

AGENDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To be held virtually via MS Teams
Tuesday June 27, 2023 at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- May 9, 2023

3. STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

- Amber Walker, Planner, Community Planning

4. INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Mitchell Edgar, Economic Development Manager

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: September 27, 2023 at 5:30 pm

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Megan MacDonald at 250-475-5494 ext. 3430 or
megan.macdonald@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held virtually via MS Teams
May 9, 2023 at 12:00 pm

Present: Councillor Zac de Vries (Chair), Tim Petropoulos, Rob Wickson, Richard Michaels, Alan Winter, Jennifer Vornbrock, Patrick Marshall (12:28 pm)

Staff: Mitchell Edgar, Economic Development Manager; Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Raymond Chan, Amber Hockin, Victoria Shannon and John Wilson

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked members for their interest in joining the committee. It was noted that the number of members was increased from 8 to 10 to allow for more contributions from a wider variety of committee members and a more diverse group.

WELCOME AND ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed members to the new Saanich Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). Roundtable introductions of the Chair, committee members and staff took place.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair noted that the EDAC Terms of Reference were included with the agenda for information, the mandate and purpose were briefly discussed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Economic Development Manager introduced the upcoming Saanich Economic Development Strategy, the following was noted:

- Work on the Economic Development Strategy began approximately one year ago.
- A consultant was hired to develop the strategy, they began with an analysis and background research in December, engagement was started and focus groups were held in February with 51 attendees in seven different groups.
- A community survey was conducted online with over 1300 participants, and key informant interviews are being conducted with stakeholders.
- There will be a public open house held at the Municipal Hall on May 23rd from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, committee members were invited to attend. This will include information on the preliminary goals and objectives, feedback will be gathered to ensure that the strategy is on the right track.
- A draft Economic Development Strategy will be ready by mid-June, this will be included on the agenda for discussion at the June 27th meeting. Following feedback and discussion the strategy will be forwarded to Council for approval.

- A grant was obtained from the Provincial Government to conduct a Food Hub Feasibility Study. A consultant was hired in the fall, the report will be circulated to committee members. Extensive consultation took place, and a recommendation for an Indigenous Food Hub to be created at Camosun was put forward.
- The 2022 Lazer Canadian Cyclocross Championships were held at Layritz Park, the second year will also take place in November.
- Partnerships are being explored for many initiatives to ensure economic growth.
- Opportunities for new hubs and centers may exist as aging structures and centers need to be redeveloped.
- Documents highlighting current projects and providing additional information can be provided in advance of the June committee meeting, and will form part of the agenda.

In response to questions and comments from the committee, the following was noted:

- The strategy will be the first of its kind in Saanich. There is language in the Official Community Plan about aspects of the strategy, however a strategy is not yet in place.
- There has been an analysis of types of employment, number of sectors and several other factors. Staff will endeavour to provide this to committee members.
- The Economic Development page on Saanich.ca outlines current projects, it was recommended that committee members visit the website to review current documents.
- The film hub at Camosun will have a significant impact on regional economic growth.

*** Committee member P. Marshall joined the meeting at 12:28 ***

P. Marshall introduced himself and his background to the committee.

It was noted that committee members are welcome to suggest a guest speaker for a presentation during a committee meeting. This can help to provide information and support detailed discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from R. Michaels the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday September 27, 2023.

Councillor de Vries, Chair
I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

Memo

To: Economic Development Advisory Committee Members
From: Amber Walker, Community Planning, Planning Department
Date: Jun 5, 2023
Subject: Strategic Draft OCP Update

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the upcoming presentation of the Draft Official Community Plan to the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) on June 27, 2023.

The discussion at this meeting will include an overview presentation with a sub-focus on issues within EDAC's mandate. In advance you are encouraged to learn more about the Draft Plan in general.

More information on the Strategic OCP Update project can be found on the project website: www.saanich.ca/ocp

This includes:

- New Draft Plan
- Short video introducing the project
- List of upcoming engagement events for the general- public, including a survey
- Link to the [overview presentation](#) provided to Council (May 15)
- Supporting documents
- Project contact information
- Link to sign-up for project updates

District staff are interested in hearing your feedback both as a committee, as it relates to your mandate, and as an individual resident participating in the broader process.

Amber Walker
Community Planner, Planning Department