

**MINUTES
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM 1
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
Friday, May 12, 2023**

Present: Chair: Mayor Dean Murdock
Members: Councillors Brownoff, de Vries, Westhaver and C. Pringle
Staff Members: Paul Arslan (Director of Finance) Lindsay Chase (Director of Planning)
Pam Hartling (Housing Planning and Policy Manager) Carley Friesen
(Senior Planner – Housing)

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm. The Chair read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL GREATER VICTORIA RENT BANK

A PowerPoint by Community Social Planning Council Development Coordinator was presented.

- The Community Social Planning Council Development Coordinator advised that the Greater Victoria Rent Bank provides a short term financial assistance to households at risk of eviction for reasons such as non-payment of rent or essential utilities.
- The consensus was to bring the District of Saanich to the table to discuss regional funding.
- The Director of Finance stated that the District has money from the Province from the Covid restart grant and can bring it forward to Council as a one time funding request.

MOVED by Councillor de Vries and Seconded by Councillor Westhaver: “That it be recommended that the Housing Affordability Standing Committee requests that Council allocate one time funding of \$60,000 from the Covid Relief Program Funding; and that Council express its interest in the development of a regional funding agreement.”

CARRIED

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOMES

The Senior Planner – Housing presented the Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Homes (PowerPoint on file) and stated:

- The PowerPoint outlined the missing middle for Saanich housing needs which identify significant need for family units and senior’s looking to downsize. There is policy support for infill housing and approved funding however there are significant plan and regulatory barriers to constructing infill housing.
- The timeline is two years and every six months is the next phase with late 2025 being the public hearing process. There are four phases of the project as follows:
Phase 1: Opportunities and Goals
Phase 2: Design Development

Phase 3: Refinement
Phase 4: Finalization and Implementation

- The province has not yet communicated if they are going to implement it as legislation is not yet ready.

MOVED by Councillor de Vries and Seconded by Councillor Westhaver: “That it be recommended that the Housing Affordability Standing Committee recommend that Council endorse the Neighbourhood Homes Study Terms of Reference.”

CARRIED

RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF NON-MARKET HOUSING

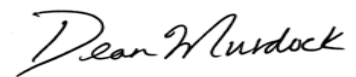
A PowerPoint by the Housing Planning and Policy Manager was presented.

- The consent of the project is to eliminate the rezoning process to accelerate the approval process.
- There was a motion about a year ago to direct staff to examine the rapid deployment affordable housing plan from the City of Victoria and bring forth recommendation that would see Saanich make the necessary methods to achieve the expedite application time for non-profit and co-op housing with the same requirements established in Victoria. There will be a report going to Council to provide an overview of the City’s rapid deployment program for non-market co-op housing to talk about how Saanich aligns with that approach and to provide some alternatives for action and ultimately seeking for Council’s approach.

MOVED by Councillor de Vries and Seconded by Councillor Westhaver: “That it be recommended that the Housing Affordability Standing Committee request Council to provide direction to staff to Draft Zoning Bylaw changes to permit non-market housing providers to build to the upper limit in OCP (pre-zone) within the urban containment boundary and draft necessary bylaw changes to delegate development permit approval for non-market housing projects to staff with pre-zoning.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm.



Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Sydney Murphy

Committee Secretar