

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.**

---

**Present:** Shari Rourke (Chair), Councillor Sharie Epp, Sarah Anthony, Ted White, Shannon Carman, Jim MacPherson, Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

**Regrets:** Peter Havers, Chris Pratt

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval**

Agenda amendments – Add under Other Business b) "Accessibility Committee".

**Moved and Seconded** by Shari R. and Sarah A. that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

None.

**3. Public Participation**

None.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Jim M. and Shannon C. that the Committee approve the minutes of the Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee meeting held on November 23, 2023.

**Carried**

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

**a) Public Works and Protective Services Committee, October 16, November 27, 2023**

**b) Special Public Works and Protective Services Committee, November 30, 2023**

**Moved and Seconded** by Sharie and Jim that the Committee receive the minutes of the Public Works Committee meetings held on October 16, November 27, and November 30 2023.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Census Data**

Shari R. asked that committee members go through the packages circulated and read through the data. Jim M. noted that overcrowding and updating houses are both evident as concerns and wondering what information from this package we can take action on, including accessibility and transportation. Concerned about finding a focus for the committee.

Shari R. noted that we can glean a lot of things from these data sets such as employment industry sectors and possibly utilizing the knowledge sets in residents to create a capacity inventory to identify skills of people in our community, which could lead to helping people in a variety of ways, for example: helping seniors who may need assistance with house or property work, as well as forming a network within our community for everyone to utilize that promotes professionals, businesses and services in the community. Capacity inventories are a great way to identify and map strengths and assets in a community and improving community relationships. Ted W. - the key is to identify what people need and deliver it to them. This document helps a lot in that regard.

## 7. Reports

### a) Council Liaison

- Regarding queries from the previous meeting regarding snow removal, Councillor Epp confirmed that municipal insurance only covers volunteers on municipal property. The private sector remains with limited service available due to insurance restrictions and costs to private companies.
- The motion regarding Dark Sky to draft a formal proposal was passed at the last meeting.
- The motion to ban fireworks was also put in motion.
- During the New Housing Regulations Webinar Councillor Epp attended, she was told regarding Metchosin that if we allow detached suites already, then we are **not** captured by the new legislation.
- Old Metchosin School kitchen and bathrooms are finished, hopefully in time for February usage. The art centre consultants from last year had mentioned how important a kitchen is for a cultural centre. JDF might be interested in utilizing the school, and this is being explored. Lights now ready for installation at the Goose crossing at Matheson.
- Accessibility Committee - still getting going, not much to report. Jim M. directed to talk to Councillor Donaldson to get more information on the Committee.

### b) Fire Chief

- Next Gen 911, still not much information on what to do with the funds earmarked for it.
- New grant funds have come through for an indigenous collaboration project, to arrange activities, between Metchosin and Beecher Bay. No capital investments. Ted W. suggested an evening out under the stars on the municipal field in partnership with Sci'aneu as a combined astronomy / cultural event. Sarah A. suggested a Scia'new history tour around Metchosin. Chief Dunlop suggested breaking ideas down into different categories and have a few suggestions for each category. Shari R., indigenous arts opportunities similar to what used to be held through Sci'aneu and Hans Helgesen and Metchosin Elementary; Chief Dunlop asked for all suggestions to be emailed to her.
- Emergency Communications Grant, another RFP to go out soon.
- Still working on Fire Smart grants. EOC and ESS grants have occurred, lots of capital items bought. Metchosin Heat Response plan is put together. New Alertable app, very useful – Chief Dunlop says workshop coming on it in March.

### c) Seniors Information Resource Centre Liaison

- MSA Board updates.
- Christmas light tour - LA Limo donated the vehicle, it went very well, about \$600 raised.

- Swap and Shop table at MACCA made \$75. They have applied for a gaming grant, looking for a response around the end of February.
- Office management going well.
- Volunteer drive ongoing.
- Seniors vulnerable in ice and snow. Fire Chief Dunlop is working on a regional pre-fire plan, where they get pictures of each house and the driveway (not collecting info on suites, etc.). Ted W. wondering how to do risk assessments on houses - conversation about challenges around privacy, workload, etc.

**d) Poverty Reduction Subcommittee**

- RFP was approved and is now posted.
- Deadline for the grant has been pushed back to the summer.

**e) Health and Safety Subcommittee**

- Some trainings coming up via the Fire Hall. Naloxone now available for us to pick up and do training sessions. First Aid can happen once a month.
- Shari R. looking into Mental Health First Aid certification opportunities. Fire Chief Dunlop - Red Cross has mental health first aid too, and already have some instructors so may be able to be offered through firehall trainers, might be more accessible.

**8. Correspondence**

None.

**9. Other Business**

**a) Dark Sky**

This Committee can now draft a formal proposal that Metchosin become a certified Dark Sky Community. Ted W explained that there are different levels of certification - Urban Sky park is a designation we could obtain, but he feels the best fit would be Dark Sky Community designation.

We would need to contact the organization and determine the steps required to apply and achieve certification and will bring back to committee. Ted will initiate this. Ongoing communications and public outreach will be necessary to achieve and maintain certification, along with ongoing monitoring, and an annual report (which is evidently not onerous). Councillor Epp asked if there is any way to avoid all the administration around this and promote in the community without having to go through the certification process. Ted says it is important to make the statement publicly, and that it is not a lot of administrative work. Shari R. pointed out that we need to include any costs and time commitments, as well as all steps involved in getting and maintaining certification, in the proposal for council consideration so that they are given a complete proposal to consider. Councillor Epp pointed out we do not have to do everything at once. Ted will speak with MEASC on the subject and get back to us.

**b) Accessibility Committee**

Councillor Epp clarified that the Accessibility Grant is just for accessibility on municipal grounds; everywhere else in the community is under our purview. We can make recommendations.

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 27, 2024.