

MINUTES of a special meeting of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY MEETING of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Victoria, B.C., on Monday, November 4, 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, H. Braithwaite
Councillor, C. Green
Councillor, T. Ney
Councillor E. Paterson
Councillor E.W. Zhelka
REGRETS: Councillor A. Appleton
STAFF: Chief Administrative Officer, L. Varela
Director of Corporate Services, D. Hopkins
Communications Specialist. H. Goodgrove

Mayor Murdoch called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He noted that this is the third of three planned community meetings to be held in 2019. The Mayor gave 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 an informal discussion of matters of local area interest facilitated by Mayor and Council.

Council-Identified Community Issues:

- Deer management
- Tree preservation
- Increased housing options
- Long-term financial sustainability
- Increased public engagement
- Overdevelopment
- Environmental protection and climate change
- Evidence-based policy and planning

Housing:

- Secondary Suites Study
- Affordability and options
- Pressure for Post-Secondary Institutions to provide more student housing

Traffic:

- Update on 2016 Speed Study
- Pedestrian safety in areas without sidewalks with 50 km/hr speed limits (e.g. Uplands Park)
- Volume on residential roads

Building and Development:

- Regulations to restrict size of homes
- Incentives for renovations and retention of existing homes; increased fees for demolitions
- Process for obtaining a building permit to undertake residential renovations
- Concerns about amount of blasting occurring and lack of exploration of alternate methods; absence of regulations besides provincial safety regulations
- Perceived permission to clear-cut lots for developments; encourage tree retention and minimize tree loss
- Overdevelopment and policies to limit the negative community effects

Climate Action and Climate Change:

- Disposal of good materials resulting from home demolitions including landscaping
- Establishment of luxury taxes for large homes using more resources
- Food security and regenerative agriculture
- Encourage Oak Bay to become a leader by demonstrating how micro-decisions can have large impacts
- Support senior levels of government in climate action; is this what Oak Bay should be focussed on or delegate to higher levels of government
- Support for the proposed Climate Action Working Group

Infrastructure:

- Appreciation for the infrastructure upgrades underway such as intersection improvements in North Oak Bay
- Upgrading of roads required

Municipal Policies and Processes:

- Timelines for the Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)
- Decrease property taxes by reducing expenditure and influence the Capital Regional District to also reduce expenditures
- Realities of a predominantly residential tax base in the community
- Increased advertising for the three community meetings held in 2019

Mayor Murdoch thanked the members of the public for attending and expressed appreciation to staff for their support in holding these community meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

Director of Corporate Services