

MINUTES

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

October 12, 2017 at 4:25 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Sophia Baker-French, Suzanne Bartel, Peter Pokorny, Travis Lee, Bill Mumford

Staff: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Peter Rantucci, Andrea Mercer

Guests: Andre Gordon, Vancouver Island Field Manager, Rick Hansen Foundation; Suzanne Jennings, Victoria Disability Resource Centre

MINUTES

MOVED by S. Bartel and Seconded by T. Lee: "That the Minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held September 21, 2017, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair provided the Committee with updates, and the following comments were noted:

- Staff report being prepared for Council reflecting on the number of Development Permits issued.
- Report to Council on Electric Vehicle charging stations is being complied.
- Park space classifications will be forwarded to Council for consideration following edits to clarify the motion.

ELIMINATION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS

The Chair facilitated a discussion on banning single use plastic bags. The following highlights are noted:

- In 2008 the CRD had a major campaign targeting single use plastic bags.
- Saanich is restricted in how to limit/control single use plastic bags.
- Oceans are federally governed.
- Saanich has influence with plastics in areas such as parks and stormwater with the ability to create bylaws.
- Saanich Operations could have a look at the impact single use plastic bags have on the Municipality. Possible areas of impact include:
 - Possible effects on salmon in Colquitz River
 - Blockages in stormwater management systems
 - Aesthetically unsightly
- Single use plastic bags have an impact in numerous areas to varying degrees.
- Conversation with the City of Victoria to discuss what steps and issues The City of Victoria has identified.

- The CRD does a garbage analysis periodically. The most recent analysis indicated that single use plastic bags in the garbage are at approximately the same level as the previous analysis.
- Many seniors find single use plastic bags easier to use and tend to use them multiple times.
- Thrifty's paper bags are recyclable.
- Research on other communities/areas that have implemented a ban on single use plastic bags should be done.
- Tourism Victoria may have information of number of retailers who may have eliminated the use of single use plastic bags.
- CRD has no jurisdiction on business. Saanich should investigate how the municipality could ban the use of single use plastic bags in Saanich businesses.
- It would be preferable to have a cross province ban on the single use plastic bag.
- Banning the single use plastic bag could be a potential marketing opportunity.

Committee discussion occurred and the following comments were noted:

- Hawaii has a state level ban on single use plastic bags.
- The City of San Francisco has a ban on single use plastic bags for retail businesses.
- A Saanich bylaw to ban single use plastic bags would require provincial approval.
- Public needs to be educated about a potential bylaw banning the single use plastic bag.
- "Biodegradable" plastics do not fully degrade.
- Biodegradable simply means that the substance degrades more quickly than a non-biodegradable substance, but the rate of degrading can be very minimal.
- Banning single use plastic bags is a provincial matter.
- Leaving the banning of single use plastic bags to the province to deal with may not be ideal as the province can be slow to respond.
- A letter could be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment itemizing ideas benefiting from the proposed banning of the single use plastic bag.
- If Saanich and The City of Victoria ban the single use plastic bag these two municipalities comprise the majority of the CRD.
- Consider that there may be push back from businesses that lose revenue because of not being able to charge for single use plastic bags.
- Banning single use plastic bags could be a step toward limiting the use of other single use plastics.
- Education of the business community and the general public could be an important step in general acceptance of the importance of banning single use plastic bags.

RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Committee heard an accessibility certification program presentation by Andre Gordon from the Rick Hansen Foundation. The following highlights are noted:

- The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program is an 18 month project which offers ratings/grants for improving accessibility.
- The program is an LEED style system-based on universal design so new builds can be inclusive.
- Vancouver Community College is the first school in BC to pilot this program.
- Currently BC does not have disability legislation.
- Brad McKennel an access consultant has spearheaded the cost recovery/access project.
- Goal is to have professional standardization instead of advocacy.

- The Rick Hansen Foundation is offering complimentary assessments by specialists.
- The assessments target doorways, ramps, lighting and how these items interact with all disability groups.
- Following the assessment a rating is generated and the facility will be eligible for grants.
- Certified Gold would allow organization to upload onto the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Registry to promote the certified organization.
- The Rick Hansen Foundation is striving towards all buildings, trails and facilities to be accessible.
- A database of accessible buildings and a standard of accessibility of building within the province should be compiled.
- Grants to improve accessibility range from \$20,000-\$4 million.
- The municipality does not have to match the grant.

The accessibility discussion was continued by Suzanne Jennings, Victoria Disability Resource Centre. The following highlights are noted:

- Suzanne Jennings is the author of “Paralyzed without Warning”.
- Many people cannot easily access Saanich buildings.
- Sudden paralysis illustrated to Suzanne how limiting lack of access can be to individuals who have accessibility challenges.
- Businesses lose business by not being accessible.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Many ramps that are currently installed to facilitate accessibility are very steep and should be modified to accommodate current standards.
- Work with other agencies to partner to upgrade/replace older accessibility infrastructure.
- Current accessibility standards include tactile services such as truncated domes.
- The Chair will send out another request for disabled persons to be on advisory committees.
- Funds are set aside to improve curb ramps.
- The Shelbourne Valley Action Plan has an identified action plan “senior friendly” project.
- Accessibility to Saanich facilities has been improving over time.
- Consider generation of the building features.
- Not trying to change building code, simply updating for universal best practices design.
- Partner with architects and designers to develop safe and appropriate ramps.
- Older buildings are generally in greater need of retro fitting.
- Private sector and the Chamber of Commerce should be invited to an information session given by the Rick Hansen Foundation regarding the Accessibility Certification Program.
- Multifamily developments should have accessibility requirements.

The Committee thanked the speakers for the information presentation.

VIBRANT ECONOMY- HOW CAN SAANICH ATTRACT MORE BUSINESS

The Chair facilitated a Committee discussion on how Saanich can attract more business. The following highlights are noted:

- The UBCM paper on ISO Comparables was not handed out.
- The CAO gave Council information graph with 10 municipalities to help understand Saanich's position relative to other similar municipalities.
- Saanich has a debt management plan.
- There is a lengthy delay in a businesses in Saanich processing development permits.
- Saanich is in competition with The City of Victoria for businesses.
- Planning is currently working on a report to Council identifying the problems with efficiencies.
- Nigel Valley development will increase residences.
- A hotel may be a sound way to increase business.
- A village near UVIC may be beneficial in increasing Saanich businesses.
- Abundant tourism but difficult for these businesses to be profitable. What is missing?
- What percentage of Saanich jobs are higher income jobs?
- What can be done within Saanich to create more job opportunities?
- OCP focus on high tech and clean industries.
- UVIC area should have more housing/commercial/livable villages in the vicinity.
- Simon Fraser University and University of British Columbia have done creative things to enhance livability and workability in their region.
- Would be useful to know where new businesses are setting up and why they are not choosing Saanich.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary