

TOWN OF SIDNEY
MINUTES OF EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 18th, 2021 10:00AM

PRESENT: L. Witzer, B. Mikkelsen, Councilor O’Keefe, A. Hicik, C. Newcomb, B. DeMaere, C. Cook, B. Robinson, J. Joe, P. Wills

ABSENT: M. Harman, S. Nelson, S. Jones, B. Fallot, W. Maxwell, R. Humble, A. Verhagen,

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by The Chair, seconded by A. Hicik, that the Agenda of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of July 21st, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by all The Chair, seconded by A. Hicik, that the Minutes of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of July 21st, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) UBCM Grant Application for Evacuation Route Planning

B. Mikkelsen said that Evacuation Route Planning is still with the consultant.

b) Mary Winspear Centre COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

B. Mikkelsen said there is nothing new to report.

c) HRVA Refresh

B. Mikkelsen spoke about the commitment to re-evaluating this risk and vulnerability profile. Hope to begin in late September or early October.

d) EPC Emergency Management Tasks/Goals

B. Mikkelsen said the UNDRR Application is being pushed to the side while dealing with more pressing matters.

6. NEW BUSINESS**a) Update on Wildfire Situation**

B. Mikkelsen said that yesterday the department had sent its fifth crew. Crews work for ten days and are currently stationed in Vernon, BC. C. Cook said that they are currently spending a lot of time with the Fairy Creek Blockades. They are however sending an officer to help with the Indigenous communities affected by the wildfires. B. Mikkelsen said they also had a PEMO ESS member deployed to Kamloops to help with the ESS Centers.

b) Cooling Centers and Heat Response Plan

B. Mikkelsen gave an overview of the newly implemented Heat Response Plan and how it was used during the most recent heat warning. Not a lot of use of the cooling center as the heat was just below or exactly at the threshold. There was good feedback on the implementation of the heat response plan from VIHA and the 811 call centers. L. Witzer asked about the misting stations and how they are running constantly but if there could be a way to have it shut off when not in use to conserve water. B. Mikkelsen said that the misting station was set up by North Saanich and not part of our municipality. A. Hicik asked to make sure this is publicized so that people know how to help themselves. B. Mikkelsen agrees, social media and an EOC call center can be activated at a higher level should the heat be well above 30 degrees. Councilor O'Keefe asked how we can get more information out to young families. B. Mikkelsen said there was messaging sent out to the public regarding the spray park being open. New messaging can be evolved as we move forward with this new type of response. B. Mikkelsen said that the focus was on the preservation of life based on demographic of Sidney and the data based on the heat dome fatalities. Councilor O'Keefe suggested a poster for the SHOAL Center that can be year round to inform the public when a heat response is warranted that people can come there for a cooling center. B. Mikkelsen said that it was a good idea and that the Heat Response Plan will be an ever changing document. Councilor O'Keefe asked who would provide water to the public. B. Mikkelsen said that bottled water can be provided through the response plan and is a large part of the response plan. Councilor O'Keefe asked if there are camp coolers for cold bottled water. B. Mikkelsen said that isn't something that is currently in our possession but they can be a

possible future purchase. B. Mikkelsen asked B. Robinson is there was a larger volume of people at the spray park. B. Robinson said there wasn't any uptake in the spray park but the beaches are very active.

7. **ROUNDTABLE**

B. Mikkelsen brought up the recent spike in call volumes for emergency response service and that they are doing their best. Councilor O'Keefe asked if it was related to heat or trends. B. Mikkelsen said it's not just one thing but a bunch of different factors. Councilor O'Keefe wondering if there is a way to get a monthly or quarterly report on the fire call volumes are like. A. Hicik said that there is an annual stat report from the fire department and that everyone should wait till we get back to normal post-COVID world. B. Mikkelsen said that is a great point as medical calls were majority covered by the paramedics.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

10:00am, September 15th, 2021 via Zoom.

Committee will continue to meet monthly during the COVID-19 pandemic until the committee agrees to resume to the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by The Chair, seconded by P. Wills, that the meeting adjourn at 10:34am.

MOTION CARRIED



CHAIR