

**AGENDA**  
**ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

To be held at Saanich Municipal Hall  
Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams  
Wednesday February 26, 2025 at 5:00 PM

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*The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ 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.*

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. September 25, 2024
2. November 27, 2024

**B. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. CHAIRS REMARKS**

**2. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEETING DATES**

**3. EDIBLE LANDSCAPING AND URBAN AGRICULTURE**

- Molly Rose, Agriculture and Food Security Planner

**4. LA SOCIETE FRANCOPHONE DE VICTORIA**

- Casey Edmunds, Executive Director
- Richard Michaels

**5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: March 26, 2025 at 5:00 PM

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Colton Whittaker at 250-475-5494 ext. 3642 or [colton.whittaker@saanich.ca](mailto:colton.whittaker@saanich.ca) if you are unable to attend.

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

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

September 25, 2024, at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Pamela Carroll, Barbara Elson, Mark Leiren-Young (5:26 p.m.), James Hesser (via Teams), and Peter Quinn (5:08 p.m.)

Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager Recreation Services (via Teams); and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

Guests: Sarah McCabe, Victoria Brain Injury Society and Lauren Cronk, Victoria Brain Injury Society

Regrets: Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysse

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**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by B. Elson: "That the Minutes of Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held May 22, 2024, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

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

- Councillor Harper's hearing health motion successfully passed at UBCM. The motion will now go to the province, encouraging them to include hearing health in the Medical Services Plan (MSP).
- During the Public Hearing on September 24, 2024, Council reviewed a Heritage Designation application for the Stoddart Residence, and it was approved.
- Saanich Council has adopted a new tri-annual town hall format for public engagement. The first town hall will be held at Cedar Hill Golf Course on October 22, 2024. This new format aims to foster meaningful public engagement on key community topics.

**VICTORIA BRAIN INJURY SOCIETY**

The representatives from the Victoria Brain Injury Society gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted during committee discussion:

- The Victoria Brain Injury Society (VBIS) is affiliated with various other brain injury societies throughout the province, including the Brain Injury Alliance.
- A key part of VBIS's mission is to educate the community and raise awareness about brain injuries.

- Doctors frequently refer patients with brain injuries to Island Health, which then connects them with VBIS.
- Individuals who have self-diagnosed brain injuries can access VBIS, as the organization is committed to being highly accessible.
- VBIS is funded by the Brain Injury Alliance and Island Health, along with numerous other funders.
- VBIS collaborates with the University of Victoria (UVIC) Physical Education Department and sports teams to raise awareness about brain injuries.
- VBIS works closely with the Christie Lab at UVIC regarding neuroscience for healthier brains.
- A significant number of clients accessing VBIS are experiencing homelessness.
- While VBIS is not a housing provider, it has affiliations that enable it to serve as a bridge for connecting individuals with housing resources.
- VBIS offers an education course titled "Coping Strategies," which addresses the emotional, cognitive, physical, and spiritual impacts of brain injury.
- VBIS will be introducing counseling students in the new year to provide free support for clients.
- Individuals accessing VBIS undergo an intake process that includes a 30-minute conversation to collect basic information and discuss their brain injury history. Following this, they are introduced to the various programs VBIS offers and helped to identify the most suitable options for their needs.
- VBIS can refer individuals to other organizations if their injuries exceed the limitations of the services offered.
- High schools in the region are introducing athletic therapists to monitor athlete safety.
- Rowan's Law was enacted after a high school rugby player passed away from second impact syndrome resulting from multiple concussions sustained during play.
- Understanding brain anatomy and function is a key component of the educational programs offered by VBIS.
- VBIS curriculum is sourced from Brain Injury Canada, and client representation and feedback are essential components of the program.
- Clients set goals upon accessing VBIS, and once they achieve these goals, such as completing a housing application, applying for income assistance, or accessing technological supports, they may not return for further services.
- A significant aspect of VBIS's work is fostering a sense of community, as individuals with brain injuries often seek to connect with and converse with others who share similar experiences.
- Living with a brain injury can be a lifelong journey, and what works for one person may differ for another.
- VBIS provides support to approximately 900 clients each year from across Greater Victoria.
- Age, along with factors such as injury location, severity, and cause of the brain injury, plays a significant role in the recovery process.

\*\*\*The representatives from Victoria Brain Injury Society left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.\*\*\*

## **RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STATISTICS**

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services presented (PowerPoint on file) on recreation and community services statistics. The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Saanich is developing a 10-year strategic plan, collaborating with the Planning department to assess the community's future needs and effectively address the demands of the growing population.
- The impact of UVic's McKinnon pool closure is already evident, particularly affecting the UVic water polo team, the Vikes swim team, and other related activities.
- Gordon Head Recreation Centre receives the vast majority of students and youth.
- Saanich's recreation centers are aging, with the newest facility recently turning 30 years old.
- Amenity cost contributions from developers could serve as a mechanism to secure funding for community infrastructure.
- Saanich emphasizes promoting a healthy lifestyle by providing third spaces for individuals to connect with one another and build community.
- There is an opportunity to offer outdoor swimming lessons as an alternative to free up indoor pool space.
- The demographics of golf course users are notable, as many individuals eventually age out, fewer younger people are taking up the sport.
- Saanich collaborates with the RBC First Tee program to make golf more accessible, as it is typically an expensive sport.
- Saanich offers summer golf camps, with some programs featuring tennis in the morning followed by golf in the afternoon.
- Saanich Council supported a motion to modify the Leisure Involvement For Everyone (LIFE) program, enabling access to more people, including university students who qualify as low-income residents to receive reduced passes and free drop-in access to recreational activities.
- Cedar Hill Golf Course features excellent walking trails that provide great opportunities for exercise.
- Last year, Saanich partnered with the City of Victoria to develop a regional pickleball strategy.
- Pearkes Recreation Centre has emerged as the most popular venue for pickleball, with plans to expand by adding a few additional courts and improving the court booking system.
- Saanich has been working to make access to the LIFE program as accessible as possible by transitioning the application process to a digital portal while still offering in-person options. Staff are also exploring a partnership with the BC Services Card to further enhance accessibility.
- The committee may consider organizing field trips in the future.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from P. Carroll the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date will be on November 27, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

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Councillor Karen Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

DRAFT

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

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

November 27, 2024, at 5:09 p.m.

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Barbara Elson, James Hesser, and Mark Leiren-Young (6:13 p.m.)

Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Kathy Graham, Community Services Programmer II - Financial Development; and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysen, Peter Quinn, and Pamela Carroll

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Due to lack of quorum, no motions were passed.

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

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

- The Uptown Light Up event took place recently.
- The committee was updated that a new member of Council will assume the role of chair in the new year.
- A follow up presentation from the Police on sheltering in parks could come to the committee next year.

**LEISURE INVOLVEMENT FOR EVERYONE (L.I.F.E) PROGRAM**

The Community Services Programmer II - Financial Development gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted during committee discussion:

- The L.I.F.E. program works with individuals and families who are classified as low income, defined as being near the poverty line.
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre serves many residents living on the Saanich/Victoria border who choose Saanich recreation centers due to proximity.
- L.I.F.E. is a regional program that allows members to access services wherever and whenever they need them.
- Some individuals face challenges obtaining a Notice of Assessment if they do not file taxes. Efforts are being made to accept alternative documents and improve program accessibility.
- In 2025, outreach will expand to more organizations, starting with those already collaborating on other Saanich programs.
- The Observatory may be a potential partner, offering opportunities for collaboration on educational initiatives through their lecture series.
- The L.I.F.E. program could consider implementing an attestation form during re-application to confirm that participants circumstances remain unchanged.
- Spot checks and audits are conducted to verify documentation and ensure the target demographic is being served.

## **EDIBLE LANDSCAPING AND URBAN AGRICULTURE**

The committee discussed a referral motion from Council and the following was noted during committee discussion:

- The Panama Flats concept plan is being updated.
- A voluntary stewardship program may be introduced in the future.
- The committee expressed interest in learning more about this subject from the Parks Department.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

The Committee had a roundtable discussion, and the following was noted:

- The topic of homelessness was very engaging, and it was interesting to hear from the Police.
- The committee would like to explore the topic of funding for major theatres in the region.
- The committee is interested in creating a list of ongoing topics to provide useful recommendations to council.
- The observable conflict between cyclists and drivers impacts community wellbeing.
- The committee would like to explore the potential of using Uptown as a venue for more multicultural events.
- A presentation from the Victoria Francophone Society is scheduled for the committee in the new year.
- The committee would like to discuss the disappearance of arts venues and how to sustain the arts scene.
- Arts and culture contribute to community wellbeing.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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Councillor Karen Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

# Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee

## Terms of Reference

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### Mandate

The mandate of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations, advice and information to Saanich Council and staff on matters that relate to the purpose of the committee and on any matters which are referred to the committee by Saanich Council or staff.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee is to:

- Advise Saanich Council and staff on:
  - municipal programs that relate to arts, culture, heritage, recreation and community services, including services, facilities and specific community interests.
  - policies and community perspectives that support a healthier and more livable community
- Promote effective communication, engagement and collaboration between the Municipality and its citizens.
- Foster public awareness, recognition and support for multiculturalism and special events.
- Facilitate the growth and development of community associations and promote effective communication between the Municipality, neighbourhoods, residents and businesses.
- Review and provide feedback on the Strategic Plan related to the above-noted functions.
- Consider making recommendations on CRD Arts Services upon direction from the Chair or staff.

### Meetings

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year in accordance with its regular schedule of meetings established annually at the first meeting of the year. No meetings are held during the summer and winter breaks (July, August and December). Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair. The meeting rules and procedures will be in accordance with the Council Procedure Bylaw. Quorum for the Committee is a majority of its appointed voting members, including the Chair.

### Membership

To the extent possible, Advisory Committees will have a diverse membership with respect to gender, age and cultural-ethnic background.

The Committee will consist of nine (9) members qualified in the discipline relevant to the committee mandate or with a perspective necessary for fulsome consideration of the associated topic, including:

- A member of Council to serve as Chair, appointed by the Mayor;
- One (1) member from the Saanich Community Association Network;
- Seven (7) community representatives appointed by the Council including, where possible, one youth voting member described as 16-24 years of age; and
- Where possible, at least one (1) member who is an Indigenous person.

Members may serve a maximum of seven years on an Advisory Committee, consisting of a one-year term followed by a potential for three, two-year terms. Members who wish to be re-appointed after the completion of a term must re-apply and provide the application and their resume for Council's consideration.



# **Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee**

## **Terms of Reference**

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School District Nos. 61 and 63 may each assign a trustee to the Committee as a non-voting liaison.

### **Staff Support**

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is the primary contact and together with the Planning Department will provide the required professional support. Meeting preparation, agendas and minutes of meetings of the Committee will be provided by the Legislative Services Division

# Memo

**To:** Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee  
**From:** Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk  
**Date:** February 19, 2025  
**Subject:** 2025 Meeting Dates for Arts, Culture, and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee

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As per Section 73 of Council Procedure Bylaw, 2021, No. 9660, each committee shall establish a regular schedule of meetings including the date, time, and place of the committee meetings.

As per the existing schedule, the meeting rooms have been booked for the fourth Wednesday of the month from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for the year, excluding July, August, and December. Dates for your calendars are as follows:

2025 Meeting Dates
<b>January 22</b>
<b>February 26</b>
<b>March 26</b> <i>(Tentative)</i>
<b>April 23</b> <i>(Tentative)</i>
<b>May 28</b> <i>(Tentative)</i>
<b>June 25</b>
<b>September 24</b> <i>(Tentative)</i>
<b>October 22</b>
<b>November 26</b>

No formal motion is required to approve the meeting schedule.

*Colton Whittaker*

Colton Whittaker  
Committee Clerk