

AGENDA
For the Special Meeting of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee
To be held virtually from Council Chambers
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we strongly encourage residents to participate in the meeting via electronic participation (telephone or weblink). Although in-person attendance is now permitted, space is extremely limited due to COVID-19 related safety measures.

To hear this meeting by phone, please call 1-833-214-3122, access code 308 090 030#.

- 1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**
- 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
 - October 7, 2021 (attachment)
- 3. CHAIR'S REMARKS**
- 4. STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION**
 - Laura Ciarniello, Director of Corporate Service and Megan Catalano, Communications Manager
 - Discussion of Committee recommendations to Council
 - Minutes from March 3 HSAC meeting (attachment)
- 5. DIVISION REPORT**
 - For Information (attachment)
- 6. COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
 - Mental health, the drug poisoning crisis, climate change, housing crisis and participatory democracy. Updates as applicable.

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held electronically via MS Teams
October 7, 2021 at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Clare Attwell, Carren Dujela, Ryan Henderson, Kam Judge, Liz Miller (SCAN), Jasmine Noble and Nadia Rajan.

Staff: Pam Hartling, Senior Planner (Community Planning); Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Regan Pemberton, Community Programmer II, Child & Youth Services; Chris Filler, Programmer II, Recreation; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk.

Absent: Jasmindra Jawanda and Silvia Mangué Alene.

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Dujela, and seconded by K. Judge: “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held September 1, 2021 be adopted as distributed.”

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair provided an update on items of interest to the committee, the following was noted:

- The committee may be able to meet in person in the near future.

PROPOSED CORDOVA BAY LOCAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

The Senior Planner (Community Planning) presented an update to the committee on the Proposed Cordova Bay Local Area Plan (LAP). The following was noted:

- On May 5th, 2021, Planning presented the Proposed LAP to the committee, highlighting issues of interest. A discussion with comments and questions from the committee followed. A motion in support was provided.
- After approval of the Housing Strategy in August 2021, staff were directed to refer the Proposed LAP to committees again for comment
- Staff provided a presentation to show the alignment of the Proposed LAP with the Housing Strategy. The LAP contains strong policy support for implementing the seven focus areas of the Housing Strategy.
- Focus area 1 relates to Affordable/Supportive Housing. This policy is supported in the Draft LAP by a non-market housing project on the Saanich owned parcel on Doumac Avenue, providing support for churches to build housing on institutional parcels and support for affordable/non-market housing on the Trio site.
- Focus area 2 relates to rental housing. The LAP encourages rental housing in areas of high home ownership, particularly where the need is the greatest, for example those in the range of “very low” to “low to moderate” income.

- Focus area 3 relates to policy support to expanding housing diversity and supply. The Draft LAP supports new housing in the Village, the new Ridge node, and the Trio site. The Village Plan was completed and the Village area (and number of lots within) was expanded. The LAP also supports neighbourhood infill by allowing duplex/triplex on regular residential lots, as well as four-plex on corner lots.
- Focus area 4 relates to reducing barriers to housing development. The LAP supports this with policy for reducing parking standards to one per dwelling unit during the redevelopment process. The LAP also supports a review of bylaws and procedures to make housing projects that are supported by policy easier to achieve, such as infill in single detached neighbourhoods.
- Focus area 5 relates to strengthening partnerships in housing, which is supported specifically with local churches, non-profit housing organizations and First Nations.
- Focus area 6 relates enhanced community engagement. The Local Area planning process (updating LAPs) has provided an excellent opportunity to educate the public on housing needs in Saanich, to raise awareness of issues, to build support and community capacity through extensive consultation and input opportunities.
- Focus area 7 relates to Understanding housing demand and addressing land speculation, this focus area is best addressed at District-wide level, although the Draft LAP provides an opportunity for community education and discussion.
- Over time, Saanich may adopt policies or practices in support of housing diversity and supply that go beyond (or even conflict with) LAPs. OCP amendments will be proposed to keep LAPs up to date, with an evaluation happening every 5 years.

In response to questions and comments from the Committee, the following was noted:

- Institutions would benefit from proactive support to help with the redevelopment process, which in turn would also benefit the community as a whole.
- There will be further efforts to engage the community in feedback opportunities as the Housing Strategy is implemented. Housing workshops were held for the community in conjunction with the Capital Regional District to provide insight and gather feedback on housing aspects of the LAP.
- A transportation workshop was held which Saanich Engineering Staff attended to gather feedback, identify issues and provide information to the community.
- It is important to build density on major routes and build up accessible areas.
- Although funding for medical support is not a municipal responsibility, considerations for clinical locations within the community could be important.
- The Proposed LAP will be considered at a Committee of the Whole meeting once the second round of committee referrals are complete. If approved, the plan will be reviewed every five years to ensure it still aligns with District policies and priorities.

MOVED by C. Dujela and seconded by L. Miller: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory committee reaffirms the motion of May 5th, 2021: That the Healthy Saanich Advisory committee supports the draft Cordova Bay Local Area Plan as proposed in principal, and recommend the following notes from Healthy Saanich be considered:

- **Archeologically sensitive areas**
- **Inclusion of affordable and creative housing principles including collaboration and support for the maintenance and retention of transitional institutional properties (eg churches) for non-market housing and other community uses**
- **Inclusive and accessible housing**
- **Supportive neighborhood opportunities.”**

CARRIED

*** P. Hartling exited the meeting at 7:42 p.m. ***

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The committee discussed topics of interest to members, the following was noted:

- There is interest in exploring ways to apply bioregional boundaries and ecological considerations as a whole rather than strictly municipal boundaries. Connecting relationships with ecological systems can create a healthy community.
- The Capital Regional District Board will be considering an increase to funding environmental

COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The committee's strategic priorities were discussed, the following was noted:

- The committee recommendations related to adding mental health and accessibility options to the Saanich Strategic Plan were supported unanimously by Council. The committee will be able to provide further feedback and information to staff related to the intent of these recommendations in the near future.
- The committee recommendation to create a One Planet Saanich Action Plan will be discussed by Saanich Council on October 18, 2021.
- Council received a presentation from Island Health about the drug poisoning crisis, the term "overdose crisis" puts blame on the user, rather than the fact the drug supply is being poisoned. This term will be updated for future agendas.
- Staff will contact the City of Victoria to request a presentation on their participatory democracy process for a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

REVIEW OF COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The members of the committee provided a verbal update on the feedback related to the Saanich’s Strategic Plan. The following was noted:

- The COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to significantly impact the mental health of the general public.
- Presentations on innovative ways to manage mental health effects can be arranged.
- The committee could make recommendations to Council on what can be done locally.

MOVED by J. Noble, Seconded L. Miller: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council make the following additions to the District of Saanich Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

Page 6 of the Strategic Plan, under “Goals: Community well-being: A healthy community is a worthy investment,” add text:

- **Support the mental health and well-being of our residents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Page 11, under “Initiatives/Actions Community well-being” Add:

Initiative:	Description:	Timing:
“Explore ways to support the mental health of Saanich residents, in response to the COVID pandemic.	Implement initiatives that improve or support the mental health of Saanich residents through policy development, education and public outreach programs. The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee to develop a special post-COVID mental health strategic recommendation report for Council’s consideration and response.	2 years.”

During committee discussion, the following was noted:

- The local government has the closest connection to residents. There is an opportunity to look at how the mental health of residents can be supported. The Healthy Saanich Advisory Council (HSAC) has identified mental health as a priority topic.
- Mental Health is not mentioned in the Strategic Plan.
- There is ongoing research to help manage mental health related repercussions of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. HSAC could explore low cost or free recommendations to support mental health for consideration by Saanich Council, tailored to ensure recommendations fall within the local government jurisdictional boundaries.
- It is important to support community groups (such as Block Watch) that promote decentralized participatory learning and community engagement. This helps to improve the quality of neighborhood relationships and build resilience.
- Workshops for residents and the community associations about the Saanich Neighbor to Neighbor program and other local initiatives would be appreciated by all.
- Mental health should be a priority in all aspects, not just in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOVED by L. Miller and seconded by K. Judge: “That the motion be amended to remove the wording: “in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” in the “Goals” section.

The amendment was CARRIED

The main motion, as amended was CARRIED

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council make the following additions to the District of Saanich Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

Page 6 of the Strategic Plan, under “Goals: Community well-being: A healthy community is a worthy investment,” add text:

- **Support the mental health and well-being of our residents.**

Page 11, under “Initiatives/Actions Community well-being” Add text:

Initiative:	Description:	Timing:
Explore ways to support the mental health of Saanich residents, in response to the COVID pandemic.	Implement initiatives that improve or support the mental health of Saanich residents through policy development, education and public outreach programs. The Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee to develop a special post-COVID mental health strategic recommendation report for Council’s consideration and response.	2 years

Further discussion on feedback related to the Strategic Plan took place, the following was noted:

- It is important to look at some of the colonial aspects of the Strategic Plan.
- The Saanich motto is provided in English and Latin, but there are not any indigenous language translations or considerations.

MOVED by C. Dujela and second L. Miller: “That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Saanich Council consider the Strategic Plan through a post-colonial lens and to visit the language and structure of the Strategic Plan to ensure that it is equitable and reflects the diversity of the community.”

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Marginalised communities may not be able to interpret the Strategic Plan as the primary format the plan is provided is a document written in English.
- It is important to consider equity in the way we communicate materials.
- Council should look at the plan from a place of unpacking colonialism.

MOVED by K. Judge, seconded by L. Miller “That the motion be amended to add “and is accessible to all”.”

The amendment was CARRIED

The Main Motion, as amended was CARRIED

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Saanich Council consider the Strategic Plan through a post-colonial lens and to visit the language and structure of the Strategic Plan to ensure that it is equitable, that it reflects the diversity of the community and is accessible to all.”



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services Division

Date: November 3, 2021

Subject: Community Services Division Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the 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

Older Adult Services: Older Adults Services is pleased to resume our caregiver support and neurodiversity inclusion program for Older Adults at Saanich Commonwealth Place! The “Older Adult Neurodiversity Social and Movement Class”, is supported by an Island Health Community Wellness Grant. Meeting weekly for ten weeks, for two hours on Wednesday afternoons, this program has been able to re start after a pandemic pause. This class is valued in the community, as it provides self-care time for caregivers at the same time as providing Older Adults with diverse neurology, from dementia, Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s, opportunities to socialize, exercise and engage with peers in a fun, supportive and inclusive way. Having this program at our recreation centres means that those persons who receive a diagnosis may not have to leave the supportive recreation centre environment they have been a part of over their lifetime, that they can continue coming to their centre and still find programs that are well suited to their community health. This program is currently running October to December and is anticipated to run in the winter/spring session from January to March and April to June. We are excited to welcome participants in, celebrating neurodiversity and the importance of everyone having access to recreation and wellness in our Community Recreation Centres!

“Inspired by Nature: Forest Bathing and Creative Expression”, was a successful four week pilot program between Saanich Parks, Community Services, Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary and Human Nature Counselling. Free to participants and held completely outdoors, each Tuesday morning throughout September, ten Older Adult participants gathered with the Human Nature Counselling team an outdoor therapist, an art therapist (practicum student) and a counselling volunteer, as well as Saanich’s Older Adult and Community Art staff members. Meeting the first two weeks at Swan Lake and the last two weeks at P’kols (Mt. Doug) participants spent time in nature in a mindful way, using their senses to relax and inspire creativity. Each day consisted of gratitude sharing, guided “forest bathing” walks and creative activities. Regardless of skill or experience participants were able to enjoy mindfulness, natural intelligence and a sense of community. In addition they were able to explore wilderness outlines, nature made paint brushes and ink, outdoor rubbings and building natural mandalas. Both Community Service’s Art and Older Adult Programmers thoroughly enjoyed co-creating and supporting this pilot program targeted to Older Adults. Both were touched as participants shared the many ways in which this type of a program was enjoyed, valued and inspiring to all involved.



Community Arts: Artist Rain Cabana-Boucher’s Artist-in-Community Residency Project *Laying Flowers* is based in community healing as a response to residential school findings. The project runs at the Cedar Hill Gallery and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) through November 14. Weekly beading sessions for Indigenous community members at the VNFC, where the artist and participants are beading daisies for each of the gravesite discoveries as they are revealed and adding them to the gallery at Cedar Hill. She will also be beading at Cedar Hill for visitors to witness and connect with her and the project. While the beading portion is reserved for Indigenous communities, the artist is also facilitating a collaborative painted mural panel that is open to all. More information at www.saanich.ca/layingflowers



Exhibitions: Richard Charter’s *Music of Happenings*, Karen Guibault’s *On the Wing*, and Saanich Archives’ Remembrance Day exhibit, *Spotlight on Service* run October 28 through December 7.

The Witness Blanket Travelling Exhibition, a true-to-scale reproduction of the original art installation created by local artist and master carver Carey Newman will run at Cedar Hill Main Gallery from November 16 to December 12, 2021.



Financial Assistance: The LIFE financial assistance program continues to demonstrate its effectiveness for individuals and families in Saanich facing financial barriers to recreation. As restrictions continue to allow more participants in our recreation facilities and vaccination guidelines provide an increase sense of security for people, we are seeing more people on LIFE access our centres. 1700+ Saanich participants are now on the LIFE program for 2021. Although this is a decrease from “pre-COVID” years where we would typically issue 3500-3800 LIFE passes, we are seeing an upward trend in the return of our LIFE participants. Since August 3rd, when Saanich

Recreation re-instated the annual pass, 40 additional annual passes were sold at 50% off the regular cost to Saanich LIFE participants. The 7 Greater Victoria Recreation Departments are currently reviewing the LIFE program in preparation for the November 15th kick off to 2022 LIFE registration. With the success of our recent Canadian Tire Jumpstart Grant, the Tillicum After School Saanich Jumpstart Physical Literacy program began on September 20th with great uptake. With the expansion of the program including space at Pearkes Recreation Centre on Monday afternoons, we are keeping 25 school age children 6-11 years active on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:45-4:45pm. We are grateful for the support of funding organizations such as the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program who has managed to continue to support children living in homes where finances have been a barrier throughout the pandemic.

Child and Youth Services: With fall programs underway, the Youth Services Team have successfully offered a variety of drop in and registered programs to youth ages 11 years and up. The fall has also seen some exciting partnerships as we have been welcomed back into schools, and will be offering programs at ROMS and working on a cooking program with SIDES, ICA and Saanich Neighbourhood Place. We have continued our incredible partnership with Aquatics though a few staff shortages in the pool have made some of our offerings a little more challenging. However with our incredible Saanich staff both in Youth Services and in the pool we have worked hard to adjust and help find solutions where ever possible.

Although the Flipside Youth Centre at Pearkes continues to be occupied by the Fire Department. We have had some success with our Girls & Guys programming, and our Outdoor Adventure Club is running strong. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful group of committed staff in Youth Services. They are eager to try new things and are interested in engaging all youth that come into our Centre's or programs.



Saanich Remembrance Day Ceremony

The global pandemic continues to impact the hosting of Remembrance Day Ceremonies across Canada and once again the Saanich event will be scaled back in size. Spectators will be discouraged from attending in person, due to the limited space around the cenotaph and the requirement to physically distance. A live feed will be streamed on the Saanich Facebook page so that residents will be able to view the event.

The film industry was quiet for a couple months but three new productions started up in the month of October. A **NETFLIX** series called Air Bud is filming in various CRD locations as well as some smaller productions such as Handmade Ivy and an Ayasew Ooksana Production called "Bone of Crows". "Maid" is still available to stream and features several recognizable locations in the Greater Saanich area.