



DISTRICT OF SOOKE
Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee Minutes
Meeting held October 20, 2016
at 10:00 am
Council Chamber, 2225 Otter Point Road

Committee Members Present:

1. Lee Boyko, Chair
2. Bob Phillips, SD 62
3. Karl Linell - Sooke Community Association
4. Jeff Bateman, Transition Sooke/EMCS Society
5. Nicky Logins, Sooke Family Resource Society
6. Ellen Lewers, Sooke Fall Fair
7. Steve Knocke, SEAPARC
8. Sandy Pedneault, Sooke Elderly Citizens Housing Society
9. Karen George, T'Sou-ke Nation
10. Councillor Ebony Logins

1. Lee Boyko called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** S. Pednault
MOVED to approve the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED
3. **Approval of the Minutes:** K. Linell
MOVED to approve the minutes of May 26, 2016 as circulated.
CARRIED
4. **Committee Discussion:**

The chair began by summarizing the May 9, 2016 presentation to Council and noting that Council had given him a 'Think Big' mandate.

Over the summer two new factors have arisen:

- i. The Sooke Lions are negotiating a land swap with the District that would see the Lions-owned land on Murray Rd. traded for a piece of the property behind Evergreen Mall and fronting on Wadams Way. The Lions would like to erect a building of their own and are prepared to incorporate a Sooke seniors' centre into the design.
- ii. A suggestion has arisen that the Sooke Community Hall could be relocated from its current site to this same Wadams Way DOS-owned property (a portion of which is expected to be dedicated to the new library).

The Sooke Community Association executive has given no thought to the feasibility and costs of relocating the Community Hall.

The SCA and some committee members would like to see the facility remain where it is, undergo upgrades and become a part of a vibrant town hub centered on Eustace Rd. that would include the Legion and Ayre Manor. The use of Gatewood pathway as an exit for auto traffic to the West Coast Rd. during this year's Sooke Fall Fair proved successful.

Several committee members saw the hall's relocation as a creative idea that is worthy of further study. For one thing, it would address special-event parking issues currently faced by the Community Hall.

It was noted that it is impossible to give solid advice on the Wadams Way property until an engineering/geologic study of the acreage is completed. Is it a swamp requiring substantial fill? Might underground parking be possible there?

Committee members were enthusiastic about the Sooke Lions project. All agreed that the SCCAC should champion this partnership between the Lions and seniors groups.

The committee learned that Seniors Drop In Centre president Jane Maude has stepped down from the position for personal reasons. The group currently has no formal leadership and is faced with declining membership.

A proposal to Victoria-based HEROWORKS for a renovation of the Community Hall has been withdrawn. The project is large (\$1 million) and will involve a new elevator, accessibility ramps, a new kitchen, an upstairs bathroom, etc. The next bid will focus on one of these needs rather than the project as a whole.

The SCCAC commended the Community Association on moving ahead with its reno plans independent of District involvement.

Critical question: Does council wish to renew the mandate of this committee? (The Committee term expired on March 9, 2016.)

Discussion about the logic of the District hiring a third-party consultant to lead an exploratory workshop with Council and other interested parties, and then produce a report. SEAPARC spent \$25k on its 2015 consultant's report, and there is updated demographic and user-need data in that study that could be utilized.

Various committee members suggested a new presentation be made to Council in the near future to clarify the SCCAC's mandate (now lapsed), recommendations and suggestions. The seven recommendations made by the SCCAC in May remain valid and that these should be prioritized in the next presentation.

It was noted as a necessary reminder that 82.9 percent of Sooke voters in the 2014 election had affirmed the priority need for a seniors/youth centre.

5. Next Steps/Moving Forward:

MOVED E. Lewers

THAT Lee Boyko and Steve Knoke will book delegation time with Council to:

- i. Request a professionally facilitated workshop with Council, staff and committee members to explore options moving ahead (including possibly an RFP for a professional consultant's study and report)
- ii. Seek clarification as to whether Council intends to renew the term of the SCCAC
- iii. Summarize the SCCAC's seven recommendations as originally presented on May 9 while also putting them in priority order. Each recommendation to be accompanied with precise mention of the gap it fills and which local demographic it will serve.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment:

MOVED and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Certified Correct:

Committee Chair