

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)
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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