



File No. 0540-20

**Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee**

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 10:00 am

Location: Council Chambers

2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC

**NEW BUSINESS / SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

***Item***

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Reports from Working Groups:

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## **Sooke Community Centre Committee**

**Feb 4 2016**

### **Families Working Group Notes**

**Attending:** Ellen Lewers, Colleen Hoglund, Nicky Logins, Christine Bossi

**Regrets:** Lee Boyko, Steve Knoke, Bob Phillips

1. Families Working Group goal was clarified: To identify places in Sooke where families can gather or meet
  - a) to participate in services or programs and/or
  - b) “no purpose” spaces, or “a place to be” which has been identified as an important component of the current Sooke Community Centre discussions.
2. Criteria for ideal family spaces was discussed:
  - a central location
  - accessible (walk, bike, bus) or good parking
  - bathrooms
  - potable water
  - safe for all ages
  - free or low cost
  - gathering spaces, including green area/s
  - kitchen or food available like a coffee shop
3. Group acknowledged there are many places families currently gather for programs and services. They come for a specific event or program, and then they leave. Such places include:
  - Strong Start
  - SEAPARC
  - Child Youth and Family Centre (CASA)
  - Schools
  - Library
  - Community Hall
  - Churches
  - Playing Fields
4. Group identified current natural gathering places where unstructured gathering takes place are:
  - Broom Hill Park
  - Coffee shops (The Stick)
  - Playground at Saseenos School

5. Group reviewed and shortlisted local spaces as potential family gathering spaces. It was agreed that most, if not all the shortlisted spaces, would need a change in policy, approach or physical space (renovation or build) to welcome families for unstructured, unscheduled gathering. Some spaces are not suited for “unstructured, unscheduled gathering”, but we may be able to improve current access for planned events.

#### 5.1 Schools:

- a. There is precedent for joint use agreements; consider expanding joint use agreements to improve community access to schools
- b. Consider water and bathrooms availability after regular school hours, weekends
- c. Consider access to school gyms on weekends
- d. Consider modular building/s on school grounds for community use
- e. For new schools/expansion (Sooke Elementary?), consider including family spaces

#### 5.2 SEAPARC:

- a. Ask: Can SEAPARC consider offering space for unstructured, unscheduled gathering?

#### 5.3 Parks:

- a. Improve water and bathroom access at Broom Hill Park
- b. Include shelter structures in plans for John Phillips Park; include water, bathroom

#### 5.4 Sooke Community Hall:

- a. Include unstructured family gathering spaces in SCA Community Hall renovation plans

#### 5.5 Library:

- a. include unstructured family gathering spaces in new library building plans

#### **Recommendations:**

1. The Families Working Group recommends items 5.3 and 5.4 as best opportunities for short term planning and action to improve community spaces access for families.
  - **Improve water and bathroom access at Broom Hill Park**
  - **Include shelter structures in plans for John Phillips Park; include water, bathroom**
  - **Include unstructured family gathering spaces in SCA Community Hall renovation plans**
2. The Families Working Group recommends that the District of Sooke begin discussions with SEAPARC and SD62 as soon as possible to consider items 5.1 and 5.2 to improve community spaces access for families.

## Youth Focus Community Space Committee

### Main Conclusions and Questions

1. A lightly structured drop in facility in an accessible location is important to compliment more structured sport\recreational activities.
2. School District 62 and Community Partnerships  
We are excited about the potential for partnership with SD62 and are encouraged by the growing cooperation between them and Seaparc. Expanded access to gym and other school facilities for both programmed and dropped in type space will be important going forward. This included existing facilities and if new schools are built. The potential redevelopment of the Sooke Elementary Site should be a high priority for collaboration between DOS, SD62 and Seaparc. Both at the local School District level and at the provincial level, there is an interest in making schools more as community facilities with various uses incorporated. Models already exist for how shared use of facilities can be accomplished.
3. Seaparc has a significant potential role for youth programing. The question is there an interest with Seaparc to take on a more complex community role that includes youth programming that is not just sports focused? The skate park and bike park are already significant gathering places for youth. Could this become a location for a drop in centre?
4. Community Hall  
The Community Hall could once again be a potential location for a drop in centre if concerns over security and supervision could be dealt with. Its central location does make it a good site for a drop in centre.
5. Transportation  
Improvement in internal Sooke transportation is an important consideration.



**Monday, Feb. 1**

**Meeting of the Seniors' Working Group  
Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee**

Present: Christine Bossi, Ellen Lewers, Jane Maude, Carol Pinalski, Jeff Bateman (notes). Guest: Sandy Pedneault, Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society (SECHS)

*Meeting began at 9 a.m.*

**NEW BUILD SENIOR CENTRE**

\* Sandy confirmed that SECHS is offering a portion of its Ayre Manor property for a stand-alone, new-build seniors centre.

\* SECHS would like to work directly with the Sooke Senior Drop-In Centre Society in moving forward with this project. Neil Flynn and Lori Messer will join the team to lend their experience/expertise.

\* Three possible sites on the Ayre Manor property have been identified, the first two of which could begin construction immediately once architectural plans, permits and financing is in place.

i) new build attached to the east side of the Assisted Living complex;

ii) new build at the fork in the road at the entrance to the property from Ayre Road;

iii) new build as part of a proposed four-story Complex Care building planned as a northside extension of the existing CC facility. VIHA will need to greenlight and finance this plan, and there's no indication when this might happen.

\* Carol is confident that full private and/or grant funding can be secured for the new build with, at worst, a small mortgage. Once a location on the Ayre Manor property is decided, she's eager to begin fundraising.

\* If it's to be part of the Ayre Manor complex, the Drop-In Centre will serve seniors exclusively (with opportunities for inter-generational activities, continuing education programs, etc.)

\* Might the District utilize a portion of its \$150k (?) reserve fund for the Community Centre project to fund SECHS and SSDICS as they source an architect and commission working blueprints? This is a necessary first step prior to fundraising.

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## **SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS**

\* The Community Hall is inadequate to needs, says Carol. Equipment is at the mercy of co-sharing, i.e., bingo balls are found out of the machine and sticky (indicating that kids using the Hall are not under supervision). Recently one of the components of the machine had been moved and dropped, which required repair. The bingo equipment is expensive to replace.

\* Carol noted that exhaustive exploration of the existing possibilities for an alternate site has already taken place. Since being forced to relocate from its original premises in 2010, Sooke Seniors Drop-In Centre (SSDIC) membership has declined from 300 to 80 members.

\* SSDIC is loathe to move again, however it would be prepared to relocate once last time prior to settling into a formal new home should the right scenario develop.

\* A variety of options for temporary quarters were discussed and dismissed, including the Sooke River Hotel. The Legion has plans to build upwards (Ellen noted that it's important to have regular Legion representation at full Committee meetings in future). Sassenos Elementary is a possibility given the school's declining population (103 students), available space and easy access parking. Questions: Does the school have an adequate commercial kitchen and would it be interested in a short-term shared arrangement with SSDIC?

\* New possibility: Might a modular building suffice in the short-term in the site of the former Royal Bank in the Evergreen Mall? Given the lack of activity to date, Christine suggested Partners REIT might, in an act of corporate social responsibility, lease the empty space at minimal monthly costs for a few years. A modular unit could be rented, borrowed (from SD #62, for instance) or purchased outright for this purpose. (Note: New Chamber of Commerce president Kerry Cavers worked with Partners REIT prior to relocating to Sooke.)

In closing, we agreed that the prospect of a new Seniors Centre at Ayre Manor is a major cause for community celebration. SECHS and SSDIC have the structure, know-how and capability to proceed with the project. For its part, the Senior Centre Advisory Committee needs to seek District support for initial funds (amount?) to hire an architect to create rough blueprints. These will spark the public's imagination and kickstart fundraising.

It was also recognized that the seniors may have to make-do as best they can in the interim at the Community Hall.

*Meeting ends at 10:30 a.m.*



***Note from Carol re: Sooke Seniors Drop-In Centre programs and activities***

**SSDIC programs:**

- \* lunches, M to F
- \* one hot meal/month
- \* bingo twice weekly
- \* book club
- \* pool & shuffleboard
- \* cards & Scrabble

**Exercise programs:**

- \* Strength and balance
- \* Tai Chi
- \* Yoga

**Socializing**

**Support Groups:**

- \* depression
- \* social isolation
- \* family matters

**Proposed Sharing Ideas**

- \* Adult Day Care Group
- \* Better Breathers
- \* Tops
- \* Foot care
- \* Flu shots
- \* Community AGM Meetings, i.e. Crisis Centre
- \* Bus Activity Society
- \* Power Squadron, Condo Associations
- \* Memorials, anniversaries, birthday parties
- \* Support groups (elder abuse, ALS, parkinsons, safety & fraud)
- \* Will preparation
- \* Fire safety and emergency preparedness
- \* Peer counselling (loss)
- \* Creativity (painting, crafts, etc.)
- \* Bus liaison (outings)