

AGENDA
For the Special Meeting of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee
To be held in Council Chambers
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 - 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 measures, Saanich is unable to accommodate the public for any Council, Committee of the Whole, Advisory, Board or Foundation meetings while maintaining the limits on large gatherings due to the Public Health Order.

As per the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, *Emergency Program Act*, Ministerial Order No. M192, public attendance at the meeting is not required if it cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the *Public Health Act*.

To register to hear this meeting by telephone, please email council@saanich.ca or telephone 250-475-5501. You are asked to provide your name and an email address where instructions can be sent to you, along with the name and date of the advisory committee meeting you wish to hear. The registration deadline is 12:00 p.m. noon on the day of the meeting.

6:00 p.m. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is appropriate that we begin by acknowledging that our municipality lies within the traditional territories of the Lkwungen (Lay-kwung-gen) peoples known today as Songhees and **SXIMELEL** (Esquimalt) Nations and the **WSÁNEĆ** (weh-saanich) peoples known today as **WJOLELP** (Tsartlip), **BOKEĆEN** (Pauquachin), **S7ÁUTW** (Tsawout), **WSIKEM** (Tseycum) and **MÁLEXEL** (Malahat) Nations.

- 6:00 p.m. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachments)
- February 5, 2020
 - March 4, 2020
 - September 2, 2020

- 6:05 p.m. CHAIR'S REMARKS**
- Spray of glyphosate on forests and impact on human and health of wildlife
 - Foam as potential healthy replacement for Round Up
<https://www.weedingtech.com/applications/weed-control/>

- 6:15 p.m. SENIOR MANAGER, RECREATION**
- Introduction of Tiana Solares, Senior Manager, Recreation

- 6:20 p.m. UPDATE - COUNCIL DIRECTION ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**
- C. Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services

- 6:30 p.m. PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE CREATION OF A TEMPORARY EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT TO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**
- J. Jones, Community Programmer II – Equity, Diversity and Parks (Community Services)

- 6:45 p.m. DIVISION REPORT – COMMUNITY SERVICES**
- C. Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services

7:00 p.m. 5G NETWORK/CELL TOWERS
▪ Health impacts (Al McLeod)

7:30 p.m. POLLINATORS
▪ Claudia Copley

* Adjournment *
Next Meeting: November 4, 2020

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
February 5, 2020, 6:03 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Chambers

Members: Claire Attwell, Carren Dujela, Ryan Henderson, Jasindra Jawanda, and Nadia Rajan.

Staff: Cristina Caravacas, Senior Manager, Community Services; and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff; Teri VanWell (SD 63)

Guests: Silvia Mangué Alene, President, Kulea Love Community Support Services and Kulea Culture Society; Paul Schachter, Treasurer, Kulea Culture Society; Katie Underwood, Owner, Elemental Farms

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOVED by J. Jawandra and Seconded by C. Atwell: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held November 27, 2019 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2020, before providing an update on Council business. The following was noted:

- Recently appointed as the Council liaison to the Victoria Family Court Committee.
- Feels privileged to be representing Saanich in restorative justice efforts.
- Council endorsed a recommendation to seek an increase Active Transportation Plan spending by \$2,000,000.00 as part of the 2020 Financial Plan.
- Submitted two notices of motions to Council:
 - Letter of support for the Wet’suwet’en
 - Letter of support for Free Contraception
- Considering an additional motion with regard to the practice of conversion therapy.

The Chair then convened a round table of introductions.

KULEA LOVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES & KULEA CULTURE SOCIETY

The Chair introduced, Silvia Mangué Alene, President of Kulea Love Community Services, who provided the committee with an overview of the service. The following was noted:

Kulea Love Community Support Services

- Kulea is a Swahili word that means “caring from the heart” and encompasses the services philosophy of care.

- Kulea Love Community Support Services (KLCSS) is a social enterprise that was created to enhance community living by providing help with everyday life activities.
- KLCSS employs immigrant women in an effort to help overcome employment barriers (education/accreditation, language, adapting to new customs etc.) and achieve the financial independence they need to support their families.
- KLCSS provides non-medical support for anyone in Greater Victoria who needs it. Support is provided by vetted and bonded staff who provide flexible, customer-centered services to help people with everyday activities.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- KLCSS currently employs three women.
- Additional employees will be hired as the service expands their client base.
- The service has not partnered with any other organizations at this point.
- The service helps new immigrants build their cultural capacity for indigenous persons with whom they often share a historic legacy of colonialism.

Kulea Culture Society

The presentation was turned over to Paul Schachter, Treasurer, Kulea Culture Society (the society) who provided committee with an overview of the society and their initiatives. The following was noted:

- The purpose of the society is to raise awareness about, and reduce instances of ethno-racial prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping by encouraging respect for diversity, inclusion and equity.
- The society is a registered non-profit society.
- The society utilizes education, information, consultations, programs, conferences, cross-cultural exchanges and research to help achieve their goals.
- Kulea Culture Society has a vision of fostering a community where diversity is embraced and appreciated in a way that every single human is valued and
- Diversity is not a trend, it is a way of living and a culture that needs to be learned.
- Coordinating a two-day *Colourful Business* conference that will focus on entrepreneurs from racialized and indigenous communities.
- The topics for workshops and lectures will be chosen by the participants.
- The conference will feature 50 racialized entrepreneurs.
- The majority of the conference will be closed to the general public; however, there will be a public showcase where the public will have an opportunity to interact and meet with entrepreneurs.

Committee discussion ensued:

- The event will be held at the Victoria Conference Center on September 26, 2020.
- The intent of the public showcase is to help break down barriers, biases and prejudices.
- The event will utilize a social media campaign.
- Currently seeking grants and contributions (monetary and in-kind) to help these racialized entrepreneurs overcome barriers to their participation.
- The event meets the criteria of the Victoria Foundation. The society will submit an application as soon as the funding window opens.
- City of Victoria is providing \$5000 in in-kind services.
- Charitable receipts will be provided.
- Healthy Saanich would appreciate an update on the event as it progresses. The Clerk will follow up prior to the summer break.

CHEF'S CHALLENGE

The Chair introduced Katie Underwood, Owner of Elemental Farms, who provided the committee with an update on 2020 Chef's Challenge event. The following was noted:

- Elemental Farms is located at Haliburton Farm.
- Haliburton Community Organic Farm is a publicly-owned farm within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- The farm was saved from development by a group of concerned citizens and the District of Saanich, who purchased the land.
- The farm has been developed as a community and educational certified organic farm.
- The farm provides a model for improving the long term economic viability of farming through cooperative and community-based organic farming.
- The farm will allow farmers entering the profession the opportunity to make a living in agriculture while learning and building skills and demonstrates the importance of financial and community support for farmers.
- Haliburton Farm is most profitable farming co-op in BC.
- Planning on resurrecting the Chef's Challenge events that were organized by, and held at Councillor Chamber's Madrona Farm.
- The event will be held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, with a tentative date of September 27, 2020.
- The event will promote collaboration between wholesalers, farmers and participating chefs.
- The event will include indigenous chefs.
- This will be an alcohol free event.
- An application has been submitted to Saanich for a Community Building Grant: Special Event and will be notified in May if they have been approved.
- Outreach to community partners is ongoing.
- Would be happy to come back in the spring with a status update.

MOTION

MOVED by C. Dujela and seconded by N. Rajan that: "The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee support the Haliburton Farms, Chef's Challenge event to be held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific."

COMOX VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

The Clerk circulated the Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan Update, dated September 23, 2019 (previously distributed) and the Comox Valley Food Policy Council.

The Clerk advised that the

DIVISION UPDATE – COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Senior Manager, Community Services provided an overview of the community services report dated February 5, 2019.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROCEDURES & DATES

The Clerk circulated the District of Saanich 2020 Advisory Committee Member Information Package, dated January 14, 2020; The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee 2019 Member’s Reference Guide; and the revised Committee Terms of Reference, dated January 28, 2020.

The Clerk provided a high-level overview of the documents, and advised that Legislative Services will be hosting a more formal orientation workshop at the end of February.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2020.

DRAFT

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
March 4, 2020 at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Chair: Jasindra Jawanda

Members: Silvia Mangué Alene, Claire Attwell, Rosie Croft, Carren Dujela, Ryan Henderson, Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Holli Rockerbie and Abigail Toledo

Staff: Cristina Caravacas, Senior Manager, Community Services; Pierre Iachetti, Agriculture and Food Security Planner; and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Chambers and Nadia Rajan

Guests: Paul Schachter, Treasurer, Kuleau Culture Society and Penny Stevens, SCAN Representative

MOTION

MOVED by T. Phelps Bondaroff and Seconded by C. Attwell: "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held February 5, 2020 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

UPDATE: FOOD STANDS/FARM GATES SALES

The Agriculture and Food Security Planner presented on Food Stands and Farm Gates sales and advised that the items are included in the Agriculture Food Security Plan as a priority. At the June 17, 2019 Council meeting, staff were directed to report back on options and implications on considering bylaw changes that would permit local produce and processed food stands to operate in Saanich on private property and immediately adjacent to boulevards, both inside and outside of the Urban Containment Boundary. Discussion took place with respect to food safety. The Committee Clerk will circulate additional resources on food production and guidelines for sale of food at temporary food stands.

DIVISION REPORT – COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Senior Manager, Community Services advised that:

- The Community Arts program now falls under Community Services.
- Diversity, equity and inclusion are a priority for Council.
- Cultural activities such as Lunar New Year and Diwali celebrations have taken place in Saanich.
- As the committee expressed interest in Child and Youth Services, it may be appropriate to invite program staff to present to the committee.

PENINSULA REGIONAL CHILDCARE STUDY

The Senior Manager, Community Services advised:

- The Mayor has stated that there is a gap in childcare funding.
- The Province is compensating municipalities to undertake a study and collect data on childcare needs.
- The data will be used to inform future program funding.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2020.

DRAFT

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
September 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: **In Person:**
Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), Silvia Mangué Alene, Clare Attwell
and Carren Dujela, Jasmindra Jawanda, T. Phelps Bondaroff

Via Teleconference:
Rosie Croft, Nadia Rajan, and Abigail Toledo

Staff Present: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Cameron Scott,
Manager of Community Planning, Pierre Iachetti, Agriculture and Food
Security Planner; Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk and Megan
MacDonald, Committee Clerk Assistant

Regrets: Ryan Henderson, Holli Rockerbie and Terri Van Well (School District 63)

CHAIRS REMARKS: FOOD STANDS/FARM GATES SALES

The Chair commented on the value of food security and the legacy of land use in Saanich. Allowing farm stands within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) is being considered by Saanich Council, and will be proceeding to a Public Hearing on September 15, 2020. Saanich is well poised to be food secure, and the income provided by the stands can help residents overcome the pandemic.

***** T. Phelps-Bondaroff entered the meeting at 6:05 p.m. *****

DIVISION REPORT – COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Senior Manager, Community Services provided an overview of the community services reports dated March 3, 2020 and September 2, 2020.

In response to questions from the Chair and committee members, the following was noted:

- Funding for further actions related to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion projects are underway.
- A report from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will be on the Council Meeting Agenda of September 14, 2020.
- As the committee expressed interest in Child and Youth Services, it may be appropriate to invite program staff to present to the committee.

MOVED by C. Atwell and seconded by J. Jawara “That the reports of the Senior Manager of Community Services dated March 3, 2020 and September 2, 2020 be received for information.”

CARRIED

UPDATE – FOODSTANDS/FARM GATE SALES

The Manager of Community Planning provided an update on the progress of Farm Stands within the UCB and the following was highlighted:

- Temporary measures have been enacted to allow roadside farm stands, including non-enforcement direction for current farm stands that are in place.
- Bylaw amendments to allow Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) for farm stands are scheduled for Public Hearing on September 15, 2020. If bylaw amendments are approved, farm stand owners would be expected to apply for a TUP to operate a stand.
- Permanent regulatory changes are being explored to permit farm stands in Urban Areas.
- A report regarding options on permanent changes to the Zoning Bylaw is being finalized. Feedback from the Healthy Saanich Committee was taken into consideration when preparing the report.

In response to comments from the committee, the following was noted:

- The upcoming report on potential bylaw amendments will include options on cost components associated with TUPs and/or licences.
- There is interest in having more information available to members of the community on where to find these farm stands, such as a map or app.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE – ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The committee made the following comments:

- It is important to include all members of the community when drafting an inclusivity statement.
- It is important to have the necessary resources to educate others on diversity and sustainability.
- Backyard farming has the potential to increase community resilience and sustainability in a healthy way.
- Providing free menstrual products at Saanich facilities and endorsing a motion for free contraception in British Columbia could be considered at a future meeting.
- Noise bylaws and vehicular noise bylaws could be reviewed; there are reports that link noise pollution to negative health effects.
- Plastic pollution is a detriment to health and banning single use plastics should be explored.
- The non-profit sector has been effected by the current pandemic. A recent report by the Victoria Foundation highlighted some of the challenges faced by non-profit organizations. There is interest in bringing attention to this matter and investigating if steps can be taken to support the front-line work of non-profit organizations.

MOVED by C. Atwell and Seconded by S. Mangue “That it be recommended that the committee invite Social Planning Enterprising (SPRE) to a future committee meeting.”

CARRIED

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Presentation from 5G Network representatives.
- Response to council meeting findings regarding the report on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Presentation from SPRE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 6-8 p.m.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT

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Foamstream effectively controls unwanted vegetation by using the heat in hot water, insulated by a biodegradable foam blanket. The foam stops the heat escaping to the atmosphere, keeping the heat on the plant for longer, ensuring a more effective kill. Sterilisation of surrounding seeds and spores also helps to reduce regrowth. Read more about this [here](#).

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Foamstream can be used to control weeds on the following surfaces

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Perennial: White Clover, Daisy, Dandelion, Creeping Buttercup, Crane's Bill, Ribwort and Greater Plantain, Ragwort, Couch Grass, Bindweed, Ground Elder, Cleavers, Nettles, Docks, Mare's Tail.

Annual: Meadow Grass, Chickweed, Fat Hen, Charlock, Groundsel, Hairy Bittercress, Prickly Milk/Sow Thistle, Oxalis, Speedwell

Invasive Species: Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Pennywort, New Zealand Pygmy Weed.

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1. Most cost-effective herbicide-free alternative
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PART NO: 400182

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PART NO: 300191

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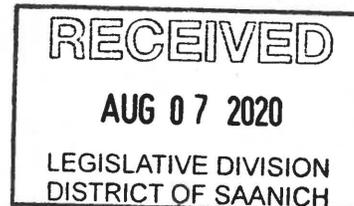
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1910-40 Diversity + Multicultural
Strategic Plan;
xref 1910-04 Notice of Motion



The Corporation of the District of Saanich



Report

To: Mayor and Council
From: Suzanne Samborski- Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Date: 8/6/2020
Subject: Report on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Notice of Motion

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to create an equity and inclusion statement following a two-phase approach as described below, and that Council review and fund the previous request to create a "Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan" with an expanded scope to include creation of new, corresponding council policy on diversity and racism (see the second Notice of Motion-Option #1).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information and recommendations that respond to the Mayor's July 5th, 2020 Notice of Motion regarding: 1) the creation of an equity and inclusion statement, 2) recommendations for Council policy as it pertains to diversity and racism; and 3) drafting letters from Council to the Prime Minister of Canada and appropriate Federal Ministers, the Premier of British Columbia and appropriate Provincial Ministers.

DISCUSSION

1) Notice of Motion: *That Council request staff to work with members of our black community, Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Society (VIRCS), the Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria (ICA) and the Greater Victoria Police Diversity Action Committee (GVPDAC) to develop an inclusivity statement that would be read at each Council, Committee of the Whole and Public Hearing meetings. This would follow our First Nations territorial acknowledgement. The statement would be read separately. It would state how Saanich values, embraces and encourages all diversity, opposes racism in all its forms and supports the principles from our black community that they are seen, they are heard and that we are with them.*

Recommended Action: That Council follow a two-phase approach to; 1) adopt and immediately implement a temporary inclusion statement provided by staff and; 2) also direct staff to undertake a community-based process to write an inclusion statement during the pursuit of a "Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan".

Background: Staff are excited to begin work on an Equity and Inclusion statement for the District of Saanich that can be read at public meetings. The tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery and countless others have been forceful reminders of the fact that Black communities continue to be victims of violence and structural inequality. As local leaders, it is important that we stand in solidarity with all "BIPOC" (Black, Indigenous and People

of Colour) and LGBTQ2+ community members to stop the cycle of violence and systemic oppression.

Phase 1: With regard for the fact that authentic community engagement takes time, staff recommends that Saanich adopt a temporary equity and inclusion statement for immediate implementation. This temporary statement would be written by staff based on best practice examples from similarly situated municipalities.

Phase 2: In order to develop an inclusion and equity statement that truly embodies the voice of BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ residents, it is crucial for staff to work in a community-based process. This work would be included in, and dependent upon the pursuit of a “Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan” as described below in response to the second Notice of Motion.

2) Notice of Motion: *That Council request staff to report back on options for creation of a Council Policy on diversity and racism in the Q4 of 2020, that this report receives input from members of our black community, VIRCS, ICA, and GVPDAC, and includes recommendations as needed on opportunities for cultural events, community workshops and cultural training.*

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that Council follow Option #1 to review and fund the previous request to create a “Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan”, and also expand the original scope to include creation of new, corresponding council policy on diversity and racism.

Option #1: Implement a consultant-led process to produce a strategic plan for diversity and multicultural equity specific to the District of Saanich. As proposed to Council in November 2019, this trajectory would rely on broad spectrum research and opportunities for engagement with marginalized community members. The original proposal identified a timeline of 18 months, with a cost not to exceed \$45,000. Given the additional scope of work indicated by this Notice of Motion, we recommend increasing the cost to \$55,000 to include the creation of new corresponding council policy. *(See also “Council Report- Request for Council Direction on Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan” November 2019.)*

This option fulfills the need for recommendations on cultural events, community workshops and cultural trainings. While the events and workshops would be more community focused- cultural trainings are internal and would have an inter-departmental focus. Topics could be tailored to staff (union and management), as well as to Council and advisory committees.

Option #2: Embark on an internal staff project to research comparable communities and best practices to create draft policy for Council consideration. This method would include a literature review of existing Saanich policies that might relate to equity and inclusion for updating and comparison. This option would result in a report to Council that makes suggestions about internal operation for the District, but would not fulfill the need for recommendations on cultural events, community workshops and cultural trainings.

Option #2 follows the “side-of-desk” project implementation method. As such, the pace at which this option could be completed is entirely dependent upon other pressures placed on the Parks, Recreation and Community Services department. Fluctuations of staff due to vacations, sick leave, resignations, etc. would slow progress; as would external forces like summer wildfires, additional project requests, or a fall COVID19 transmission spike.

Option #3: Status quo. Continue to pursue ad hoc opportunities that respond to the need for engagement with marginalized community members, but that do not add additional expenses to

the department or expand labour costs. This is the current state of our work in diversity, equity and inclusion.

3) Notice of Motion: *That Council send letters to the Prime Minister of Canada, appropriate Federal Ministers, the Premier of British Columbia and appropriate Provincial Ministers, asking them to address work that is underway to address the elements of institutional racism across Canada given the systemic economic disadvantage imposed on all new arrivals to Canada, but especially on racialized groups, including the black members of our community, due to the lack of recognition by Federal and Provincial bodies of educational and professional qualifications from other countries or provinces. That VIRCS, ICA, GVPDAC, our black community be informed of this action. That a motion to this effect be forwarded to the 2020 annual conference of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), with anticipation it may be approved to proceed to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.*

Recommended Action: Please note that Council has given direction to Legislative Services to draft the letters described above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATONS

The second Notice of Motion-Option #1 is the only recommended action that explicitly requires additional funding (\$55,000) in order to be implemented. Based on the direction given by Council in response to the options presented in this report, staff will submit resource requests for further consideration during the Council budget process.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Community Services Division adheres strongly to the goals of the 2019-2023 Saanich Council Strategic Plan as they were originally drafted prior to the COVID19 pandemic. We recommend that Council undertake a discussion during the September Strategic Planning session that refines their vision for equity and diversity in Saanich.

CONCLUSIONS

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion services are a critical part of the basic service package a local government provides to its residents. There is no greater time to prioritize this work, than when the community is experiencing stress and prejudice. The COVID19 pandemic has only increased the pressure on vulnerable and marginalized people in our community. Due to the virus's origins in China, we hear reports of increasing racialized violence against Asian Canadians. Dr. Bonnie Henry has also spoken clearly on the heavy toll a health crisis of this nature takes on our low-income or isolated communities. Taking action in response to the Notices of Motion made by Mayor Haynes is a solid step toward resolving these issues.

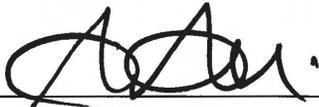
Prepared by



Cristina Caravaca

Senior Manager of Community Services

Approved by



Suzanne Samborski

Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services



Paul Thorkelsson

Chief Administrative Officer

POST TO	Gen	POSTED	AUG 17 2020
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FOR			
ACKNOWLEDGED	A/E ✓		

Megan MacDonald

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Council; Mayor; Susan Brice; Judy Brownoff; Colin Plant; Rebecca Mersereau; Nathalie Chambers; Karen Harper; Zac De Vries; Ned Taylor
Cc: Paul Thorkelsson; Suzanne Samborski
Subject: (External Email) Item 6 on the agenda (Aug. 17, 2020) Report on Equity Diversity and Inclusion

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Dear Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

I am referring to the report dated 8/6/2020 from Ms. Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

With due respect, I do not concur with the proposed recommendation. Based on my long term experience as a community member, I do not see that Saanich has a discrimination problem; everyone is treated equal with respect and as valuable citizens. I strongly support **Option #3 – Status quo. Saanich does not need an elaborate “Diversity and Multicultural Strategic Plan”.**

That being said, it may be appropriate for Saanich to review its Recruitment Policy and Process. Saanich can encourage and recruit people with Indigenous, Black and diverse backgrounds. Such recruitment would be meaningful, and also visible, if young people of different race and culture are hired in places such as Rec. Centers, Summer camps, and places where they are interacting with the public.

In my view, the recommended elaborate process and funding might look good politically, but they are not necessary. Thank you.

Best regards, Haji Charania

RECEIVED

By M. MacDonald, Legislative Serv., District of Saanich at 8:53 am, Aug 17, 2020



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services

Date: October 7th, 2020

Subject: Community Services Division Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of Community Services Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Child and Youth Services: This summer, Child and Youth Services was able to offer the Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program (SNPP) in eight different park locations. This program ran from June 29 – September 4, and provided children and youth an opportunity to play, explore, and learn in a park setting. The SNPP programs had 1096 weekly registrations, running at 91% full for the summer. Although changes in operations due to COVID-19 included: new cleaning protocols, new sign in and sign out procedures, no indoor sites, lower camper to staff ratios, and no out trips involving transportation, the quality of the program was not greatly affected and SNPP was able to provide campers with a meaningful summer experience.

Families gave the program excellent feedback, including:

- “the leaders were great, and our kids had a lot of fun. It was different from previous years, but still was a fantastic camp”
- “the leaders were engaged with the children and learned about their interests to make them want to return each day – even in the rain!” and;
- “staff were very nice and made each day fun. My daughter was nervous to go at first, but after her first day she was excited to go back!”

This summer, Child and Youth Services was not able to provide internship or leadership opportunities for youth, due to restricting the size and number of people on site during camps. This is a program that we would love to re-introduce in future summers, when it is safe to do so.

As well as SNPP, this staff ran Breakout Adventures summer program for older youth, aged 10-14. This program ran for four weeks, and was filled at 100% capacity. Youth were able to explore creeks, get creative, and play sports in a safe environment.

This fall, Child and Youth Services is offering programs in the areas of all four District of Saanich Recreation Centres. The Upside at Saanich Commonwealth Place and the Backdoor at Gordon Head

Recreation Centre are opening to youth with reduced capacity and new registered formats. At Cedar Hill Recreation, a youth night will be running on Fridays. At Pearkes Recreation Centre, the Flipside is not currently operational due to COVID-19; however, a portfolio of programs is being offered in alternative spaces throughout the Tillicum.

Accessibility and Inclusion: Summer Camps for school age kids were in high demand once again. In August alone, Inclusion Leaders worked over a thousand hours providing 1-on-1 support to children. Funding for seasonal Inclusion staff was provided through a partnership with Supported Child Development (SCD). This programming has been greatly appreciated by families, as this testimonial illustrates:

“[STAFF] has been awesome with [CHILD] I don’t have words to thank her for all her hard work and accommodating late drop offs and early pickups. I would like to thank you as well for all your patience with me and the many phone calls and messages. [CHILD] has had so much fun and exposure to summer camp being it was his very first time attending. I look forward to working with you in the fall.”

Thank you, Thank you and Thank you,
[PARENT]

Diversity and Equity: BC Healthy Communities has awarded the Division a Plan H – Community Connectedness Grant for \$5,000 to implement the “This is Your Community” project. The goal of this project is to strengthen our community by bringing socially isolated members of local ethno-cultural communities together to strengthen connection to community; to enhance belonging for immigrant and Indigenous community members who are feeling isolated and disconnected; and connect them to local resources and service providers. We are working with community leaders, Island Health and service agencies to bring this project to fruition.

Financial Assistance: Over the past 6 months, despite our four recreation centres being closed from April through June, our internal grant program KidsFUNd was able to spring back to life and offer support to 36 children and teens to help them participate in Saanich recreation activities. The Division was also awarded a BCRPA grant for \$5,700 to support children to attend our SNPP (Saanich Neighbourhood Parks Program) camps and similar day programs.

The LIFE (Leisure Involvement for Everyone) program continues to support individuals and families living on “low to no income” regionally with each of the seven recreation departments in Greater Victoria hosting their own local chapter of LIFE.

COVID19 has presented unique challenges to staff who are trying to remotely manage applications for financial assistance, but our Deputy Legislative Manager has been integral in creating new, secure processes for handling personal data through virtual connections. Staff anticipates a steady increase of demand from folks requiring financial assistance as we move through the many challenges of living during a world pandemic.

Older Adult Services: Cedar Hill Social Club has restarted on Fridays with two sessions available for a maximum of six per session. The small group allows for physical distancing but only allows for a limited number of members. Other days and times will be considered so that participants can attend. Many members hope that bridge will restart, but unfortunately it cannot be accommodated at this time

The Recreation Facility Signage Strategy, which was a recommendation of the Older Adults Strategy 14.c, is now underway. Lime Design has been hired to professionally design internal wayfinding signage for the four centres and golf club. Consistent, visually appealing and easily understood signage will

improve wayfinding to rooms and help create age-friendly spaces. This not only supports older adults- but persons of every age who use our centres.

“Seniors Social Drop-In” at GR Pearkes has resumed in the fieldhouse as a Reserved Table Tennis time. Unfortunately, the Flipside Centre continues to be used by Saanich Fire Department, displacing Older Adults and Teens from their gathering space. Staff is looking into ways to move the billiards table to the fieldhouse to accommodate those who wish to play pool.

Music in the Community: The event wrapped up September 22nd with a couple of performances welcoming the arrival of the Autumn Harvest Moon. Performances by some artists playing the traditional Chinese instrument Pipa, Taiko Drummers, youth Lion Dancers and the Victoria Chinese Opera Society. A total of 33 performances were offered in the community between July and September. It was a great way to have performances with artists who would not normally be on the schedule for Music in the Park. Performances in folk, jazz, Latin, blues, Celtic, classical guitar, harp and others were held in some unusual places; atop Mt. Tolmie, Gorge Waterway, Cadboro-Gyro Park and Uptown.

Moon Festival Lantern Celebration: Marking the “Harvest Moon” is a cultural practice celebrated by many Asian cultures around the world. The 2020 “flow-through” event took place on Saturday, September 26th to foster an understanding and appreciation for cultural diversity by sharing Asian cultural traditions.

Families were encouraged to drive, cycle or walk the lantern display route along Lambrick Way to the Gordon Head Recreation Centre. Due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic there were no live performances, food vendors, moon cakes, lantern making or community lantern procession this year and all traditional event activities will hopefully return for the 2021 event. Residents were encouraged to create their own “window lantern” display in their yard, balcony, school or business the week around the Harvest Moon.



While the “flow-through” lantern display took place over one evening, a limited number of lights, decorations and window lanterns will remain on display for the week leading up to the official Harvest Moon on Thursday, October 1.