

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.**

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

**Regrets:** Peter Havers, Chris Pratt

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval**

Agenda amendments – Add 6d) - Community Data. Capacity Inventory to 9a)

**Moved and Seconded** by Shari R. and Councillor Epp. that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations:** None.

**3. Public Participation:** None.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**a) Healthy Communities Advisory Select Committee, January 23, 2024**

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

**Carried**

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

**a) DRAFT Public Works and Protective Services Committee (not adopted),  
January 15, 2024**

Jim pointed out HCASC had been named to help come up with a “strategic plan” for heat, but Chief Dunlop explained that this referred more to the Poverty Reduction plan - the heat plan for the overall community is fine as is. HCASC can chat about higher level execution, and maybe help identify what groups in the community would be best communicating to which demographics.

**Moved and Seconded** by Councillor Epp and Jim M. that the Committee receive the minutes of the DRAFT Public Works and Protective Services Committee (not adopted), January 15, 2024.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Accessibility Community Update**

To clarify, the District is a member of Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI) is now “Access West Shore Society” has been created as a registered society and has become an independent organization. They put out a short survey asking how the public would prefer to be contacted, and it will be used as the basis to create a Communications Plan and hire a consultant. No timeline for the committee yet, unclear on how Metchosin’s membership will work. Councillor Epp says that it is just the CAOs on that committee for now, and that once it is established that they will likely branch out membership. It had been understood by some that we would end up eventually with Metchosin having our own Accessibility committee, but Councillor Epp pointed out that staff is already overloaded with dealing with meeting minutes from existing committees.

There is a dedicated email address [accessibility@metchosin.ca](mailto:accessibility@metchosin.ca), for anyone that has accessibility issues or ideas to send emails to. Any emails will be collected by the District and compiled for future reference.

Chief Dunlop asked if there were any Metchosin organizations applying for accessibility grants right now. Not that any members knew of, but it was acknowledged that there is lots of grant money available out there on the topic. Jim M. noted that “accessibility” is such a broad definition, and covers a wide range of things, from neurodiversity to blindness to mobility challenges. Councillor Epp noted that it would be useful to list the projects that are a priority, and then look for the money available, rather than the other way around. Jim M. said he has asked the Community House for a few hours of coordinator Mike’s time to walk around the Village core and check out all public buildings to make a list of needs. Shannon C - What about creating a Google Doc where we compile projects, comments, and ideas? Ted W - Or host a public forum on the topic? Maybe a place where we all list the grants we are going after? Councillor Epp notes that new building inspector Chris and our CAO could do the walk about with Jim and Mike.  
**Councillor Epp to talk to them.**

Chief Dunlop noted there are any number of invisible barriers that could be easy and simple to fix. **Shari R. will send around a booklet on that topic.** Barrett F. and Jim M. would like a copy - Chief Dunlop said we should send it along to all the local organizations. Councillor Epp said we should draft a letter with the booklet attached, and then the District can sign it and send it out, including the Google Doc around grants. **Jim M and Barrett F. to put together a story for the Muse on the Accessibility email address.**

#### **b) Dark Skies**

Ted W. has been talking to people, groups, and their reception on the topic has been generally positive. The CAO has already been putting up shields on lights. Also spoke with Anna Hall, Carol Carman, Mike Fisher, to create an ad hoc group. Spoke with president of Royal Astronomical Society, and they are supportive, but are not in a position to offer the designation at present. He suggested we go with the international designation.

**Moved and Seconded** by Ted W. and Shannon C. that the Committee proceed with the designation of “International Dark Sky Community”.

**Carried**

Shannon C. asked for a cost estimate - Ted W said it will be minimal, with signage, shielding lights, etc. Grants are around from Fortis and BC Hydro that could be used. Ted is going to prepare the proposal. Apparently East Sooke is looking to do the same thing (**Shari R. to send an East Sooke contact**, Ted wants to reach out to Beecher Bay as well (contact **Krista Jonnie**).

7. **Reports**

**a) Councillor Epp**

“March for Liz” is on March 2, Preschool is moving into the big classroom in MACCA hallway. Grand opening of the school in the fall, **looking for ideas for that event**, also a name for school (Councillor Epp is floating “Orca”). Mile Zero is now approved to be open 11am-11pm. Everything Water with Good Baird at Council Chambers on Feb 28th.

**b) Fire Chief**

Hall is being painted on the newer side of the school, flooring going in so all the classrooms will be identical. Firehall had 713 calls last year, has asked for a 2.4% increase at the Fire Hall, to get an on-site person doing the day, and to avoid people going to calls alone. Also helps as succession planning. Budget increase also covers minimal pay increases for officers, shortens response times, increases camaraderie, takes the onus off duty officers. EOC is going to be using the money from the Indigenous/District grant to do various cultural and emergency preparedness activities. Will be releasing the schedule soon. Councillor Epp and Shannon C. both expressed interest in being on a subcommittee for the grant, Ted W. also interested. Will check on that next meeting. April 16/17 Annual Fire Safety Expo - name changed to Lance Caven Expo.

**c) Seniors Resource Centre**

United Way is offering Healthy Aging grants, they are applying for the Aging in Motion grant which would allow them to purchase a small bus. This will be on Monday’s agenda. Key to grant is showing collaboration with other community partners, which they will be doing. MSA AGM is on Thursday, March 14 from 1-3pm at the MCH. The guest speaker is Justine Webb, speaking on Fraud Prevention. The SRC hosts monthly Caregivers Meetings, and is now starting up a Widows’ Support Group, which will be publicized soon. The SRC did a check in with Better at Home membership over the past number of days. Also looking into a partnership with Pearson, having a soup night (cooking, eating, multigenerational); also, maybe making a lot of soup and freezing and getting out to people in the community, possibly buying a fridge/freezer for free food to get out to those in need. Also looking into home visits with seniors for Pearson College students.

**d) Poverty Reduction Subcommittee**

Two RFPs have been reviewed, third just came in and needs to be reviewed. Jim M noted that they should respond within a few days.

**e) Health and Safety Subcommittee**

First aid course with Naloxone just took place the previous week - the participants were “mind blown” that it was so informative, done locally, “just fantastic”. They said they feel more prepared. Hopefully more courses to come.

8. **Correspondence:** None.

9. **Other Business**

a) **HCASC Plans / Priorities Discussion**

Bringing forward to next meeting - what do we want to accomplish this year/next year? Focus on? Poverty reduction?

10. **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

Adjourned at 6:31pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 26th at 4:30pm.