

MINUTES
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held via Teleconference, Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Present: Mayor Fred Haynes (Acting Chair), Ericka Amador, Sophia Baker-French, Sonja Cunningham, Lisa Gunderson, Richard Michaels, Doug Pascoe, Shawn Steele

Staff: Brent Reems, Director of Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Zac de Vries, Taylor Alexander, Brittany Higginson, Peter Rantucci

Minutes

MOVED by R. Michaels and Seconded by E. Amador: "That the Minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held January 7, 2021, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

PARKING ENFORCEMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

Mayor Haynes introduced the Director of Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services who provided information about the direction received from Council, through the Strategic Plan process, for a new parking enforcement model.

The following was noted:

- Responsibility for parking enforcement has been transferred to the Bylaw department from the Police department.
- Staff changes include three new full-time employees for parking, as well as clerking resources and a managerial restructure.
- Evening and weekend service will be offered and will be done via rotational shift-work.
- Staff are working to have the service operational by May of this year.
- Statistics were provided: from 2013 to present there has been a 484% increase in complaint volume and 64% of these complaints occurred off-hours.
- Presently the system of ticket enforcement is voluntary; if the ticket is not paid, there is no way to enforce this.
- A proposed Bylaw update will result in different dispute resolution and adjudication.
- A key driver for the change is Police are challenged with the volume of tickets issued and the resulting disputes.
- This change links back to the Active Transportation Plan where Council committed to reviewing the regulations that support walking and cycling.
- The Police department has not been able to fill the vacant Commissionaire positions.
- This change will impact the community (eg. illegal parking on boulevards has not been enforced in the past and there will need to be some work done on this).

The following responses to questions were noted:

- It is anticipated that this plan will be implemented in May of this year, with patrols done by three new full time employees with staggered shifts.
- The cost of this will depend upon Saanich's revenue position through ticketing. The estimated cost for the service bundle is \$126,000 based on average ticketing revenue.
- This is an enforcement program first and a revenue generator second.

- The positions are not just for parking; they will cover other bylaw categories such as park patrol and boulevard enforcement. The managerial positions that will be split will allow for more efficient service delivery.
- The previous model was using outside contractors and this model uses Saanich staff.
- They will work with the Saanich Communications department to get the word out via social media. Education and awareness around boulevards needs to occur.

Committee comments:

- Issuing warning tickets would be the best. Suggestion made that time extensions to pay fines may be necessary for people who have been financially affected by COVID.
- This initiative is supportable as it frees Police for other duties and is linked to the Active Transportation Plan.
- Patrolling areas may be more equitable than relying on complaints.
- Question was raised whether Saanich has a policy on designated parking spots on-street, per residence.
- Concern was expressed about emergency vehicles not being able to drive up residential streets due to boulevard parking on both sides of the street.
- Suggestion to avoid service gaps, continue using the services of Commissionaires for weekend hours. Parking ticket revenue could pay for this.
- Suggestion made to ensure that violation payments are easy to pay, as COVID makes paying in person difficult.

In reply to some of the concerns raised, staff noted that:

- Unless a street is signed as “residential parking only” then street parking is open to all. At the policy level this is handled by Engineering and this is not in their work plan as there are other priorities of Council being worked on at this time.
- Fees increased in the fall when the Streets and Traffic Bylaw was amended. There will be late payment penalties.
- Staff would like to implement technology to ensure tickets are easily paid, however this functionality may take some time to implement.

The Chair noted that when it comes to street parking, care has to be taken to not discriminate between renters and homeowners living in the same dwelling. He also noted, in terms of the concern regarding emergency vehicles, the Motor Vehicle Act prescribes the distance between vehicles for emergency access.

Motion: MOVED by R. Michaels and Seconded by E. Amador, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee receives the presentation from the Director of Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services regarding Parking Enforcement Service Delivery, and supports the department in moving forward in this direction.”

CARRIED

RESILIENT SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented information about Resilient Saanich and a new Technical Committee that was appointed by Council, and noted they are at the very beginning of the process to examine the environmental policy framework of existing, improved and new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures.

The following was noted:

- The technical committee (RSTC) is comprised of up to ten appointed experts and are supported by an appointed Council liaison, a clerk and staff liaisons as needed.

- Members of the technical committee are paid an honorarium as they are professionals who are expected to provide deliverables.
- Staff would like committee feedback on the proposed vision and principles as well as communicate how committee members would like to be involved in providing feedback.

Committee comments, and responses to committees' questions were noted as follows:

- There will likely be a separate process for updating bylaws and creating strategies, but bylaws will be the starting point for some things.
- These are draft principles and any feedback is welcome.
- The experts that were appointed by Council include conservation biologists, a First Nations representative, forester, arborist, landscape architect, marine biologist. Information on the committee can be found on the Saanich website.
- The pyramid that describes the process could have specific goals added (eg. daylighting streams) that turn into a strategy. Staff will look at how other municipalities have handled similar processes.
- There is a lot of information to process and this is a very big task to accomplish.
- The draft goals and objectives focus on the human side. Messaging could be clearer in tying specific community needs like Garry oaks and under-storey, streams.
- Would like to see forests, daylighting streams and other concrete examples in the draft goals and objectives.
- Should avoid jargon use less dense language. Goals and objectives need to be more specific, the objectives are not SMART.
- Having an online engagement process will be beneficial.
- The principles are clear, but the proposed objectives may not meet the criteria as they are quite vague. The objectives must reflect the principles and it is important to keep the objectives focused. It would be beneficial to include 'sustainable agriculture' in the objective. There may be recommendations that are not completely in the scope and may be considered, (eg. food security may not directly relate to climate change or biodiversity).
- Staff explained that the precautionary principle referred to in #5 in the proposed principles means that in the absence of science that decisions are made based on precaution (eg. pesticide bylaw assumes that pesticides are bad for humans and the environment so we use them with caution).
- Suggestion made that having a glossary would be useful.
- Clarification was requested regarding the wording 'diverse'. Staff will ask the RSTC for clarification.
- Question raised how the word will get out to those who are not on social media. Staff replied that postcards were sent to every household and business, materials delivered to seniors' centres, and also these handouts will be translated to a variety of languages. Community Associations will be asked to place information on their notice boards. Virtual presentations and conference calls will be offered through the Community and Neighbourhood associations.
- Concern was expressed about the overall goals and objectives of the RSTC (as per their Terms of Reference). Staff clarified that the TOR only has a vision and not goals or objectives, and described the milestones as noted in the TOR.

The Chair noted that there is a lot of work to do and that future updates can be provided to the committee. The Manager of Environmental Services advised that the bulk of public engagement will be done in February and departmental input also needs to be received. This can be brought back to committee in March for further input.

Motion: MOVED by S. Steele and Seconded by R. Michaels, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee receive the presentation from the Manager of Environmental Services regarding Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Friday, March 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Haynes, Acting Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary