
TOWN OF SIDNEY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Monday, September 18, 2017
Council Chambers

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor T. Chad
Mayor S. Price and Councillors: E. Bremner-Mitchell, B. Fallot, C. McLennan and P. Wainwright

Absent: Councillor M. Lougher-Goodey

Staff: R. Humble, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Hicik, Director of Corporate Services
T. Tanton, Director of Development Services, Engineering, Parks & Works
C. Newcomb, Municipal Planner
S. Nelson, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor B. Fallot, seconded by Councillor C. McLennan, that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

a. News Year's Day Community Tea 2018

Moved by Councillor E. Bremner-Mitchell, seconded by Councillor C. McLennan, that the Committee recommend to Council that Council approve hosting a Community Tea on January 1st, 2018 in place of the Annual New Year's Day Open House, and that a total budget of \$3,500 be allocated for the event.

OPPOSED: Councillor P. Wainwright
MOTION CARRIED 5:1

5. PARKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

6. PROTECTIVE SERVICES

7. DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

a. Project Update - Downtown Streetscape & Urban Design Standards

Mr. Nathan Flach, D'Ambrosio Architecture, presented the draft Downtown Streetscape & Urban Design Standards noting it as a long-term plan. He advised of the public consultation process and the feedback received, which included support for landscaping, wide sidewalks, trees, street lighting and furniture. Mr. Flach noted urban design standards guide the design of downtown whilst giving careful consideration where public and private realms meet (i.e. residential frontage, façade alignment, building adjacencies, commercial frontages, pedestrian entrances and exits, lighting, utilities, etc.). He advised the plan recommends the establishment of an Urban Design Panel and explained some of the key elements in the plan: tighter driving lanes (safer), wider sidewalks, rain gardens, seating areas (parklets); reduced on-street parking and replaced with a nearby parkade; cycling infrastructure; and consistency of Beacon Avenue from Highway 17 to the waterfront. He also explained urban ecology and working with natural systems – stormwater management, marine ecology, tree canopy, etc. Mr. Flach stressed the importance of understanding that this is a long-term, 30-year plan and requested Council's feedback.

Mayor S. Price expressed concerns of the plan containing elements that were not part of the original scope of the study (i.e. the 1-way vs. 2-way on Beacon Avenue, elimination of the roundabout on Beacon Avenue and First Street and a parkade on Third Street) and requested the consultant remove those from the plan. He stated that the Town has already completed traffic and parking studies for the downtown area that addresses these items.

Councillor P. Wainwright expressed concerns regarding mixed-use villages with residential only building in the downtown area. He also expressed concerns of the dramatic loss of parking with wider sidewalks, rain gardens, etc. and recommended wording be included about phasing-in the components and that the loss of parking would not happen all at once.

Councillor E. Bremner noted the commercial shift towards the waterfront area and is concerned about increasing residential and the loss of commercial spaces at Beacon and Fifth Street, noting the Town's vacancy rate is low (4%) and can handle more commercial spaces. She stress the importance of providing alternative sources of transportation prior to reducing on-street parking and questioned the building overhangs compared to the density review study.

Councillor B. Fallot expressed concerns regarding the loss of on-street parking and stated that, with the commercial shift towards the waterfront, the areas west of Fifth Street do need improvement. She expressed support for ground level landscaping and clear glazing of storefront windows. She stated the plan is a long term vision, overwhelming and expensive.

Moved by Mayor S. Price, seconded by Councillor C. McLennan, that the Committee recommend to Council:

1. *That the staff report, dated September 12, 2017, be received for information;*
2. *That comments from the Committee of the Whole on the draft Downtown Streetscape & Urban Design Standards be communicated back to the project consultant by staff; and*
3. *That staff be directed to work with the consultant to ensure that those items that are beyond the original scope of the project, specifically one-way vs. two-way on Beacon Avenue, the roundabout at Beacon Avenue/First Street intersection, and possible sites for a Sidney Downtown Parkade be removed from the draft Downtown Streetscape & Urban Design Standards document prior to being made available on the Town's website for public feedback; and*
4. *That the revised draft Downtown Streetscape & Urban Design Standards be made available on the Town's website for public feedback.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. MOTION TO GO "IN-CAMERA" (closed meeting) - Not required.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor C. McLennan, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER