



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 30, 2020 – 2:00PM – 3:30PM
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, Councillor B. Fallot, Kelly Bull-Tomer, David Calveley, Glenys Cavers, Steve Duck, Kirsten Norris, Morgan Shaw, Denny Warner

Regrets: Brett Mikkelsen, Fire Chief

Staff: Randy Humble, CAO, Alison Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning / Recovery Director, Donna Barner, Recording Clerk

Meeting called to order by R. Humble at 2:01. R. Humble served as Chair and conducted the election for Committee Chair. Chair R Humble thanked committee members for their participation on this new COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee. Extended thanks and acknowledgement with sincere respect to the WSÁNEĆ People.

1. Introductions

Mayor Cliff McNeil –Smith – *Town of Sidney Mayor*

Councillor Barbara Fallot – *Town of Sidney Councillor*

Kelly Bull-Tomer – *Chair of the Advisory Planning Commission*

David Calveley – *Vice Chair of Economic Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the OCP Advisory Committee*

Glenys Cavers – *Director of SHOAL Centre & Thrift Shops, Beacon Community Services. Has led the BC211 program for the CRD during the pandemic.*

Steve Duck – *President, Sidney Community Association*

Kirsten Norris – *Communications Coordinator, ArtSea Community Arts Council, and also representing the Sidney Events Advisory Group (SEAG)*

Morgan Shaw - *Executive Director of Sidney Business Improvement Area Society, EOC Planning staff member*

Denny Warner – *Executive Director for Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, member of the Economic Advisory Committee, EOC Planning staff member*

Alison Verhagen – *Senior Manager of Current Planning, served as Planning Section Chief for the EOC, now serving as Recovery Director*

Donna Barner – *Fire and Emergency Management office Services Coordinator, served as Information Section Chief, now serving as the assistant to the Recovery Director*

Brett Mikkelsen – *Chair R Humble introduced Brett Mikkelsen in his absence. Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, served as the EOC Director*

Randy Humble – *Chief Administrative Officer*

2. Election of Chief and Vice Chair

The Chair called for nominations for Chair:

- Councillor B Fallot nominates Mayor C. McNeil-Smith.
- The Chair called the nomination for a second and third time. No further nominations were made.

Mayor C. McNeil-Smith acclaimed as Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair:

- D. Calveley nominates S. Duck.
- The Chair called the nomination for a second and third time. No further nominations were made.

S. Duck acclaimed as Vice Chair.

CARRIED

3. Review and approval of the agenda

Moved by S. Duck, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot that the Agenda be approved with the following edits:

Item 6 be amended to 6A: Review of EOC business survey results

Add item 6B: Update on Resident Survey

Add item 6C: Interprovincial travel – Sidney Tourism Messaging

Between items 8 and 9, add item: “Next Steps”

CARRIED

4. Review of Terms of Reference

The Chair called for any questions from the Committee on the Terms of Reference. No questions were raised and no motion required.

5. Review of Staff Reports to Council on recovery planning

A. Verhagen provided a review on the following Staff Reports:

- May 21, 2020 Staff Report to Mayor and Council, “Update on Recovery Planning from COVID-19 Pandemic”
 - May 21, 2020 Staff Report to Mayor and Council, “Pandemic Recovery Planning: Pedestrian and Business use of Public Space in the Downtown Core”
 - June 12, 2020 Staff Report to Mayor and Council, “Transition from Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to a Long-Term Recovery Structure”
 - Discussion:
 - Modified public space to increase pedestrian space is being done at the Town’s expense. If a business wishes to build a patio space, this is the businesses expense.
 - Value of the data provided by the pedestrian counters. D. Calveley and Councillor Duncan have prepared additional comparative graphs.
- D. Calveley to forward additional graphs to D. Barner.**

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by S. Duck that the committee receives the staff reports to Council.

CARRIED

6. A. Review of EOC Business Survey results

A. Verhagen provided a review on the June 16, 2020 Staff Report to Mayor and Council, "Summary of EOC Business Survey results"

Moved by S. Duck, seconded by K. Bull-Tomer that the committee receives the Summary of the EOC Business Survey results Staff Report to Mayor and Council

CARRIED

B. Review of EOC Resident Survey results

A. Verhagen provided a verbal update on the early results of the EOC Resident Survey on pandemic experiences.

– Highlights:

- 530 responses in approximately one week
- Three quarters live in Sidney
- Majority are retired (44%), or employed full time (33%)
- 80% are homeowners; 86% indicated they would be able to pay their property taxes on time
- 17% are renters; 87% indicated they would be able to pay their rent on time
- When asked how their work situation has changed due to the pandemic, 30% said they were not affected, 29% said they were working from home, 13% had decreased hours, and 13% had been laid off.
- Top five concerns for family in order are: physical health, mental health, safety, investments, and food/nutrition.
- Top five concerns for community in order are: economy, mental health, employment, safety, and physical health.

Moved by M. Shaw, seconded by K. Norris that the committee receives the verbal update on the early results of the EOC Resident Survey on pandemic experiences.

CARRIED

C. Interprovincial travel – Sidney Tourism Messaging

– Discussion:

- The Province has announced we are now in Phase 3 of the BC Restart Plan, which includes interprovincial travel. Province is advising tourists to check with the community prior to visiting to ensure they are welcoming travel.
- The EOC and Town Hall have had, and continue to have, several inquiries regarding Sidney's stance on tourism.
- Sidney should consider developing a message for visitors similar to Destination BC, Destination Victoria, and communities such as Kelowna and Whistler.
- Due to the urgency of this messaging, a Special Council meeting will be scheduled to review messaging.
- Recommendation needs to balance economic recovery as well as community recovery.

Moved by S. Duck, seconded by K. Norris that staff draft a recommendation to Council in support with consistent messaging regarding tourism in Sidney.

7. Roundtable

Chair - Recovery was part of EOC activities from the initial activation, but this committee will move forward with Recovery. D. Warner shared positive news that District of North Saanich will provide funding to open washrooms at Saanich Peninsula Visitor Information Centre.

Councillor B. Falot – Mayor and Council hosted a virtual Meet and Greet last night, which provided the opportunity to hear concerns from our community that we as individuals may not have considered. This committee is a perfect opportunity to build upon this concept. Committee will need to be nimble to adapt to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic and be able to act quickly.

D. Calveley – proposed information sharing prior to meeting so committee can come to meetings prepared to make decisions to decrease time it takes for items to be acted upon. Information and discussions should be fluid between meetings and not be reserved only for meetings. This committee will need to be able to respond quickly and act urgently.

G. Cavers – Have seen a significant increase in stress and anxiety throughout COVID in our community. Connection and support is definitely something she would like to see.

M. Shaw – The BIA is advocating local spending as much as they can for July and August. The business community carries a lot of uncertainty for the fall and a potential second wave.

8. Next Steps

Chair proposed the next meeting be structured around a discussion based on the four focuses outlined in the Terms of Reference; Economic Recovery and Resiliency, Cultural Recovery and Resiliency, Community Resiliency, and Prepare for Future COVID-19 Waves. Subject to availability, the Chair would like to meet again within 7-10 days.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. Caveley, seconded by G. Cavers that the meeting adjourn at 03:25.

Meeting adjourned at 03:25.

Chair

Date