

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

Present: Shari Rourke (Chair), Councillor Sharie Epp, Sarah Anthony, Ted White, Jane Hammond, Barret Fullerton, Chris Pratt, Jim Macpherson, Shannon Carman (recorder)

Regrets: Peter Havers

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Agenda amendments – Strike 6(f) (Metchosin Village Square), add RCMP report as new 6(f).

Moved and Seconded by Ted and Sarah that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

Carried

2. Community Reports

Barrett was introduced, as sitting in for Deirdre as SRC representative.

SRC - Gourmet dinner tickets all sold, Shannon Carman has been hired as interim manager, open hours 11-3. The MSA Business Plan/Budget has just been submitted to Council. Flu/Covid clinic well attended (792). Some people waited over an hour but working to improve for next year (were one person down, had no computers). Had folks present at the clinic from the PODS with information on them. Christmas light tours, only Dec. 18, tickets available at the office or the Makers Market.

3. Public Participation

Tamara Ballard - asking about insurance for snow plowing, as she has the ability to help clear driveways, looking for clarification on what the situation is. Shari - if you volunteer to plow, then there is a “Good Samaritan” law that would protect you, as you are not charging any money. To be discussed further in Business Arising.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Sharie and Ted that the Committee approve the minutes of the Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee meeting held on October 24, 2023.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Public Works and Protective Services Committee, September. 11 2023

Moved and Seconded by Sharie and Jim that the Committee receive the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Sept. 11, 2023.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Snow Plowing

Limited to providers that carry insurance specifically for snow removal. Municipal coverage does not cover any other properties other than municipal – could not be extended to anyone else. Important for folks to know that when a company does not carry specific snow removal coverage, that anything that then happens, the resident is liable. Possible that third party liability might cover some of it, but if it is a company doing it, not a volunteer, then that point is moot. Councilor Epp to talk to CAO for any further clarification; Jim M suggested a Muse article be written on the subject to educate residents.

b) Poverty Reduction Subcommittee

Jim M. met with Chief Dunlop two months ago to discuss the grant, and established there should be a strong focus on what can be done and establish priorities. Oriented towards action and not just another report. Chief Dunlop says the RFP is currently being reviewed by the District. Jim M. and Sarah A. to follow up on how they can help. Jim M. noted that there is little the Municipality can do regarding poverty reduction, given its scope, but perhaps helping to transport those with physical challenges. He suggested looking for one-shot projects or investitures, i.e., purchasing a van for transport, or towards the community kitchen. Funds could potentially be coming from the MCA, who has some extra funds to spend.

Sarah A. noted the potential value of utilizing the old school as a community “hub” for cooking, fixing things, mending things. Shannon C. noted that on that topic, the new non-profit ReImagine West Shore will likely be working with MACCA to put on repair cafes in the New Year and will be hosting a free soup making workshop at Royal Bay on December 13, 2023. Counselor Epp - Can a non-profit buy seconds of vegetables and make food? Shannon C. - Community fridges/freezers are becoming more common – where volunteers make food and leave it in the fridge/freezer for anyone who needs it. Jane - Reminded her of the “Community Kitchen” idea from Mary Gidney - making food together.

Councilor Epp - Can we reach out through POD leaders on some of these subjects (someone to speak to Kathleen Sutherland)? Barrett - SRC provides services to check on vulnerable seniors, which could be expanded; currently looking at reinstatement of a Pearson College connection. Jane - JDF has a community development mandate who could come out to help with potential initiatives. Councillor Epp - Suggestion that when the commercial kitchen at the gym up and running, the possibility to make a bunch of soup and for people to take home? Given the fact that interest rates are going up along with food prices, there must be more people feeling squeezed. Recent data sets are scarce to pull from.

c) 911 Funding

Councillor Epp talked to Gord from CREST - no info how to spend the money yet.

d) Dark Sky

Ted W. attended MEASC meeting last month, did a verbal presentation on the subject. They were generally receptive, and he was asked to put together a formal presentation to recommend formal Dark Skies certification, which would require a report every year and ongoing education. Ted realized he should get HCASC’s consent first, before presenting to MEASC.

Moved and Seconded by Ted and Jim to recommend that Council authorize the Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee to draft a formal proposal for the District of Metchosin to become a Dark Sky Community.

Carried

e) Census Data

Shari R. - It was difficult to pull the most recent Census information; monthly costs stood out to her as being possibly misleading. By January, she hopes to have more meaningful information to share.

f) RCMP Report

27.5% increase in reports or “files”, especially in fraud. Shannon C. - SRC is having an RCMP officer come speak at their AGM on the topic of fraud. Jim M. - increases are big because they were so small before (not to diminish them). Sarah A.- a lot of these issues tie back to mental health. Ted - our policing has increased, so they are patrolling more too. Councillor Epp – could be of benefit to have a list of community organizations and activities on a small card that RCMP could hand out as a resource.

7. New Business

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

Jane Hammond announced she won't be renewing her membership to the Committee. Councillor Epp contact Peter H. and ask if we can phone him in if he is not able to attend in person.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan 23, 2024. A social gathering will take place on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.