

MINUTES

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

October 8, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Fred Haynes (Chair), Suzanne Bartel, Bill Mumford, Blair Echlin, Andrea Mercer, John Schmuck, Travis Lee, Scott Hindle

Staff: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Troy McKay, Engineering Technologist; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner Current Planning; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Guests: Bob Parrotta, BCRFA
Jim Bennett, Consultant

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair stated that in speaking with the Director of Finance, it was noted that the motion made at the September meeting regarding mill rates should be reviewed as the mechanism may not be appropriate, and a revitalization permissive tax exemption may be a better option. Finance staff will be invited to provide further information to committee members in this regard.

The Chair also noted that BC Transit has requested to be kept informed of transit issues in Saanich. A question was raised about transit exchange plans and acquiring property between Harriet and Carey Road.

MINUTES

MOTION TO RESCIND

MOVED by T. Lee and **Seconded** by B. Echlin: "That the following motion made at the September 10, 2015 Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting be **RESCINDED**:

'That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider championing commercial mill rate adjustments for certified green and Building Owners and Managers Association Building Environmental Standards (BOMA BESt) designated commercial buildings'."

Motion to Rescind CARRIED

MOVED by J. Schmuck and **Seconded** by S. Hindle: "That the Minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held September 10, 2015, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

FOOD AND RESTAURANT SERVICES PRESENTATION

Bob Parrotta, Chair, Provincial Restaurant and Food Association (BCRFA), was present to provide information about the BCRFA and the following was noted:

- The BCRFA is comprised of a collective group of restaurant owners; there is widespread (regional and provincial) representation.
- They help to create a favourable business environment, and are involved with the government in creating and fine-tuning liquor reform.
- A binder “Restaurant Regulations made easy in BC” was circulated which is created in partnership with BCRFA and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.
- Overall restaurants have a 54% failure rate and only a 4% return.
- The Victoria Board is comprised of hotels, restaurants, pubs and island chefs, etc., and they are reaching out to connect with local governments to work on ways to help with issues like organic waste, grease waste, and water reduction.
- Noting that the Saanich Official Community Plan supports viable food production, the BCRFA can help to connect urban food growers with restaurants; they presently work with Saanich Organics.
- Dine around town has been growing, currently 65 restaurants participate. Participating restaurants are part of the BCRFA and Tourism Victoria.

Comments/questions from committee and responses were noted as follows:

- Challenges faced by restaurant owners include red tape and changing rules, eg. backflow prevention and grease regulations. Communication and collaboration is needed to help. Also when policies change, time is needed for the industry to implement these changes.
- The food truck industry is not really liked by restaurants, however most are owned by restaurants. They are important to the industry; a vibrant food industry is great for tourism and the economy.
- Positioning of food trucks is important on private, city, and harbour authority property.
- Areas with a dynamic culinary scene do better economically (eg. Portland).
- The BCRFA are not part of the food truck industry at present but hope to be.
- There are approximately 1,100 restaurants on the island with maybe 400-500 in the Victoria area. Committee members asked for statistics in this regard.
- There is economic opportunity for Saanich to participate in the food truck industry. Vancouver leases out space to food trucks for revenue; this is worth investigating.
- A Music in the Park event would be a good opportunity for a food truck as well as events held at the University of Victoria.
- Food trucks are not allowed because of the conflict due to different taxes and profit margins.
- A “Dine Around Saanich” event was suggested. Presently Tourism Victoria and the BCRFA are partners, which is why it is called Dine Around Victoria (Greater Victoria is assumed). There is a push to get more Saanich restaurants involved.

MOTION **MOVED** by T. Lee and **Seconded** by S. Bartel: “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee invite Mr. Parrotta of the BCFRA to a meeting in January 2016, to further discuss food trucks, special food events, and a dine-around Saanich event as possible economic opportunities in the municipality, and ask that Mr. Parrotta invite a member of the food truck and restaurant industry to attend this discussion.”

CARRIED

UPTOWN-DOUGLAS CORRIDOR PLAN

The Senior Planner, Current Planning, provided a background of the Uptown/Douglas Corridor Plan and noted the Terms of Reference (available online) were approved by Council in September. The following was noted:

- The City of Victoria is doing a similar plan and Saanich will be working with them.
- With the jurisdictional areas and transportation issues, staff will also be working with the ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as BC Transit and the CRD.
- A map of the plan area was presented. This is a 20-30 year land use plan that is not large in area but a big mix of commercial, industrial and residential properties.
- Six key themes guide the plan, and there are ten plan objectives, some of which include: creating a more vibrant and walkable urban centre; having a connected, sustainable and balanced transportation network that encourages more walking, cycling and transit use; enhancing the network of parks, open spaces and culture/community facilities; restoring and enhancing key environmental assets; and, promoting green buildings/renewable energy.
- A consultant will be hired to work with staff and the public to develop a vision and community plan that will guide development for Uptown major centre, the Douglas corridor and surrounding area.
- An advisory committee will be established and will be comprised of about 16 individuals that broadly represent the area demographic and interests. Their role will be to advise on public engagement techniques to ensure outreach is effectively undertaken in the community; promote the project and public engagement opportunities within the community; and, provide feedback to staff on plan concepts and content.

Committee comments and responses to committee questions were noted as follows:

- There are three major landowners in the plan area (Jawl, Morgard and Carson families) who should be invited for input. It was suggested the invitation come from the Director of Planning.
- The Youth Council advisory committee member should be a transit user.
- If Saanich pre-zoned land in the area it could be of benefit. This would encourage people with single family dwellings to sell because their land value would increase, and the tax rate lift would also be immediate. Pre-zoning has pros and cons; perhaps there is opportunity to have the discussion at the pre-engagement phase.
- Commercial development in the area should intensify as it is already fairly consolidated.
- The broad vision comes from the Official Community Plan (to increase density in centres and villages).
- Victoria has a Downtown Residents' Association; having a similar type of association for this project/area would be beneficial.
- Considering the amount of time it has taken for the Shelbourne Street corridor project, there should be a disciplined timeline for this project.

Committee thanked the Senior Planner for the information.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

For future discussion.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Director of Engineering and the Engineering Technologist were present to present the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Plan. The following was noted:

- The purpose and related policies and plans were described as were the objectives for this 25 year plan.
- A hierarchy was shown which illustrates how the plan fits in with Saanich, the surrounding municipalities and the regional district.
- The seven plan objectives were described.
- It was noted that this is for more than cycling. A suggestion was made to include horse riding trails on the map.
- The data we have around cycling is fairly new. The CRD captures the peak hours, however we would like more 24hour data to help find priorities. We may look at having permanent counters, but for now it is more economical to have short-term counters.
- This plan will need to mesh with others, including the Uptown Douglas Street Corridor Plan, the CRD Master Plan and BC Transit's plans.
- There is a general sense of where this is going however input is needed; how do we determine network priorities; policy work development, etc.
- The technical advisory committee and stakeholder groups are to be included; a vast representation is needed and all Community Associations are involved. It was suggested that SCAN be presented with this information as well.

*** T. Lee left the meeting at 6:25 p.m. ***

- The Director of Engineering noted that this is just the Terms of Reference and a consultant is to be hired. Other final comments were as follows:
- A suggestion was made that a gap analysis report may be useful as well as information on managing the financial impact of the plan.
- Barriers to Active Transportation Plan include a disjointed network that needs to be completed; educating riders, end of trip facilities and safety at certain intersections.
- Separated bike lanes are liked by many; connectivity is an issue; the Lochside trail and Galloping Goose trail are very busy at certain times.
- Try to get better feedback and engagement about Douglas Street than was done for Shelbourne Street.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advised he would like to look at updating the Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees in order that an alternate committee members may be available for the absence or resignation of regular committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2015

Councillor Haynes, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary