

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
September 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Leif Wergeland (Chair), Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, Mary Haig-Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave, Jude Coates, Al-Nashir Charania, George Klima, Harry Drage

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Rebecca Newlove, Sustainability Manager; Becky Goodall, Parks Planner Designer; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

MINUTES

MOVED by J. Coates and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held June 21, 2017 be adopted."

CARRIED

UPDATE ON HARO WOODS DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Park Planner Designer updated the Committee on the progress of the draft Haro Woods Management Plan, and the following comments were noted:

- The Draft Haro Woods Management Plan is currently being reviewed and edited by the Parks Department.
- Biking activities, specifically off trail biking activities are a source of conflict between park users.
- Saanich has asked to have discussions with the CRD regarding the possibility of using some of the CRD land that is already heavily impacted as a potential biking site.
- Little success to date with engaging the biking stakeholders that are using Haro Woods.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Difficult to accommodate Mountain/BMX biking into a natural park as they are not compatible activities.
- Creativity is needed when attempting to engage the youth population.
- Consideration should be given to the potential to rehabilitate Finnerty Creek.
- Youth do not want to be in a "bubble" and are seeking challenging trails to bike on.
- Over 4500 hours have been spent in Haro Woods removing invasives by volunteers.

CLIMATE PLAN: 100% RENEWABLE SAANICH-TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sustainability Manager update the Committee with the Terms of Reference for the Climate Plan: 100% Renewable Saanich. The following highlights are noted:

- The 80% reduction target by 2050 in corporate and community GHG aligns with global targets.

- Saanich community energy and emissions inventory will need updates to the baseline.
- Using the Eco-City Footprint pilot energy and emissions inventory will expand to address consumables.
- The alignment with global, federal and provincial direction will guide the updated Climate Plan.
- The updated Climate Plan will utilize a “systems thinking approach” with the core Saanich principles embedded.
- Three phases of stakeholder engagement events are planned.
- Once Council endorses the Climate Plan, Saanich will actively seek grants to help fund the Climate Plan.
- Public by-in to the Climate Action Plan will be critical for the success of emission reductions.
- Adaptation will be a fundamental part of the Climate Action Plan.
- Value of natural capital needs to be considered.
- Do the models and predictions take into consideration improved efficiencies and new energy sources?
- Public education of the impact of climate changes in terms of costs and the types of changes Saanich can expect.

CANADA 150 UPDATE

The Manager of Environmental Services updated the Committee with the naturescape garden activity that Saanich hosted at Canada 150 celebrations. A lot of interest was expressed by the public in naturescaping and possibly taking the activity into the local schools.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2017.

Councillor Wergeland, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary