

MINUTES
HOUSING STRATEGY TASK FORCE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Via Electronic Communications
February 25, 2021 at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Chair de Vries and Vice Chair Harper

Staff: Cameron Scott, Manager, Community Planning; Current Planning; Nadine Kawata, 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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair de Vries called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 G. Gillespie and Seconded by E. Gibson: "That the minutes from the February 4, 2021 and the February 11, 2021 Housing Strategy Task Force meetings be adopted."

CARRIED

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

N. Kawata, Planner, Community Planning, gave a presentation to recap the last meeting.

- There was approval of:
 - Guiding principles
 - Focus areas and strategies
 - New focus area
 - Top 10 Priority Actions
 - Revised actions and set priorities
 - Additional recommendations
- Two motions were made:
 - That the Task Force recommends a district-wide approach to housing issues and implementing the Housing Strategy that includes but is not limited to updating Saanich's planning framework through an update to the Official Community Plan and a district-wide approach to local area planning.
 - That the Task Force recommends that the Housing Strategy be a living document with a yearly review.

MOVED by L. Mari and Seconded by C. Friesen: “That the Task Force recommends that Council consider investigating ways to address costs and affordability beyond the direct cost of housing through municipal services and programs, and encouraging affordable living features in residential developments that lower transportation costs, reduce utility bills, or otherwise reduce the household living costs of residents”

CARRIED

DRAFT TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

The Draft Task Force Final Report was presented to the Task Force. Staff, facilitators and Council representatives received feedback and comments from the Task Force members. The feedback was discussed thoroughly by all.

MOVED by L. Spalteholz and Seconded by C. Friesen: “That the Draft Housing Strategy Report be amended by removing the detailed information under the “Introduction” and “Developing and Prioritizing Actions” headers and move to an appendix.”

CARRIED

MOVED by L. Spalteholz and Seconded by G. Gillespie: “That the CitySpaces facilitators develop an introduction to be inserted before the Focus Areas section in the Draft Housing Strategy Report based on feedback from the Task Force.”

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Reilly and Seconded by M. Holland: “That the Task Force endorses the Draft Housing Strategy Report with amendments as discussed tonight.”

CARRIED

NEXT STEPS

C. Scott, Manager, Community Planning, presented the next steps for the Housing Strategy.

- A presentation of the Task Force’s recommendations will be made to Council
 - Targeting March 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting
 - The public will have an opportunity to comment.
- Community feedback on recommendations
 - A survey will likely be the primary tool for feedback on the Task Force recommendations.
 - There will be advertising and outreach.
 - The Task Force members can assist by encouraging their communities to complete the survey.
- The Housing Strategy will be developed
 - Adding context and building connective tissue around the Task Force recommendations
 - Integration of Council and community input
 - Integration of community and stakeholder input
 - Integration of Staff input
 - Implementation/evaluation/monitoring/demand estimates

- Drafting the Housing Strategy Table of Contents:
 - Introduction
 - Context, Purpose, Principles, Focus Areas, Roles, Process, Alignment with other plans – this may change after tonight's discussion.
 - Housing Needs Assessment
 - Focus Areas, strategies and actions
 - Implementation and monitoring
 - Appendix: definitions
- Council will consider the Housing Strategy
 - Targeting a June Council meeting
 - Share the public engagement results
 - Seeking endorsement of the Final Housing Strategy
- Implementation of the Actions
 - Select high priority actions that are targeted for the first three years
 - Resources allocated through the Strategic Plan and budgeting process – will dictate how quickly actions are addressed
 - Monitoring and evaluation – track progress with regular review, updates and refinements
 - Housing Needs Report – required to update every five years

MOVED by M. Holland and Seconded by R. Kelley: “That the minutes from the final meeting of the Saanich Housing Strategy Task Force be forwarded to Saanich Council for adoption.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY