

**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; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk.

Absent: Jasindra Jawanda and Silvia Mangué Alene.

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**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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary