

AGENDA
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room # 2
Wednesday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m.

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1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - October 23, 2019
2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
3. **COMMUNITY SERVICES MULTICULTURAL SERVICES UPDATE**
 - Presentation by Community Services Staff
4. **SCAN REPORT**
 - Report from SCAN representative

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5. **DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Recreation
6. **APPRECIATION CONVERSATION AND SOCIAL**

* Adjournment *
Next Meeting: November 27, 2019

Please advise Jeff Keays the committee secretary at jeff.keays@saanich.ca
or 250-475-1775 local 3430 if you are unable to attend.

Go Green!
Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting.

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
October 23, 2019, 6:01 p.m.

Present: Chair: (A) Nadia Rajan

Members: Claire Attwell, Ryan Clayton, Ryan Henderson and, Jean Hodgson (SCAN).

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation, Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Pierre Iachetti, Agriculture and Food Security Planner (6:11p.m.); and, Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Chambers; Merie Beauchamp; Zhongwen He; Jasminra Jawanda; Ryan Painter (SD 61); and, Teri VanWell (SD 63)

Guests: None

The Clerk shared the Chair's regrets, and well wishes for a good meeting, before calling the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

The Clerk then called upon committee to nominate a member to serve as (A) Chair for the duration of the meeting.

MOTION

MOVED by R. Clayton and Seconded by C. Atwell: That member N. Rajan act as Chair for the October 27, 2019 Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee."

CARRIED

MOVED by R. Clayton and Seconded by J. Hodgson: "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held June 26, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

SAANICH AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PLAN UPDATE

The Manager of Community Planning introduced the District's new Agriculture and Food Security Planner, Pierre Iachetti who will be responsible for the implementation of the plan over the next two years.

The Manager of Community Planning then provided the committee with a high-level overview of their memo titled, Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan Update, dated September 23, 2019. The following was highlighted:

- Farming is a key issue for the District.
- Saanich developed this plan in order to support and protect agriculture and farming.

- The development of the plan was a comprehensive process, which included broad public and focused stakeholder engagement.
- A task force comprised of stakeholders, non-profits, academics, farmers and scientists was struck to support the plans development.
- The District retained Upland Agriculture Planning Consultants to draft the plan.
- The plan was adopted by Council in September 2018, and included the hiring of an Agriculture and Food Security Planner for two years.
- The plan has a 10 – 15 year horizon.
- Its vision statement reads: In Saanich, food security starts in our backyard.
- The plan is comprised of seven themes, including:
 1. Provide a foundation to take action on agriculture and food security.
 2. Connect gaps in the local food system to improve food self-sufficiency.
 3. Strengthen awareness of the local food system.
 4. Improve the interconnection between food production and the environment.
 5. Manage land use to protect and support farmland.
 6. Support multi-generational farmers and emerging farmers.
 7. Expand opportunities for urban agriculture.
- The strategy's implementation will focus on those actions within the scope of the municipality.
- Collaboration with community partners is vital.
- Priority Actions will be undertaken in 3 phases.
- Phase 1 has fifteen identified priority actions (Priority 1 Actions table is held on file)
- These actions are in varying states of completeness.
- Healthy Saanich will play a supporting role in the implementation of the plan, with a focus on advice on food security or issues specific to the Saanich context.
- Accordingly, the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee will:
 - Receive comprehensive bi-annual updates on the implementation process.
 - Receive additional periodic updates.
 - Provide advice on specific items relative to the committee's expertise.
 - Participate in sub-committees, if needed.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- Action 4.3 will aim to develop educational resources to assist residents in the protection of urban crops from damage by wildlife.
- Multi-generational farming will be supported through a number of initiatives and actions, including:
 - Affordable access to farmland
 - Succession planning
 - Farm worker housing
 - Supporting the "farm economy"
 - Innovation with regard to technology and practices.
- The long-term sustainability of the land is paramount. Accordingly, the District maintains a robust Environmental Services Department and a number of supporting policies and initiatives.
- The scale of farming being considered under the plan is not industrial, and as such supports biodiversity.
- There is an inherent interconnectedness between food security and the environment that influences a significant amount of the District's work.

- The Local Area Plan update process will consider localized farming uses, in the context of walkability, community amenities and shared uses such as designated areas for community gardens.
- The budget allocation is sufficient, as early action items are mostly policy related, and don't require significant operating and/or capital funding.
- Future initiatives and actions could leverage grants and other sources of funding.
- In the event additional funding is required for a future initiative the department would come back to committee and council seeking support for additional funding.
- Non-farm use on ALR lands requires the approval of the Agricultural Land Commission.
- Saanich Council has a public hearing process in place.
- Council has indicated that they would like more community engagement with development community.
- The District is participating in the CRD's Farmland Trust which is undertaking a review of municipal lands that could potentially be used for agricultural purposes.

UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR PLAN

The Manager of Community Planning shared highlights of the recently released Draft Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan. The following was noted:

- The draft plan is now available for public feedback.
- Significant changes in land-use are being proposed for the subject area.
- Historically the plan area developed in a manner that concentrated industrial and commercial uses in the core, while residential developed around the periphery.
- The draft plan would see residential uses expanding into this predominantly commercial/light industrial area.
- The overarching goal of the plan is to transform the UDC area into a liveable, walkable community.
- A rapid transit hub is being considered for the lands in the vicinity of the switch bridge.
- It is evident from the overhead maps that the area is lacking in park space, accordingly the development of three parks is planned:
 - TH
 - Oak St.
 - Rudd Park (expansion)
- Staff will continue to explore and consider small parcels of land that could accommodate small pocket parks.
- Staff intend to bring a revised plan back to Council in 2020.
- As a baseline, there are currently 10,000 employees and only 4,000 residents within the subject area.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Mayfair lanes has not been considered for parkland; however, all similarly sized large parcels of land will be required to include an amenity such as parks.

SCAN REPORT

Member J. Hodgson provided the committee with the monthly SCAN Report. The following was noted:

- Council has a desire to the various associations to operate in a more formal and organized manner.
- Not all associations agree, as many wish to maintain their loose and more informal associations.

Committee discussion ensued, the following is noted:

- It is hard to maintain administration of community groups, as they are predominantly volunteers.
- Larger associations, with existing and strong governance capacities do not wished to be shoe-horned into a formal body.
- There have been 3 or 4 capacity building workshops for SCAN member associations.
- Volunteer recruitment is a struggle, accordingly it is growing increasingly more difficult to ensure that these groups remain relevant and representative of the communities they represent.
- European models of community organization often utilize a centralized administration whose function it is to help develop and maintain organizational capacity and effectiveness.
- The District is responsive, and reasonable with regard to the day-to-day operations of the various community associations. Additional oversight is not necessarily warranted, or desired, by the various associations.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the June Recreation Division Update report dated, October 22, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan 22, 2019.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 11/19/2019

Subject: November 2019 Monthly Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committees with an overview of the previous month's Recreation Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Campus

The Great Horned Owl Rescue – On October 30th Golf Course and Urban Forestry staff rescued a Great Horned Owl stuck in the boundary nets on hole #13. The owl which had a leg tangled in the nets, and was hanging upside down and was being harassed by crows. A crew was immediately dispatched with an aerial lift truck to the site. Parks staff were able to rescue the owl from the net, but it was determined that the bird had an injured leg. Golf Course staff arranged for the bird to be taken to Wild Arc to hopefully make a full recovery.



Gordon Head Recreation Centre

In October, one of two new aquatic wheelchairs was stolen from the facility. After much sleuthing on video surveillance and working with Saanich Police, the stolen wheelchair was located in a Victoria pawn shop and the suspect arrested. We are happy to report the wheelchair was returned without damage and is now back in circulation for our patrons. It underlies the importance staff take in ensuring an accessible building and services.

On November 6th, we participated in a drill with Saanich Emergency Program (SEP) to set up an Emergency Reception Centre for a mock apartment fire/evacuation. The SEP volunteer team was well trained and worked cooperatively with GHRC staff to have an efficient set up, access the emergency kiosk, and understand the mechanics of a reception centre, in the event of a community emergency.

In the spring Cedar Hill (CH) and Gordon Head Recreation Centres submitted a grant application to the New Horizons for Seniors Program: Stride – Active Living for Seniors Women. CH started the dryland portion with women participating in a one hour class, once per week, from October to December. We are now arranging the waterfit portion of the program for January 2020 running until the first week of February. The planning process has been making sure there is a suitable class and a space for social time after and engaging with others each recreation centre.

Registration for Child and Youth programs continues to grow as we enter the second set of classes. In particular Gymnastics, Dance programs, and Martial Arts have seen an increase of 8% in registrants from this same time 2018. Cooking programs continue to fill up for Little Chefs, Cooking for Fun and Youth Life Skills. Holiday Chocolate Making and Holiday Baking is so popular that two sessions were added.

Gordon Head received two grants from BCRPA for January after school programming. We received the opportunity to offer a free 8 week session of Jazz and Hip Hop dance for elementary school children, as well as an 8 week session of “Kindness Club” for middle school children.

Gordon Head supported families by offering a School Closure camp for the first day of the SD63 Support Staff strike on Monday, October 28th. Summer staff came back to work for the day and fifteen children registered in total.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

Our lobby has turned into a pop-up library, where the public can pick up books, place holds and make drop-offs. The Pearkes team worked with the Library staff to bring this service to the community. Renovations are continuing in the library and Saanich Neighbourhood Place areas; all are expected to be complete by end of the year.

We are hoping to celebrate Christmas a little early, as we expect the delivery of a new electric ice resurfacers (Zamboni) due to arrive Mid-December. We worked with the Saanich Sustainability team to ensure our purchase assists with moving towards our emissions targets.

G.R. Pearkes is hosting our 2nd annual Ice Festival! The Green Arena will be transformed into a winter wonderland with a giant snow globe, trees, lights and snow. It is truly a magical way to spend time this holiday season. December 20 - 26, 2019, families can join one of our many public skates in the wonderland, or rent it for a private friends and family skate. We will also have a variety of Skate Camps during the holiday break that will also have a chance to enjoy the experience.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

October 17th was Shake Out Day and our Health and Safety Committee did a great job of presenting and providing information and tips to both public and the staff.

Saanich Recreation's new volunteer ambassador program is gaining some community awareness. This program is an initiative from the Older Adult Strategy to assist residents who are not familiar with the centre or the programs and services that are offered through the Department. SCP has been selected to pilot this project and we are currently working on training and orientation.

A recent presentation and facility tour was given to 2 separate groups of Camosun College students spiking some career interest.

Several participants from the Garth Homer Society have started up this month with weekly work experience – putting some smiles on the faces of the maintenance staff.

Staff jumped into action with the recent Saanich school closure by quickly securing staff and space to provide Closure Camps to the community. These programs literally sold out in hours.

The recent market analysis recommendations called to increase programing and access for older adults. At SCP our programmers and marketing have focused on this, and we have seen a noticeable increase in older adults in our dryland and aquatics drop in programs. New registered programs were also introduced and very well attended, such as: Paint Night, Ukulele, and Walking in Europe.

Prepared by: 
Kelli-Ann Armstrong Senior Manager, Recreation

Approved by: 
Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation