

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Chair: Mayor Murdock
Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver (via Teams)
Staff: Brent Reems, Chief Administrative Officer; Michael Kaye, Saanich Fire Chief; Lindsay Chase, Director of Planning; Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Brock Henson, Deputy Fire Chief; Trevor Stubbings, Deputy Fire Chief; Damian Kowalewich, Police Inspector, Community Engagement; Cameron Scott, Manager of Current Planning; Alanna McDonough, Senior Planner, Community Planning; Erin Stockill, Captain, Emergency Program Officer; Sharon Froud, Deputy Corporate Officer; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

DELEGATION

1410-02
Delegation

LA SOCIETE FRANCOPHONE DE VICTORIA

To make a presentation about the Uptown Multicultural Festival

C. Edmunds, Executive Director, La Societe francophone de Victoria, R. Michaels, La Societe francophone de Victoria; K. Lowes, General Manager, Uptown Shopping Centre and L. Aguirre, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society provided information with respect to the Uptown Multicultural Festival and the potential role Saanich may play in assisting with the Festival.

MOVED by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff and Seconded by Councillor Chambers:
“That the rules of procedure contained in the Council Procedure Bylaw be temporarily suspended to allow the Delegation an additional five minutes to present.”

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

MOVED by Councillor Chambers and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That it be recommended that the presentation from La Societe Francophone de Victoria be received for information.”

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

MOVED by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff and Seconded by Councillor Chambers:
“That it be recommended that the matter be referred to the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee for further exploration.”

MOVED by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff and Seconded by Councillor Harper:
“That the motion be amended to add the words “staff and”.”

RESULT (AMENDMENT): Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

RESULT (MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED): Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That it be recommended that the matter be referred to staff and the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee for further exploration.”

PUBLIC INPUT

M. Najari, Leeds Place

Tillicum Burnside Plan Terms of Reference

- Residents that live in the area are key stakeholders and should be consulted; any meetings with stakeholders should be recorded.
- The survey should be sent out to residents rather than being self-selection.
- The plan should include the impact on the urban ecology with respect to canopy cover, permeable surfaces, and future livability and sustainability of the neighbourhood.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BUSINESS ITEMS

1300-50
Provincial Government

LAND USE PLANNING IN AGRICULTURE

Presentation from Reed Bailey, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

R. Bailey, Ministry of Agriculture and Food presented the Land Use Planning in Agriculture (PowerPoint on file).

MOVED by Councillor Chambers and Seconded by Councillor de Vries: “That it be recommended that Council receive the presentation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, for information.”

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Even if the soil on the land is not arable there are many other uses for farmland including livestock, vertical farming and greenhouses.
- There may be opportunities to reduce taxes and water rates to assist farms in remaining viable.

In response to questions from Council, the presenter stated:

- Pesticides are critical to farming and maximizing yield; vegetative buffers between farmland and residential are encouraged to reduce odours and spray drift.
- The Ministry could consider an annual event celebrating farming.
- The Ministry offers educational and funding opportunities for those considering farming.
- There may be opportunities to identify roads used for farm vehicles.
- Staff use programs such as Google Earth to identify farmland and try to delineate which type of farming is occurring on that property; staff then ground truth the property.
- Properties are re-surveyed every five years to see the change in use over time.
- All properties in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) are surveyed.
- Property owners can submit an “inclusion application” to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) if they wish to have their property included in the ALR.
- The majority of farming taking place in the Province is on ALR land.
- There are more restrictions for properties in the ALR therefore inclusion applications are not typical.
- There is work being done at the Ministry to explore taxation of properties in the ALR.

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

2310-20
Tillicum Burnside Plan

TILlicum BURNSIDE PLAN TERMS OF REFERENCE

Report of the Director of Planning dated October 31, 2024.

To endorse the Tillicum Burnside Plan Terms of Reference and approve an allocation of \$140,000 from the Housing Accelerator Fund towards development of the plan.

The Manager of Community Planning and the Senior Planner (Community Planner) presented the Tillicum Burnside Plan Terms of Reference (PowerPoint on file) and answered questions as follows:

- The boundaries for this study area are identified in the Official Community Plan and the primary growth areas; the areas outside the study area would fall under different planning initiatives including the Neighbourhood Homes study.
- The proposed study area may be refined as the process is undertaken.
- The survey that would be used for this plan would be uploaded to the Hello Saanich page and would seek input on concept development, policies and goals and objectives.
- An equity lens would be incorporated into the engagement strategy.
- 3D modelling helps residents understand what the changes would look like.
- Consultation could include a focused outreach with different demographics.

MOVED by Councillor Harper and Seconded by Councillor de Vries: “That it be recommended that Council:

- **Endorse the proposed Terms of Reference to initiate the development of the Tillicum Burnside Plan; and**
- **Allocate \$140,000 from the Housing Accelerator Fund towards development of the Tillicum Burnside Plan.”**

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- There is a need for additional public open and green spaces in this community; public spaces foster community.
- It is appropriate to use the Housing Accelerator Fund for the development of the plan.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Engineering, the Manager of Current Planning and the Senior Planner (Current Planning) stated:

- There is flexibility within the land use designations and the policy and guidelines; development is focused within centres, corridors and villages.
- There is a need to refresh plans regularly to ensure they remain relevant.
- More detailed engagement will take place in Phase 2 which is the concept development phase; the community will be consulted and involved throughout the process.
- Incentives for affordable housing opportunities will be included in the plan.
- The Road Safety Action Plan and the Active Transportation Plan will be reflected in land use policy plans.

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Westhaver and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That the meeting be adjourned.”

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Plant, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER