



Citizen Advisory Committee

GRCAC Update for Council, January 17, 2017

Mayor and Council

Looking forward to the New Year, the Governance Review Citizen Advisory Committee (GRCAC) wishes to summarize what we have accomplished to date and what we expect to accomplish in 2017.

Our mandate comes from the election on November 14th, 2014 in which **88.5%** of the voters in Saanich approved the question.

“Do you support Council initiating a community-based review of the governance structure and policies within Saanich and our partnerships within the Region ? ”

In the latter part of 2016 we conducted three exploratory sessions which provided valuable early input for our review. We intend to conduct more of these sessions, **with the number to be determined once our ongoing budget issues have been resolved.**

In our proposed strategy the following public engagement sessions have been scheduled:

- February 9th, 2017. Official launch for the Public Engagement (with press invited). This will be held at 11 am in the Kirby room at the Saanich Police Station.
- Wednesday April 12th Open public workshop at Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse from 7 to 9 pm. Format will be multiple groups at separate tables with the consultants from Sirius Strategic Solutions and committee members acting as facilitators.
- Saturday, April 22nd repeat workshops as above at Gordon Head Recreation Centre from 1 pm to 3pm. (We purposely scheduled both an evening and daytime session time for these workshops to accommodate as many citizens as possible)
- Saturday, May 6th Town Hall session to be held from 1pm to 3pm. Site for this session still to be confirmed but we are hoping for the Garth Homer Centre. The expectation is for a large attendance from the Saanich community who will be invited to provide their input.
- Wednesday, May 17th a final Town Hall Session to be held on Wednesday, May 17th from 7 pm to 9pm at Commonwealth Place gymnasium

The Saanich website, social media, and ads will be placed in the Saanich News will be used to reach the broader public. We have also been in close contact with the Saanich Community Association Network in asking for the full involvement of their members in publicizing these events.

In addition, we will be circulating a full public engagement survey asking Saanich residents what issues concerned them when they voted for this governance review back in 2014, and have new issues regarding governance come up in the meantime. Data obtained from this survey will provide important information for the final conclusions of our overall review.

The public engagement phase will conclude at or about the end of May. The information collected will be assessed by the committee over the summer. A draft report will then be issued with a final report to council completed in October of this year. After this is completed it is anticipated that our advisory committee will be disbanded as our work will have been completed.

Full meetings of our committee are planned for the last Wednesday of each month (Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29, Apr 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug 30, Sept 27). These meetings are conducted under the protocols used for current Saanich Advisory Committees. Schedules, agendas, and minutes are published on the Saanich website. Speakers and guest submitters are scheduled and the public are invited to attend as observers. Meetings are held in the Kirby Room, Saanich Police Station 760 Vernon Avenue.

As stated in the opening our committee members are committed to making this governance review a success and providing positive input for our municipality.

John Schmuck
Chair, Saanich Governance Review Citizens Advisory Committee