

**MINUTES**  
**ARTS, CULTURE, & COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams  
770 Vernon Avenue

February 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Pamela Carroll, Barbara Elson, Susan Hendricks (5:03 p.m.), James Hesser, Mark Leiren-Young, Danielle Lemon (via Teams) and Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysen (via Teams)

Staff: Tiana Solares, Senior Manager Recreation, Parks, Recreation and Community Services (via Teams); Sarah Faria, Community Programmer II - Events, Volunteers and Film, Community Services Division; Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

Guests: Shelley Cook, Executive Director, Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria

---

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by K. Van Nieuvenhuysen: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held October 25, 2023, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed committee members, and the following was noted:

- Saanich could play part in a multifaith annual conference with a focus on kindness and kinship.
- A future presentation could be on the opioid crisis.

**POINT IN TIME HOMELESSNESS COUNT**

The Executive Director of the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria gave a presentation on the Point in Time homeless count (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Unique solutions to homelessness that focus on a personal approach and may be worth exploring.
- Calgary developed a team to address domestic violence in the court system.
- The non-profit community could play a role in supporting homelessness prevention and mitigation.
- Potential systems could be put in place to provide parents with direction on how to support their children in times of crisis.
- Art could act as a way of expression, benefiting mental health, and promoting a sense of community.

- The school system could be involved in supporting youth through challenging times.
- Homelessness knows no borders and requires collective cooperation.
- Further discussion on this matter would be appreciated.

\*\*\*S. Cook exited the meeting at 6:18 p.m.\*\*\*

### **WINTER FESTIVAL PROPOSAL**

The Community Programmer II gave a presentation on the Winter Festival Proposal (Report on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Adverse weather may pose a risk to an outdoor event.
- A celebration in January or February may appeal to more audiences.
- Other holidays such as family day and Groundhog Day could serve as alternative times for celebration.
- December is a busy time for celebrations and shopping.
- This event could have a multicultural focus and be approximately 4 to 5 hours in length.
- There is potential for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) to provide telescopes for entertainment if weather permits.
- This event could diversify itself by taking place in a location such as Panama Flats.
- Uptown could be more accessible for attendees as it has additional parking compared to the Municipal Hall.
- Option 2 of the report (Uptown Light Up) is preferred.

\*\*\*J. Hesser exited the meeting at 6:47 p.m.\*\*\*

### **UPDATE ON THE RECREATION DIVISION**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was moved to the next meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from P. Carroll the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date will be on, May 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Karen Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

DRAFT