

MINUTES of a regular meeting of the MUNICIPAL COUNCIL of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria, B.C., on Tuesday April 23, 2019. The meeting adjourned to In Camera at 6:30 PM and reconvened for regular business at 7:00 PM. .

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Coast and Straits Salish Peoples. Specifically we recognize the Lekwungen speaking people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and that their historic connections to these lands continue to this day

PRESENT: Mayor K. Murdoch, Chair
Councillor A. Appleton
Councillor H. Braithwaite
Councillor T. Ney
Councillor E. Paterson
Councillor E.W. Zhelka

REGRETS: Councillor C. Green.

STAFF: Chief Administrative Officer, L. Varela
Director of Corporate Services, W. Jones
Director of Financial Services, D. Carter
Recording Secretary, V. McKean

ADJOURNMENT TO IN CAMERA:

1. *Motion to Adjourn to In Camera*

That in accordance with section 90(1)(a) and (c) of the *Community Charter*, that the open portion of the meeting of Council be adjourned and that a closed session be convened to discuss personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and labour relations or other employee relations.

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING TO RECONVENE AT 7:00 PM:

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

2. ***Minutes***

- Financial Plan (Estimates) meeting held April 3, 2019

MOVED and seconded: That the minutes of the Financial Plan (Estimates) meeting held April 3, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

3. Mayor Murdoch reported that he and Council attended the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) Conference April 12-14. The Mayor addressed some negative comments regarding District staff made on social media and reminded members of the public that the District of Oak Bay is a respectful workplace. He said

that the workplace extends beyond the physical boundaries of the Municipal Hall and requested that this be observed and respected. Mayor Murdoch recognized the ethical and professional standards of District staff and the open and honest communication that exists between staff and Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD:

4. C. Smart, Oak Bay resident, expressed concern regarding the future of the Victoria Symphony at the Royal Theatre as a result of the proposed rental increases and potential relocation of the theatre. She highlighted that current programs at the Royal Theatre offer opportunities for youth to engage with instruments and watch local performers. Ms. Smart identified the Royal Theatre as a community asset and noted the diversity of programs and shows. She encouraged Council to start the conversation about preserving the arts programs currently operating at the Royal Theatre, notably the Victoria Symphony, Dance Victoria and Victoria Opera, as the affordability of continued production becomes uncertain.

M. Bradley, Oak Bay resident, suggested that the proposed approach to increase rental fees at the Royal Theatre be reconsidered as the current practices and policies in place are outdated. She said that every dollar invested in the arts yields an additional \$10 in economic activity and asked that Council work to keep that money local. Ms. Bradley asked that other funding options be considered such as increased runs of productions done at the Belfry Theatre. Ms. Bradley requested that Council initiate a mediation process overseen by an independent third party to hear the concerns of the Board as well as the major user groups of the Royal Theatre. She noted her dissatisfaction with the survey conducted by the Royal Theatre and requested that another survey be undertaken. Ms. Bradley asked that Council reconsider the direction that the Royal Theatre is taking and say “yes” to the arts.

COMMUNICATIONS:

5. **Royal & McPherson Theatres Society**
- Presentation - Royal & McPherson Theatres Society
 - Addenda - Correspondence - Royal & McPherson Theatres Society Presentation

Mr. Lorne DeLarge, Volunteer president of the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society (RMTS), acknowledged the community interest in this matter and thanked Council for its previous support of the theatres. Mr. DeLarge presented to Council on behalf of the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society noting that the rental rate increases have been deferred for two years.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. DeLarge said that the RMTS has not asked for government support for 21 years. He said that the Society is well managed and self-supported. Mr. DeLarge noted that new emerging costs and inefficiencies relating to numbers of shows and bookings reduce the small surplus held by the Society. He added that the rate increases are intended to encourage efficient use of the theatre as the current practice allows the theatre to be kept dark preventing it from generating revenue during those times. Mr. DeLarge commented that rental rates are comparable to those of other theatres for non-profit groups and are offered at 50% of the cost they charge to commercial groups and productions. Mr. DeLarge said that any potential relocation of the Royal Theatre would require a regional discussion.

MOVED and seconded: That Council receive the presentation from the Royal & McPherson Theatres Society for information.

CARRIED

6. **Request for Fitness Cardio Equipment Purchase Approval**

- Report - Request for Fitness Cardio Equipment Purchase Approval

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the request. Mr. Jones noted that historically money is borrowed from the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) but suggested that the District borrow the required funds from District Reserves.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Corporate Services said the equipment is required to be replaced due to the expiry of the three year warranty period, that borrowing from reserves is not a new practice, and that recent changes to the Gas Tax funding permits more flexible use of the funds.

MOVED and seconded:

- 1) That Council award early approval of the fitness cardiovascular equipment replacement with a budgeted value of \$214,000 and award the proposal to Fitness Town Commercial for \$209,365.

CARRIED

- 2) That Council approves funding for this purchase of \$24,000 from the Parks, Recreation and Culture's Equipment Reserve-Studio Fund and up to \$190,000 to be borrowed from the District's Capital Works Reserve with funds to be repaid with interest over three years.

CARRIED

7. **2019 Grant Allocations**

- Memorandum - Grant Applications 2019
- Addenda - Memo Attachment - Grant Applications 2019
- Addenda - Correspondence - 2019 Grant Allocations

Council discussed the levels of funding to be provided to the organizations who submitted requests for funding.

MOVED and seconded: That staff be directed to round each allocated amount to the nearest \$10 while remaining within the budget cap of \$117,130.

Applicant	2019 Funds Requested	2019 Funds Approved
City of Victoria	\$2,000	\$1,650
Community Association of Oak Bay	\$2,000	\$1,430
Friends of Uplands Park	\$2,500	\$2,330
Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society	\$2,500	\$1,650
Green Teams of Canada	\$8,000	\$3,790
Jeux de la Francophonie Canadienne	\$20,000	\$12,290
Maritime Museum	\$6,500	\$1,500
North Oak Bay Community Association	\$1,000	\$560
Oak Bay Figure Skating Club	\$6,500	\$2,620
Oak Bay Heritage Foundation	\$5,000	\$3,930
Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club	\$4,700	\$3,280
Oak Bay Sea Rescue	\$6,150	\$5,210
Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission	\$10,000	\$10,000
Victoria Sexual Assault Centre	\$10,000	\$5,580
Victoria Women's Transition House Society	\$2,000	\$1,220
*Halloween Kiwanis	\$500	\$500
*Oak Bay High School Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500
*Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Fund	\$3,000	\$3,000
*Oak Bay United Church	\$3,500	\$3,500
*South Island Prosperity Project	\$44,331	\$44,331
*Integrated Recreation	\$7,065	\$7,065
Total Funds:	\$148,246	\$116,936

* Perpetual grant funding

CARRIED

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Financial Services said that the funding request from the Oak Bay Volunteer Services in the amount of \$35,000 is separate from the grants-in-aid, but still requires a Council resolution for approval.

MOVED and seconded: That Council approve funding for the Oak Bay Volunteer Services in the amount of \$35,000.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:

8. ***New Business***

Councillor Zhelka introduced a Notice of Motion regarding the Secondary Suites Study to integrate the Secondary Suite Implementation in conjunction with the comprehensive housing study to be considered at the next meeting of Council.

Verbal Reports

Councillor Braithwaite thanked staff for closing the Municipal Hall for the service held for former Mayor Nils Jensen on April 11, 2019. She expressed appreciation to Oak Bay Police and Fire for the Honour Guard in memory of the former Mayor.

Councillor Zhelka congratulated Councillor Braithwaite on her re-election as a director for the AVICC. He commented that he enjoyed the AVICC conference and appreciated the tone of the event and the networking opportunities.

Councillor Appleton provided an update from the Greater Victoria Library Board and noted the confirmation of provincial funding to be provided at the previous rate and the resulting discussions being held around the lack of increased funding. He said that the Rick Hansen Foundation's accessibility review of library branches emphasizes the need for municipalities to support libraries. Councillor Appleton said that his attendance at the AVICC conference was enjoyable and productive, and he emphasized the open and accessible nature of the event.

Mayor Murdoch expressed his appreciation to staff on the budget process to date and noted it was a step towards where staff and Council would like to be in the future with respect to budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

9. ***Motion to Adjourn***

MOVED and seconded: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

Director of Corporate Services