



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 2020 – 2:30PM – 4:00PM
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, Councillor B. Fallot, David Calveley, Glenys Cavers, Graden Sol, Denny Warner

Regrets: Randy Humble, CAO, Kirsten Norris, Steve Duck, Morgan Shaw

Staff: Andrew Hicik, Director of Corporate Services, Brett Mikkelsen, Fire Chief, Alison Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning / Recovery Director, Donna Barner, Recording Clerk

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 2:30.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by B. Fallot, seconded by D. Calveley, that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by D. Calveley, seconded by B. Fallot, that the Recovery Task Force Committee minutes from the July 14 and July 28, 2020 meetings be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Receipt of August 5 Special Council draft minutes

- 4 of the 5 motions from previous Recovery Task Force Committee meetings passed.
- **B. Fallot:** The motion for Mayor and Council to do walkabouts engaging the public and businesses regarding COVID-19 topics, and distribute information pieces from the two work groups as appropriate was defeated. Mayor and Council felt the idea and concept was good, but that it wasn't the right time; motion was defeated 5:2.
- **B. Fallot:** Council passed a motion unanimously that the Sidney BIA, with the involvement from the two Task Force Working Groups, implement the Safe Sidney marketing campaign and report back to the Task Force; and that the Town will provide a budget to a maximum of \$3000.00 to the Sidney BIA for the two marketing campaigns.
- **Chair:** These campaigns will take place in business and community at large, not just in the business district. Due to the large scope, Council felt they should participate at a budget level. Chamber will work in concert with these two Working Groups.

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by D. Warner, that the committee receive the draft minutes from the August 5 Special Council meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business arising from previous minutes

- a. Chair will distribute BC Transit July 15th presentation to the CRD Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee at the next meeting

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by D. Warner that the committee receive the BC Transit July 15th presentation to the CRD Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee.

CARRIED

- b. Action will be carried forward to a future meeting.

Action: Chair will work with staff to formalize a schedule for committee meetings: Arising from a previous Council meeting, will consider putting together a framework for committee on the process for bringing forward items for discussion, how these will be actioned upon, and how the committee will conclude.

- b. Chair and Recovery team will discuss options regarding the supply of masks to businesses and bring a recommendation to the next meeting

– Discussion:

- **A. Verhagen:** Mayor McNeil-Smith, R. Humble, B. Mikkelsen, D. Barner and A. Verhagen discussed the Town providing a bulk order of masks to business community. Staff, the BIA, and the Chamber do not have the resources to do a bulk order and to distribute. The Province has put out information through their COVID supply hub; [Small Business BC](#) has links for resources for businesses to obtain their own PPE and non-medical grade equipment. Staff felt the best stance is to provide this information through town talk, the website, and other channels to guide people in the direction of obtaining these supplies at their own responsibility.
- **B. Mikkelsen:** Currently this is a private sector initiative, perhaps if masks were mandated by a provincial health order then it would be in sync with a secondary EOC set up to explore this and provide the required resources, but currently we do not have the horsepower.
- **A. Hicik:** this is against our legislation, we cannot buy things and give them to businesses. It is valuable to keep in mind what our limitations are.
- **D. Warner:** Majority of the people coming to the information centre have their own masks, as well as lots of stores in Sidney sell them. Not going to be a deal breaker for people entering stores in Sidney.

6. Completion of Previous Agenda item: Discussion: Member Ideas and EOC Initiatives on Key Elements from Terms of Reference – continue items from previous agenda package

- a. Economic recovery (completion of last suggestion in agenda package)

– Discussion:

- Opened discussion to D. Calveley to further comment on his submission 6.a.(i) from the previous agenda. No further comment
- Opened discussion to G. Cavers to further comment on her submission 6.a.(ii) from the previous agenda. No further comment.
- Opened discussion with A. Verhagen to comment on her submission 6.a.(iii) from the previous agenda.
- **A. Verhagen:** The concept of supporting businesses to pivot to online marketing came from the EOC and from Smart Risk Control, whom was contracted to assist with recovery initiatives. Would recommend at this time committee keep in mind for potentially a future survey question, and

if this assistance is identified as a gap then we can consider exploring at that time.

- **D. Warner:** May be considered if we get a significant second wave. Currently have not heard of this being a concern.
- **A. Verhagen:** Would not like to see this acted upon now, but if we do a second survey would recommend including this idea to see if business community is seeking assistance.

b. Cultural Recovery & Resiliency

– Discussion:

- Opened discussion to D. Calveley to further comment on his submission 6.b.(i) from the previous agenda. No further comment
- Opened discussion to G. Cavers to further comment on her submission 6.b.(ii) from the previous agenda.
- **G. Cavers:** idea came from the Access Awareness campaign, in which a list was created of 50 access ideas in Sidney. Would like to work with SEAG and explore creating a map or list of safe activities in Sidney. Could include contributions from other organizations, does not have to be limited to SEAG.
- **Chair:** M. Shaw has a draft document that highlights nine community organizations and what their facilities are currently offering. SEAG could consider taking ideas from this document.
- **D. Warner:** in relation to this draft document, the BIA and Chamber were challenged by how fast things were changing, hard to commit to print or paper. To capture the most accurate information, you essentially have to monitor everyone's website and social media. Helpful if information was updated on a virtual map like staff GIS Technician Jesse Joe had created in the EOC. Feels as though as soon as you compile information it becomes obsolete.
- Opened discussion to B. Fallot to further comment on her submission 6.b.(iii) from the previous agenda.
- **B. Fallot:** the overall idea is we need to remind the community that we are safe. People want to have a level of normalcy in their life. Can we go further and do more things to support this?

Action: D. Warner, G. Cavers, and M. Shaw to take these ideas to current campaign working group and expand as they see fit.

c. Community Resiliency

i. D. Barner provided verbal update on Meet Your Street.

Highlights:

- Creating resilient neighbourhoods through establishing a support network amongst neighbours
- Currently completing logo design and reformatting documents
- Have been working with an established neighbourhood whom has agreed to be the pilot project. Are providing feedback to our documents and sharing what they currently do with their neighbours.
- **G. Cavers:** "neighbourhood chats" project in condos in Sidney. Can share Meet Your Street information with these groups. D. Barner and G. Cavers to chat offline.
- **A. Verhagen:** next step with Meet Your Street will be sharing it in Town Talk

and online.

– Discussion:

- Meet Your Street is already underway by Town staff. Will be seeking input and support from community organizations to continue to evolve program and adapt to different communities. D. Warner sees opportunity for sponsorship ideas. D. Barner clarified that Meet Your Street is building upon programs such as Block Watch and is hoping to expand upon these already existing community connections.

Moved by D. Warner, seconded by B. Fallot that the Committee recommends that Council supports staff continuing to implement the Meet Your Street program and that further Program updates be brought to the Committee.

CARRIED

Action: A. Verhagen to discuss with Engineering department and reply to M. Shaw around practicability on M. Shaw's sandwich board suggestion; where are they allowed, would any private properties host them on their land?

- That the submission from K. Norris from the previous agenda, 6.c.(i) be carried forward to the next meeting with K. Norris in attendance.
- Opened discussion to D. Calveley to further comment on his submission 6.c.(ii) from the previous agenda.
- **D. Calveley:** Intent was to instigate conversation on face to face interactions, pleased that that discussion is in progression. In support of G. Cavers' ideas; would like to tie her ideas together with face to face interactions.
- Submission from G. Cavers 6.c.(iii) regarding Town Talk – Covid Edition continue under agenda item 8.c. below.
- Opened discussion to B. Fallot to further comment on her submission 6.c.(iv) from the previous agenda.
- B. Fallot: At the previous Council meeting, during a presentation from Sidney/NS RCMP Staff-Sgt. Wayne Conley, he explained that the Block Watch Program is restricted in its mandate. Thus, B. Fallots suggestion of expanding their mandate with other community connectedness ideas cannot be pursued.
- Opened discussion to A. Verhagen regarding her submission 6.c.(v) from the previous agenda.
- **A. Verhagen:** The idea of community gardens came out of the resident survey and from Smart Risk Control. Although it has been discussed, a formalized plan has not been previously presented to Council. Is there interest from the committee for the Town to look into feasibility to bring this to council as a recommendation?

– Discussion:

- Location would be the starting point for exploring this initiative. Consider road boulevards for multi-family residences.
- Protocols to consider such as; how do residents apply, what kind of borders are allowable, what does the Town supply, can greenhouse structures be utilized.
- Town staff could approach CRD staff at Panorama for potential expansion of their existing program to reduce the workload for Town staff.
- G. Cavers asked that consideration be made to donate partials of harvest to the food bank.

- Council will determine time frame based on priority level.

Moved by G. Sol, seconded by D. Warner, that the committee recommends that Council direct staff to look into the viability of what lands are available and the protocols need to be followed, and what resources staff are able to put towards a community garden initiative.

CARRIED

7. Completion of Previous Agenda item: Background info – receive for information
 - a. Correspondence from ArtSea Community Arts Council
 - Committee commends ArtSea for creative thinking throughout the pandemic to keep the arts active

Moved by B. Fallot, seconded by G. Cavers that the committee receive the correspondence from ArtSea Community Arts Council for information.

CARRIED

8. Updates from working groups and initiatives
 - a. Safe Sidney Campaign working group
 - Hard to anticipate our tourism season, but suspect it may be longer than normal as people have saved their travel plans for later
 - Reality is these are not short term ideas, likely to use next year as well
 - Please send any input to M. Shaw
 - b. Community Organizations campaign working group
 - **B. Fallot:** have discussed ideas such as a parade throughout communities at Christmas. Could be one that travels throughout streets or individual neighbourhoods could be responsible.
 - **D. Barner:** this has been identified in the Meet Your Street plans; neighbourhoods will be prompted throughout the year (Halloween, Christmas) on COVID-safe ideas that their community can partake in. Welcomed committee to share any ideas they have.
 - **G. Cavers:** neighbourhoods could film contributions, which could then be uploaded into one video for public to view.
 - **B. Fallot:** with winter approaching, public needs activities to look forward to.
 - c. Discussion: Town Talk items
 - **A. Hicik:** content will consist of contributions from G. Cavers, information on Town website, and provincial website.
 - Town can print at any time, and can print extra copies to disperse around Town. All residents will be mailed a copy.

- d. Virtual Town Hall meetings

Action: A. Hicik to distribute draft Virtual Town Hall Initiative Overview document with committee.

9. Next Steps:
 - Discussion:
 - Opportunity for K. Norris to speak to contributions

- Discuss preparing for second wave
- Chair offered to committee if they would like the opportunity to bring forward more ideas to a future meeting.
- D. Caveley was in support of future opportunities as we focus on current initiatives
- Committee discussed the Small Business marketplace resource and accessibility to Sidney businesses

10. Adjournment

Moved by G. Sol, seconded by G. Cavers, that the meeting adjourn at 03:37.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 03:37.

Chair

Date