

**MINUTES**  
**HOUSING STRATEGY TASK FORCE**  
Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
Via Electronic Communications  
February 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chair de Vries and Vice Chair Harper

Staff: Cameron Scott, Manager, Community Planning; Current Planning; Nadine Kawata, Planner, Community Planning; Alanna McDonagh, Planner, Community Planning; Matt Blakely, Planning Technician, Community Planning; and Tara Da Silva, Senior Committee Clerk

Facilitators: Lani Brunn, Lead Facilitator, CitySpaces; Julia Bahen, Facilitator, CitySpaces

Members: E. Dahli; S. Dutchak; C. Friesen; E. Gibson; G. Gillespie; M. Holland; R. Kelley; L. Mari; M. Poirier; D. Posavad; J. Reilly; L. Spalteholz; J. Tarbotton; K. Wiseman; V. Wynn-Williams

Regrets: C. Forester

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair de Vries called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- A reminder was given that the meetings are being webcast and about Saanich's Respectful Workplace Policy. This meeting's focus is Uptown Douglas Plan, focus areas, principles and strategies, and consolidated actions.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by J. Reilly and Seconded by G. Gillespie: "That the minutes from the January 21, 2021, Housing Strategy Task Force meetings be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

**DRAFT PRINCIPLES**

- Council representatives, staff and facilitators considered all of the feedback and comments in varying ways.
- The additional action regarding the environment was not included. However, the action regarding Sustainability was revised to include the environment in a comprehensive way and respects the spirit of the suggestion.
- Reviewed suggestions about the supporting statements being too lengthy. When staff and Council reps looked at the document in its entirety, it was decided that it was important to have robust statements describing the principles because this will be given to the public.
- Some members feel that the principles do not need to contain justification. The principles should include just the "what," the "why" should be contained in another document.

**MOVED by S. Dutchak and Seconded by E. Dahli: “That the Task Force amend the Well-being and Security Principle by replacing:**

**‘Housing is first and foremost about homes first before investments, the security of tenure, while also providing a foundation for a sense of belonging in the District.’**

**to**

**‘Housing is first and foremost about the security of tenure, while also providing a foundation for a sense of belonging in the District.’”**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED by D. Posavad and Seconded by L. Mari: “That the Task Force adopt the Draft Principles in principle, subject to the revision of the “Responsiveness” principle, using a variation of the suggested wording:**

**‘The District of Saanich aims to support housing growth through timeliness and responsiveness of applications and simplicity and clarity in related policies to support increased certainty in the development process. This responsiveness is essential for Saanich to build a community that provides sufficient housing to meet current and future residents' needs.’”**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED by L. Mari and Seconded by L. Spalteholz: “That the Task Force approve and endorse the revised Focus Areas and Strategies as circulated and then amended.”**

**CARRIED**

#### **UPDATE ON NEW FOCUS AREA: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ADDRESSING DEMAND**

- Councillor de Vries gave a review of the focus area.
- The rationale for this focus area is that single detached housing has greatly outpaced local incomes.

**MOVED by G. Gillespie and Seconded by L. Spalteholz: “That the facilitators, Council representatives and staff:**

- 1. Collect the input from this discussion, organize and submit a summary regarding strategies and actions for addressing demands for consideration of the Task Force through either email or a survey, and then provide a revised version to the Task Force with updated comments for final revision.**
- 2. Identify action steps that can be defined, transferred and consolidated under the other focus groups.”**

**CARRIED**

#### **PRIORITIZATION**

- Staff updated actions based on Task Force input from the January 21, 2021 meeting.

- Council representatives recommended further consolidation and clarification.
- Staff assessed actions using the prioritization ranking criteria of high, medium and low.
- Staff conducted a comprehensive review of rankings.
- Council representatives conducted qualitative review and recommended adjustments.
  - Impact Criteria:
    - Affordability outcomes
    - Increases housing supply
    - Addresses housing diversity
    - Housing needs impact
    - Equity impact
  - Implementation criteria:
    - Strategic alignment
    - Partnership and funding opportunities
    - Level of complexity, certainty, and municipal influence
    - Resources required
- Task Force will adjust priorities based on established criteria and consideration of proposed ratings.

**MOVED by S. Dutchak and Seconded by G. Gillespie: “That the Housing Strategy Task Force meeting will be Thursday, February 11, 2021.”**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY