

MINUTES of a special meeting of the SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY MEETING of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held at the Windsor Pavilion, 2451 Windsor Road, Victoria, B.C., on Wednesday October 23, 2019 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, C. Green
Councillor, T. Ney
Councillor E. Paterson
Councillor E.W. Zhelka

STAFF: Chief Administrative Officer, L. Varela
Director of Corporate Services, D. Hopkins
Communications Specialist. H. Goodgrove

Mayor Murdoch called the Community Meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. He provided an overview of the format for the evening's proceedings. The Mayor provided a brief summary of current matters before Council, noted Council's strategic priorities, and highlighted upcoming community projects.

The format for the meeting included three groups with two Councillors at each group. Approximately every twenty minutes the Council members rotated so that each participant group had the opportunity address all members of Council. The Mayor acted as a roving member floating between discussions.

Following the three rounds of discussions, Councillors provided an overview of the discussion topics within their respective groups. Subject raised included:

Heritage, Character, and Development

- Preservation of community heritage and character
- Process for implementation of the proposed Heritage Conservation Area
- Oversight of developer-driven developments
- Development of more robust standards for developments including Development Cost Charges (DCCs) and Community Amenity Contributions (CACs)
- Consideration of fees for demolitions and breaks for restorations

Traffic

- Traffic safety with regards to volume, speeding, and rolling through stop signs
- Crosswalk safety and pedestrian visibility (i.e. Oak Bay Ave in front to Fairways)

Housing

- Rental housing stock concerns including affordability, availability, and what's currently missing
- District housing strategy or framework: should further development be put on hold pending completion of the Housing Needs Report and the Housing Strategy
- Consideration of rental only zones
- Timing of completion of housing strategy
- Need to attract younger community members

Infrastructure

- Taxation and how the District is managing and planning for infrastructure
- Options for separated sewers, availability of information and associated communication
- Underground utilities, long-term planning, and the impacts on boulevards
- Pressure on infrastructure as a result of increasing development of larger houses

Climate Action and the Environment

- Climate crisis, District initiatives, and how the community can be more involved
- Embed in the work of staff
- Raccoons
- Urban deer including impacts and fencing regulations
- Water usage
- Recycling bins for Oak Bay Avenue and other significant municipal locations (e.g. Willows Beach)
- Installation of additional EV charging stations (electric vehicles)
- Sustainable transportation options
- BC Energy Step Code information

Oak Bay Village

- Request for a more comprehensive Oak Bay Village plan including more uniqueness between shops, barrier free access, and pedestrian safety

Parks and Recreation

- Tree retention and loss of Garry oaks, trees that yield crops (local food options)
- More playgrounds needed in the municipality (e.g. behind the Municipal Hall)
- Update on activities pertaining to the migratory bird sanctuary

Public Engagement and Participation

- Public input to Council Committees and Commissions
- Improved availability of information including earlier access to agendas and reports, minutes, background information and more fulsome input into municipal processes
- Update on Public Engagement; opportunities for public voice earlier in processes; updates on the Mayor's Task Force on Public Engagement recommendations

District Policies and Procedures

- Procedure Bylaw revisions
- Provide for enhanced transparency on District procedures
- Respectful workplace should be applied equally to all, residents and staff
- More time afforded to community members in the Public hearing process
- Costs associated with utility bills with respect to water and sewer charges and how they are billed (e.g. property tax bill or utility bill)
- Inclusion of Age Friendly BC Initiatives
- First Nations relationships

Mayor Murdoch thanked members of the community for participating in the discussions with Council. He requested that participants complete and submit the feedback forms provided to help inform future community meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

Director of Corporate Services