

# TOWN OF SIDNEY



## OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES of January 26, 2021

### Meeting held via Videoconferencing

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#### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson:	Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith
Members:	David Calveley, Denny Gelinis, Hannah Nawroth, Bernardine van der Meer , Gae VanSiri, Todd Weibe
Council Liaison:	Councillor Peter Wainwright
Staff:	Corey Newcomb, Senior Manager of Long Range Planning Randy Humble, Chief Administrative Officer
Recording Secretary:	Kelly Albucz, Development & Administrative Coordinator
Absent:	Marie Savage

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

#### **2. Territorial Acknowledgement.**

*The Mayor respectfully acknowledged that this evening's meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ First Nation; the Tsawout, Tsartlip, Pauquachin, and Tseycum.*

#### **3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

**Moved by: D. Gelinis**  
**Seconded: G. VanSiri**

That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The Committee agreed to make the following amendment:  
page 4, Transportation & Getting Around – Page 56, remove "Treats walking as a transportation mode, rather than a recreational activity" and replace with "*Treats walking only as a transportation mode rather than also taking into consideration the social and health benefits of a walkable community*"

**Moved by: B. van der Meer**  
**Seconded: G. VanSiri**

That the Minutes of October 27, 2020 be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**5. OCP Review Project – January 2021 Update C. Newcomb**

C. Newcomb spoke to the staff report and stated the following:

- Launch event well attended.
- Phase I summary completed.
- Charrette postponed due to Covid19 – rescheduled a virtual version of the Land Use Options & Design Charrette for Feb 23 & 25, 2021.
- Survey “Pin-Up” results of Charrette to be circulated in March/April. Will try to send out a paper survey in conjunction with the Town Talk publication. Printed copies of an abbreviated survey to be made available at various locations throughout Sidney for pick-up and completion.
- Work Book late March/April – will build in ideas from the charrette. Town will provide refund for pizza for those who turn in a completed work book. There will be specific topics for discussion to be completed. Questions will endeavor to supply more depth to charrette findings.
- First Nations Engagement – (ongoing) have had positive and productive meetings with some good discussions. The OCP will work to build in some level of reconciliation to the document.
- Phase II Project Ambassador Initiative; have contacted North Saanich Middle School and Parkland High School, however, there has been concern over contact issues, and would like to explore zoom options for sessions.
- Website designed to reach out to church groups and community groups in hopes that they will participate.
- Planning Staff will be out on the streets to raise awareness of the project.
- Article in the Seaside magazine will also highlight project.
- Town Hall meeting intended to get a broader perspective.

These activities will lead to the Phase 3 component of building draft sections of the OCP. The intent is for the plan to be built in sections, bringing a section or two at a time to the committee/commissions involved for feedback and adjusting the plan as necessary.

Chair made the following comments:

1. Two changes in OCP process; a one month delay was due to Covid19 restrictions. Chair is confident that the lost momentum will be regained.
2. Decision to move process into virtual realm and hope to overcome any challenges it may present

## 6. Discussion

The Committee made the following points:

1. Concerns that environmental area land uses are not addressed in depth in order to protect/recognize sensitive ecosystems in Sidney:
  - C. Newcomb advised the charrette has a stand-alone section specifically for ecosystems, and has asked Modus to include material surrounding this subject.
  - A stakeholder workshop in April will take environmental groups into an even deeper level of discussion.
2. Urban agriculture for food security needs to be a policy item to address:
  - Specific land use areas.
  - Community Garden plots.
  - Animal husbandry such as bee keeping should be supported however, raising chickens to be a Council directed initiative.
  - CAO R. Humble advised there is currently a regional framework around bio-diversity of which some aspects could be reviewed by Council for possible inclusion with OCP.
  - C. Newcomb added that it may be helpful to extend the discussion on the regional framework issue to colleagues in surrounding municipalities.
3. Supported the use of Sidney Town Talk publication to show case the project as the publication has received positive reviews from the community and is a strong brand for Sidney:
  - Survey to accompany next Town Talk publication.
  - Use of large signage at entry points to Sidney.
  - Sandwich boards strategically placed on walking paths or commercial corridor (seaside walkway, Beacon Avenue).
4. Online inputs via website and Facebook to be captured/summarized by Modus to create a summary with themes to be linked to the community input:
  - Recommendation that Modus create a “parking lot” record for those items that will need further consideration.
5. Ocean Hub designation to be considered for inclusion in order to identify marine activities supported by Sidney.
6. Virtual charrette model could be challenging, the following were concerns:
  - Number of days and length of time for each day:
    - Three (3) days scheduled for February 23, 24, & 25.
    - First and third days will be 2.5 hours with ability to “spill over” to 3 hours (from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.) with first hour on main categories, and 1.5 – 2 hours for smaller break out groups.
    - Second day will be with Modus and planning staff to refine information gathering to specific areas for day three (3) session.
  - Number of zoom participants for each session:
    - Initial groups of 30-35 people who would discuss main categories, which would then break out into smaller groups of 6-7 people specific to areas of expertise/interest.
  - Post charrette de-brief with this committee in early March if interest exists.
7. Housing policy should be addressed from Federal and Provincial funding directives/support.
8. Economic Development Strategy:
  - Should be included in key directions report as was absent from existing OCP thereby could not be included in the background recommendations report.
  - Input will not go as far as to create an entire Economic Development Strategy.
9. Under forty (40) age demographic still underrepresented for project:
  - Staff have been working hard to engage this age group; C. Newcomb requested Committee members to reach out to this demographic within their own contact groups to generate interest/participation and have them contact him.

10. OCPizza workbooks scheduled for late March, early April:
  - Target for 20 workbooks to be completed.
  - Cost for workbook creation would be from Modus and planning staff time.
  - Ideal work group size 5 to 6 people.
  - Meal cost would be reimbursed for a set amount rather than impose the need for a prescriptive or shared meal.
11. Project Ambassador/Outreach Initiative involving students at the middle and high school presents some challenges due to Covid19. Committee members B. van der Meer and D. Gelinas expressed interest in involvement with this component:
  - Suggested holding an event in a park in September should Covid protocols relax by this time.
12. Background Recommendations Report suggested items to be included:
  - Mention of Westside LAP; (how do we get there if the OCP doesn't give it a platform to launch this plan).
  - Ocean Hub centre component.
  - Gateway to a national park.

C. Newcomb advised that the recommendations report is to identify what we currently have in the existing OCP. The Key Directions report is the document that will identify gaps in our existing OCP and recommend a path forward to remedy these gaps.

Chair thanked the three committee members for volunteering for the Outreach initiative and their previous support.

## 7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Moved by: B. van der Meer**  
**Seconded: H. Nawroth**

That the meeting be adjourned.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

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CHAIRPERSON