

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE, & COMMUNITY WELL-BEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Municipal Hall, Committee Rm. 2 and via Microsoft Teams
May 24, 2023 at 5:07 pm

Present: Councillor Karen Harper, Clare Atwell, Jim Hesser, Ian Kopp, Arianna Marie Scott (via Teams), Robert Randall, Chris Poirier-Skelton, Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysen (via Teams).

Staff: Tiana Solares, Senior Manager of Recreation Division (via Teams); Amber Walker, Community Planner; Evelyn Wolfe, Archives Supervisor; Megan McDonald, Senior Committee Clerk (via Teams); Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Mark Leiren-Young

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed the committee members and introductions were made.

ARCHIVE PRESENTATION

The Archives Supervisor provided an overview of the Archives in Saanich, and the following was noted:

- Saanich Archive's mandate is to collect, preserve and provide access to the documentary heritage of Saanich.
- The collection is made up of documents from departments within Saanich, donations from various organizations and items from the community such as diaries, letters, household records and photographs.
- The archives are accessible to all at the Saanich Centennial Library branch, through the Saanich website, and by phone or email.

The committee made the following comments:

- The archives do not contain Provincial heritage information.
- Preservation methods include digital formats and original paper copies.
- Council minutes are accessible from 1906 – 1980.
- The library experienced a flood on August 23, 2019, and nothing was permanently damaged.

REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair reviewed the Arts, Culture & Community Well-Being Advisory Committee's (ACCW) Terms of Reference (TOF) and the following was noted:

- It is requested that the members review the TOF and prepare for a discussion at the next meeting.
- Community well-being is a broad term and further discussion is needed.

STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

The Community Planner presented the Official Community Plan (OCP) update (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- The OCP is a legally binding document that provides a long-term vision to guide the growth and change in the Municipality of Saanich. The main goal is to obtain a livable community, based on shared values and sustainability.
- The OCP is consistent with the Capitol Regional Districts' (CRD) Regional Growth Strategy.
- A strategic update will allow for an effective use of resources and establish priorities in a short time frame. This update will highlight the work that has already been completed by Council and integrate the New Demographic Data.
- The OCP has completed the analysis and policy development phase and is currently in the validation and refinement phase. The plan is scheduled to be adopted in the fall/winter of 2023.
- “Three Pillars” (Environmental Integrity, Social Well-being, and Economic Vibrancy), “One Planet Living” and the “15-minute Community” are the three main sustainable foundation frameworks that complement and guide the policy direction.
- Climate change response is incorporated as a plan foundation that recognizes achievable targets and implements adaptation strategies.
- The four strategic land use direction looks to maintain the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), accommodate most new development in the primary growth areas, to expand housing diversity in the local neighborhoods and to make Saanich a 15-minute community.
- The housing section’s main goal is to improve the housing strategies and outcomes.
- Urban plazas and small urban parks will provide accessible green spaces and walkable parks.
- The 3-30-300 rule (3 trees for every home, 30 percent tree canopy in every neighborhood and 300 meters from the nearest public park or green space) is the guiding principle that focuses on the crucial contributions of the urban forest and other urban nature to our health and well-being, as well as climate change adaptation.
- An active transportation network will provide more access to amenities.
- The community well-being objective is to foster a diverse, equitable and inclusive community where all residents are engaged and feel a sense of belonging. Within this objective, a range of recreation, arts, culture, and heritage opportunities will be available.
- Our history with the First Nations Peoples is acknowledged in the OCP, focusing on reconciliation, revised history, Indigenous Relations, and policies woven throughout the document. A consultation is planned for spring 2023.
- The public is encouraged to participate and provide input on various platforms such as webinars, open houses, and digital workshops. A survey is available online and in printed form.

The committee made the following comments:

- OCP strategies that have been implemented in Greater Victoria can offer feedback.
- The Economic Development Strategy is key to meet the “15-minute Community” plan.
- It is requested that time be given to review the OCP material and discuss with staff at the next meeting.
- The policy makes sense although reducing speed limits may not change behaviour.

RECREATION OVERVIEW

The Senior Manager of Recreation provided a presentation (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- The Parks Recreation and Community Services Division (PRCS) makes up 44% of the total workforce within the District of Saanich.
- The District of Saanich strives to be a place where healthy nature (natural intelligence), healthy people (physical and mental), and a healthy community (social and spiritual) exist so that everyone feels a sense of belonging. Some challenges that exist within this vision are, a changing community, an aging infrastructure, and a balance of service levels.
- The District of Saanich operates four recreation centre campuses, Gordon Head, Saanich Commonwealth Place, George R Pearkes, and Cedar Hill.
- An integrated service approach will be achieved by implementing interdepartmental working groups and committees.
- Council has appointed multiple committees to enhance the focus on accessibility, the urban forest and to improve the stat of biodiversity within the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk