

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall Committee Room #2

Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Susan Brice (Chair), Jim Anderson, Tom Hatcher, Stefanie Yao, Pamela Carroll, Terrance Berscheid, Martin Roberts

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Troy McKay, Engineering Technologist; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner Current Planning; Cory Manton, Manager Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Absent: Daryl Dagneault, Stefanie Barber

MINUTES

MOVED by T. Berscheid and Seconded by M. Roberts “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held September 17, 2015 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

UPTOWN-DOUGLAS CORRIDOR PLAN

The Senior Planner, Current Planning, provided a background of the Uptown/Douglas Corridor Plan and noted the Terms of Reference (available online) were approved by Council in September. The following was noted:

- The City of Victoria is doing a similar plan and Saanich will be working with them.
- With the jurisdictional areas and transportation issues, staff will also be working with the ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as BC Transit and the CRD.
- A map of the plan area was presented. This is a 20-30 year land use plan that is not large in area but a significant mix of commercial, industrial and residential properties.
- Six key themes guide the plan, and there are ten plan objectives, some of which include: creating a more vibrant and walkable urban centre; having a connected, sustainable and balanced transportation network that encourages more walking, cycling and transit use; enhancing the network of parks, open spaces and culture/community facilities; restoring and enhancing key environmental assets; and, promoting green buildings/renewable energy.
- A consultant will be hired to work with staff and the public to develop a vision and community plan that will guide development for Uptown major centre, the Douglas corridor and surrounding area.
- An advisory committee will be established and will be comprised of about 16 individuals that broadly represent the area demographic and interests. Their role will be to advise on public engagement techniques to ensure outreach is effectively undertaken in the community; promote the project and public engagement opportunities within the community; and, provide feedback to staff on plan concepts and content.

Committee comments and responses to committee questions were noted as follows:

- The entire area should be studied for the most comprehensive land use plan.
- Area is under-served by green space, park space and meeting spaces.
- Trail connections through this area need considerable improvement.
- Land use plan updates and zoning changes may be fairly extensive.

- Terms of Reference should reference the City of Victoria in a formal relationship.
- Boundaries of the plan should be expanded to include McKenzie Overpass and surrounding area as this project will have significant impacts on Saanich.
- Access to Uptown is a significant issue and needs to be addressed. The Terms of Reference should emphasize access.

Committee thanked the Senior Planner for the information.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Director of Engineering and the Engineering Technologist were present to present the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The following was noted:

- The purpose and related policies and plans were described as were the objectives for this 25 year plan.
- The Active Transportation Plan will become a guiding document for the Municipality, identifying priorities and a vision for the future.
- A hierarchy was shown which illustrates how the plan fits in with Saanich, the surrounding municipalities and the regional district.
- The ATP wraps all the other Saanich priorities together in an overall guiding document.
- The seven plan objectives were described.
- This plan will need to mesh with others, including the Uptown Douglas Street Corridor Plan, the CRD Master Plan and BC Transit's plans.
- The technical advisory committee and stakeholder groups are to be included; a vast representation is needed and all Community Associations are involved.
- The Director of Engineering noted that this is just the Terms of Reference and a consultant is to be hired.

Committee comments and responses to committee questions were noted as follows:

- A query was raised regarding the budget for the creation of the ATP. Does Saanich need to spend \$300,000 plus to create a plan that may not reveal any new information?
- The budget allotted for the creation of the ATP could perhaps be earmarked for concrete improvements within Saanich.
- A suggestion that priorities for Engineering should be the McKenzie Overpass project and associated impacts and sewage treatment.
- The ATP is focused on human powered transportation. The majority of the other transportation plans are vehicle focused.
- The ATP is a long-term document and will be refreshed at key intervals.

URBAN FORESTRY INITIATIVES UPDATE

A presentation on the implementation of the Urban Forestry Strategy by the Manager, Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas, was given to the Committee and the following was noted:

- The Urban Forestry Strategy is a long-term plan for achieving a sustainable urban forest in Saanich.
- The primary goal of the Urban Forestry Strategy is to protect and enhance the Saanich urban forest.
- The Urban Forestry Operations Manual is a single source guide to the policies, procedures, best management practises that guide the work in the Saanich urban forest.
- Canopy cover analysis reinforces information contained in the Urban Forestry Strategy to aid in the protection and enhancement of the urban forest.

- Revisions to the Tree Protection Bylaw include:
 - Expanded scope of trees covered by the bylaw
 - Pruning permit for protected trees is not required providing that the pruning is for the health, balance and shape of the tree and no more than 25% of the live crown.
- Trees that are protected in Saanich:
 - Any tree with a D.B.H. of 60 cm or greater
 - Specific native species of a minimum height and/or D.B.H.
 - Streamside or Environmental Permit Area
 - Significant Tree
 - Evidence of nest or use by raptors, osprey or heron colony
- Boulevard Tree Planting Partnership has resulted in over 150 trees planted in 2014.
- Natural Areas Division has an action plan consisting of:
 - Invasive Species Management Strategy
 - Mapping, inventory and monitoring
 - Community collaboration and outreach
 - Park management plans
 - Best Management practices
- Community volunteers assist Saanich Parks in removing invasive species and encouraging native ecosystems to flourish.

The Committee thanked the Manager, Urban Forestry and Natural Areas, for the update.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided an update on the draft of the Youth Development Strategy. The Committee was encouraged to provide comments and feedback regarding the draft on the Saanich website. The YDS will go forward to Council in December 2015.

PARKS REPORT

The Senior Manager, Parks circulated the October 15, 2015 Parks Report. No questions were raised.

RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation circulated the October 15, 2015 Recreation Division Highlights update and the following high-lights were noted:

- Registration and programming revenue at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre is up 250% since opening. The ceramic studio is at capacity.
- Attention is currently focused on ramping-up the performing arts programs.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR FOR NOVEMBER 26/15 MEETING

The Chair will be away for the November 26, 2015 meeting and accordingly the Committee resolves as follows:

Motion: MOVED by T. Berscheid and Seconded by J. Anderson, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee appoint M. Roberts as the Acting Chair for the November 26, 2015 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting."

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary