to continue working on approving garden and secondary suites.
- More people may be working from home due to Covid-19. This may also affect housing needs. Any information gathered pre-Covid may have to be changed or re-evaluated.
- This presentation captured legal suites in Saanich; it is difficult to quantify illegal suites.

- Staff noted non-profit housing providers can approach Council and other levels of government with funding requests, however Saanich's fund is not large.
- The rise of vacation rentals causes tenancy issues. Suggestion made that task force could consider licensing Air B & B's to incentivize longer term rentals.
- Lease commencement dates can prove challenging as it can be difficult for students to find housing beyond the September-May school term.
- There are very few 2+ bedroom units for rent.
- In reply to a question about consultation with school districts, staff noted the school districts did not accept invitations to join focus groups discussions – likely because of other priorities
- There is a need for flexibility in terms of allowing for tiny homes, secondary suites, and garden suites. More mixed use development is needed.
- Suggestion made that developers could educate Community Associations on why less single family dwellings are being built. The market demand is for future density.
- Staff confirmed that the task force will include landlord and developer representatives.

The Planner thanked members for their input. The Chair noted that the housing issue is difficult to grapple with, and that municipalities each have different goals. The Housing Strategy Task Force Terms of Reference will be considered at the next Council meeting.

EV USER FEES

The Senior Sustainability Planner presented detailed information on proposed Electric Vehicle user fees in Saanich which will help offset operational costs. She also advised that in January Council adopted a new climate plan with accelerated actions, and the provincial government has legislated that 100% of vehicle sales be electric vehicles by 2040.

Committee members asked questions and provided comments, and the following was noted:

- Fees are being proposed in order to recover costs and to save for future charge station replacements.
- Demand is not yet known, but using last year's numbers each station would generate approximately \$2,200 in revenue (assuming only 12 stations) and uses about \$750 in electricity annually. Maintenance costs, management fees and replacement reserves are on top of this.
- Any excess revenue will be put toward climate actions.
- Conversations are being held with higher levels of government regarding EV infrastructure funding.
- There is a plan to install 20 new level-two charging stations within the municipality as the cost for level-three stations are prohibitive.
- Time limits and fees for charging were discussed. Saanich does not have any paid parking at this time and usage patterns will need to be looked at.
- Charging infrastructure for electric bicycles needs to be looked at and will be included in the E-mobility strategy. Battery recycling is not in the strategy.
- The province had done pilot projects with municipal governments to monitor existing charge stations, these projects closed in March this year. Staff can look into whether there will be future pilot projects.

Staff were thanked for their presentation.

FUTURE ITEMS/ROUNDTABLE

Committee members discussed future topics of conversation/action and the following was

noted:

- Information on the economic recovery work (specific to COVID-19) being done in Saanich.
- Request made to invite the president of the newly formed Royal Oak/Broadmead Business Improvement Association (BIA) to discuss economic development and how they can obtain government assistance and future funding. Chair suggested a staff perspective on BIA's roles, potential for more BIA's and impact on retailers could also be beneficial.
- Economic recovery discussions would be beneficial. Include topics such as BIA's and partnerships with neighbourhood associations as well as streamlining business interactions with Saanich.
- An update on the Economic Development Strategy was requested.

Minutes

As quorum was now met, the Chair asked committee members to clarify a motion made in February regarding signage improvements. The word "Council's" was added between the words "during" and "economic" to indicate that the reference material circulated should be included in economic development and strategic planning discussions of Council.

MOVED by S. Steele and Seconded by R. Michaels: "That the Minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held February 13, 2020, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2020.

Councillor de Vries, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

MINUTES

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers

September 10, 2020 at 5:30 pm

Present: Councillor Zac de Vries (Chair), Ericka Amador (via telephone), Sophia Baker-French (via telephone), Sonja Cunningham, Brittany Higginson,

Staff: Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Alanna McDonagh, Planner, Community Planning; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Taylor Alexander, William Bedford, Lois-Leah Goodwin, Richard Michaels, Peter Rantucci, Shawn Steele

Guest: Emilie de Rosenroll, CEO, South Island Prosperity Partnership (via telephone)

A quorum of members was not met at tonight's meeting.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair advised members that the motion to refer a presentation regarding signage in Saanich was not accepted as provided. Considering that quorum is not met tonight, he will provide a short report to Council to advise that the intent of the motion was that this Committee requests that Council consider the presentation entitled "Latitantes Invaderet or Hiding in Plain Sight" as part of Council's economic development and strategic planning discussions.

SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP

Emilie de Rosenroll was welcomed, and she presented information about the South Island Prosperity Partnership. The following was noted:

- SIPP is a diverse membership of 66 public and private sector partners in Greater Victoria that work to bolster regional economic and social prosperity. Membership includes:
 - 11 local governments, nine First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, nine industry associations and non-profit agencies and 30+ major employers.
- Their 4th anniversary was this past March and an organizational review was done recently.
- The SIPP AGM is being held online this September 30th and committee members are invited to join.
- As of last June, 75% of members cited a challenge with there being a shortage of skilled labourers.
- Nine First Nations are members of SIPP and the focus is on supporting Indigenous economic development and defining future inclusion.
- A trade accelerator program (TAP) helps equip small to medium sized enterprises develop and activate an export plan.
- SIPP has helped Esquimalt municipality with an economic development roadmap pilot project.
- A Rising Economy Taskforce was launched to coordinate a strong local response to the COVID-19 economic crisis.
- SIPP is working with the provincial government on a "COVID safe" app where a customer

can scan a QR code on retail and service establishments or restaurants, to see if they are compliant with health standards.

- Rising Economy Week starts November 16, 2020 and will focus on accelerating the region's economic recovery. Information can be found at **OurRisingEconomy.com**.
- Committee's support is requested as funding is needed to continue the work of SIPP.

Committee members had questions/comments and the following was noted:

- Companies are coming mostly from the Pacific Northwest, Seattle, as well as Brazil.
- Regional economic development has a different focus than local; it would be of benefit for SIPP to present information on the Esquimalt Roadmap to help explain.
- This was supposed to be in the 2020 budget however COVID-19 happened and this has been referred to the next strategic plan check-in session.
- Any strategy Saanich comes up with would have a larger tie to land use policies.
- Clarification was provided on economic reconciliation with First Nations Peoples. A report is available on the rising Indigenous economy.
- Committee members expressed an interest in obtaining financial information regarding SIPP for consideration at the next meeting.

The Chair noted that he sits as a Mayor's alternate on SIPP and has seen the importance of this organization. He noted that Federal and Provincial governments are more likely to fund an organization like SIPP as they give a good return on their investment. The request for funding will be on the next PTED agenda and hopefully a quorum can be met in order to send on to Council.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE MOBILITY STRATEGY

The Manager of Sustainability presented information and associated actions regarding the Electric Vehicle Mobility Strategy. The following was noted:

- Emissions from transportation are 53% so being able to electrify vehicles will greatly help with reducing emissions. This is the biggest action in the climate action plan in reducing GHG emissions.
- There are 38 actions in five focus areas to support a rapid transition to electric vehicles and bikes in Saanich.
- There is an online survey open for the next three weeks. A condensed version of the strategy will come out of the feedback received.
- Data shows that E-bikes are used for the same distance trips as EV's (average 6km) so depending on circumstances, e-bikes could be used as a primary vehicle, which is more affordable.
- Safety and security is a high concern of residents.
- A Provincial Motor Vehicle Act pilot project is looking at different e-mobility devices and whether they need regulation. A pilot of speed limit reductions from 50 km/h to 40 km/h is also being looked at.
- Budget requests were not able to be given this year due to COVID-19 so the requests will be made again during the next budget discussions. The Climate Plan supports the actions in the E-mobility strategy.
- Information on the strategy can be found on the Saanich website. Members were encouraged to reach out to interested parties and encourage people to fill out the survey. Ideally a presentation will be given to Council for approval in October.

Committee members had questions/comments which were noted as follows:

- Upon the suggestion that people will never fully get out of single occupancy vehicles and that parking will continue to be problematic staff replied that :
 - this presentation assumes that there would be the same amount of vehicles on the road as there are today.

- there are challenges with parking, there may be an increased need for public charging.
- about 20% of the population in Saanich live in multi-unit residential buildings with no infrastructure and there is need to electrify these buildings. Public charging needs to be available as support for those people.
- In reply to the suggestion that recreation centres could provide more e-bike storage/facilities, staff agreed yes this could be strengthened, along with working with developers to ensure cyclist facilities are included in new buildings. Retrofits could then be looked at for older developments.
- The mandate of the federal and provincial government are 100% of vehicle sales be fully electric by 2040. There are interim targets and as more new EV's come into the market, then used will become available to buy.
- In reply to a concern about population growth and capacity, staff noted that when the climate plan pathway was modeled they looked at projected population growth but with the same amount of vehicles because future mode share projections were used.
- We will have to look at what we are investing in road infrastructure.

The Chair requested that the e-mobility strategy be placed on the October agenda in order for committee to provide recommendations to Council. The Manager of Sustainability left the meeting at 6:58 pm.

UPTOWN DOUGLAS PLAN UPDATE

The Planner presented an update of the Uptown Douglas plan and the plan to balance a blend of mixed use, residential and commercial buildings. The following was noted:

- Some areas will transition to residential use, some to light industrial use, etc. The goal is to revitalize these areas and increase employment.
- The anchor is the Uptown Douglas area as it spans significant transportation corridors.
- Green infrastructure is being encouraged with policy.
- There is support for Business Improvement Areas, daycare facilities and also better use of the school site (heritage preservation and housing nearby is encouraged).
- There is a global recession due to COVID-19 but there is still great demand for industrial space.
- Some roads are shared with the City of Victoria and the Ministry of Transportation.
- Community Amenity Contributions have changed since the last presentation to this committee.
- This plan is a 20-30 year plan.

Responses to committee questions are noted as follows:

- In order to retain industrial areas and increase housing/livability of areas, there is a policy that 50% of the first two floors of buildings can be industrial. Also, building setbacks are not required.
- To help make areas more livable when re-developments happen the plan looks at streetscape improvements. Also, transportation modes will be looked at as they are very important and further improve walkability.
- The pre-zoning of areas will help with creating mixed industrial and urban use.
- Regarding a question about purchasing land for park additions, staff noted that we have identified larger spaces through the Development Cost Charge program.
- One of the policies in the plan looks to acquire dedicated park space through redevelopment at larger sites.
- The newly created Housing Task Force will be helpful in guiding future developments.

Overall committee comments were that it makes sense to build up the Uptown Douglas Plan and create density in the proposed area.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor de Vries, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT