

District of Metchosin

Minutes

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

Present: Shari Rourke (Chair), Sarah Anthony, Ted White, Shannon Carman (recorder), Councillor Sharie Epp, Deirdre Chettleburgh, Jim Macpherson, Kathleen Sutherland

Regrets: Peter Havers, Chris Pratt, Stephanie Dunlop

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Add Dark Sky International Response under Correspondence.

Moved and Seconded by Jim M. and Councillor Epp that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

Carried

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

Tamara Ballard, Wootton Rd - Asked to have her comments from the last meeting's minutes amended: "When the issue of Accessibility comes back from Council, that it should be reappointed to the Council Liaison."

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Ted W. and Jim M. that the Committee approve the minutes of the Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee meeting held on March. 26, 2024.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

None.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Accessibility Committee -

Jim M. is meeting with Capital West tomorrow afternoon at 2pm. Will be a year or more before the exiting community will include Metchosin representatives. Hopefully get more clarity on the subject after that. Shari R asked Jim would it be useful to meet with Bob P if there's still confusion after meeting tomorrow - it was agreed that would be helpful.

b) Dark Sky –

Email from Dark Sky was received back today after multiple emails from Ted W - the response thanked us for our patience, confirmed that under their guidelines we are eligible for official certification, and suggested we submit the \$250 fee to access their support in putting together our certification application. Ted has asked a number of questions in response. He suggests that we pay the money now to access their help - this *does not mean* we are applying yet, just getting the process started. Councillor Epp expressed concern about the feasibility of the application now that she's seen the details of it - the amount of time and money involved in getting the designation. Ted W. said he thinks Dark Sky perhaps anticipated we were applying for a higher tier of designation - the one we want is fairly simple, i.e., that we have a policy for municipal lights, and do some education around it. Kathleen asked if there would be another fee on top of this one. Ted says there will not be, other than a nominal annual fee. Shari R asked Ted to put together a short synopsis to explain what the \$250 would go towards and what the long-term commitments are from Council.

c) Committee Priorities Discussion

Jim is worried that the topics brainstormed at the last meeting are too intangible and won't make an impact, and wondered what a healthy community actually is. Shannon C noted that the definition was in the Terms of Reference. Sarah A explained that a healthy community is economically, physically, and mentally healthy. Shannon C, Shari R and Sarah A all noted that high-level discussion is usually needed before action happens, and that most of the suggested projects all have very tangible results. Shari R suggested we could raid the garage sale & repair cafe for tools and volunteers for a tool library, for instance. Re: voting on priorities, will give Kathleen S. a chance to review and add to the options, and before voting at the next meeting.

d) Active Transportation Plan

The process has now begun, starting with a meeting with the planner (Beth) from Urban Systems - Councillor Epp toured around Metchosin to show her the areas of concern. Beth will meet with Parks and Trails tomorrow, and will review trails masterplan, etc. After the information gathering, there will be a public information session (with a focus on hearing from Metchosin volunteer organizations) to find out what their wants and needs are. The hope is to have it done by fall, to be in time for infrastructure grant intake.

7. Reports

a) Councillor Epp- Attended the Fire & Life Safety Expo, 25th anniversary, held at the Old School. Around 1,000 Grade 4 students attended. RCMP fire fighters, all volunteering, talked about fire safety at home as well as stations for bullying, cyber safety, bike safety. Last weekend all of Council attended the Coastal Communities Convention, - Councillor Epp asked the BC Community Health Officer to describe what he does - he can help with sourcing experts on different topics, grant writing, problem solving, etc. Shari R - can he come to a HCASC meeting? Councillor Epp will ask about his availability.

Goose crossing at Matheson is going in but is complicated and will involve BC Transit and CRD. Urban Systems has been hired to draw up the plan for the crossing. Many members noted that cyclists rarely dismount when crossing roads, which is very dangerous. Sarah A noted that in Europe it was police enforcement that made cyclists follow the rules. Kathleen S noted that if we made bike lines, we would get the speedy ones off the Goose.

b) Fire Chief - Chief Dunlop absent.

- c) **SRC** - Neither grant they applied for was accepted - one involving transport innovation, one from Gaming for greater pay for the Office Manager. The letters of support from the community for the grants were amazing, however, so that was uplifting. New manager Wendy Buckland is now trained and in place - the MSA received a number of high-quality applications, but hers was the best. She started at beginning of April. Visits to seniors from Pearson students went really well - the students were giddy on their way back. Working with the MCA on some "super soup lunches" - had a test run last week, looking good for the fall, to have a lunch with students with any leftovers could go in a community fridge. Hoping Wendy can come to some subsequent meetings. Spoke with Lisa Moffat about the poverty reduction grant, how the MSA can be involved.
- d) **Poverty Subcommittee** - On April 29, the subcommittee will be meeting with Lisa Moffat to discuss the poverty reduction grant, going over areas of focus, and how to liaise with SRC and other organizations.
- e) **Health and Safety Subcommittee** - Councillor Epp and Shari R met with Fire Chief to go over options - Chief Dunlop had free first aid sessions started in 2019/2020, only got three done before COVID hit - the thought is they could now resurrect the rest of that list. And, if participants went to every session, they could get a first aid certificate. Chief Dunlop also mentioned that firefighters now have their medical first aid designation, so they can administer pain killers - basically paramedics now.

8. Correspondence

- a) **Dark Sky International email response**

9. Other Business

None.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Adjourned at 6:06 p.m. Next meetings will be Tuesday, May 28 and Tuesday, June 25 at 4:30pm.