



Official Community Plan (OCP) Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
Electronic Meeting via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Norman Amirault
Terry Cristall
Steve Grundy
Ellen Lewers
Linda MacMillan
Siomonn Pulla
Helen Ritts
Councillor Al Beddows

Staff:

Matthew Pawlow, Director of Planning
Katherine Lesyshen, Senior Planner
Sarah Temple, Corporate Services Assistant

ITEM

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beddows called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Ministerial Order M192

MOVED BY: Councillor Beddows

THAT the Committee is holding this meeting without members of the public in attendance, in accordance with Ministerial Order M192, as Council Chambers does not have the capacity to safely accommodate the unknown number of public participants wishing to attend; and

THAT the Committee is committed to ensuring openness, transparency, accessibility, and accountability through the submission of written comment, and the provision of opportunity to participate as a pre-registered participant in the electronic meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY: Steve Grundy

THAT the agenda of the November 25, 2020 meeting of the OCP Advisory Committee be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED BY: Linda MacMillan

THAT the minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting of the OCP Advisory Committee be

adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Presentation from DIALOG

- “What we heard” report, summarizing first round of engagement

Emily Rennalls and Lucas Ozols-Mongeau, representing DIALOG, gave an overview of the first round of engagement and the “What we heard” report, as follows:

- Various engagement opportunities have been completed, including stakeholder workshops, online survey, print survey, youth survey, pop-up engagements, and community sounding boards.
- Over 500 voices have been captured, and 800 “stickies” placed on sounding boards.
- Some under-represented demographics, including single-parent families and indigenous voices.

Key themes emerging from the community include:

- Eco-resilience
- Increased recreation opportunities
- Preservation of viewscapes
- Develop the local economy
- Diversity in housing options
- Reduced traffic congestion and improved safety. Safe cycling and pedestrian connections.
- Infrastructure and support to age in place
- Renewed relationship with our waterfront, improve public access, connect shops and services. Concern with privatization of waterfront.
- Places for children and youth (engagement is still underway for this demographic, so not yet included in engagement summary.)
- Compassion and Climate Action lens.

Question: Do these themes resonate? Is the list complete?

Committee discussion:

- One stakeholder workshop had strong “stop all growth” sentiment.
- Have heard concerns about diversified local economy, including finding industrial land and support for retail and small businesses. These concerns will tie in with the theme of growing the local economy and matching with skills that are present in Sooke today.
- Local employment should include “value added” aspects in support of farming, forestry, and manufacturing. Agriculture, farming, and food security were talked about more in stakeholder workshops than in broader engagement.
- Burial sites and places for urns, which is a land use issue, should be considered.
- Ensure we don’t cover the waterfront with tall buildings.
- Bowling alley was raised in the last OCP process, and again in this one.
- Clarification that these themes are considered “broad brush strokes” and further details will be included in subsequent reports. The Engagement Summary report will include an appendix with verbatim comments.
- Truth and reconciliation should fit into the OCP. DIALOG has met with the T’Sou-ke nation to discuss participation and will engage with community members accordingly.

6. Emerging Vision and Goals

Jennifer Fix and Lucas Ozols-Mongeau, representing DIALOG, gave an overview of emerging goals and “conversation starters”.

1. Mobilize to address the climate emergency head on. Achieve Net zero emissions by 2050.
2. Strengthen the “town” in Sooke’s small town character.
3. Bolster the town centre, the bustling heart of Sooke.
4. Protect and connect with the waterfront, the soul of Sooke. Keep it public.
5. Protect ecosystems, habitats, and natural areas. Create opportunities to spend more time with them.
6. Keep Sooke affordable. Provide housing choices for all.
7. Reduce car dependency and offer more transportation choices, with priority given to walking, cycling, and transit use.
8. Support existing and new local businesses and foster green economic development that respects the limits of growth.
9. Create a safe and resilient community for all.
10. Support and enjoy local food.
11. Create green infrastructure that is both high-performing and delightful.
12. Treat streets like the places they are. In other words, streets are for public use.
13. Recognize the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent right of indigenous peoples, including their rights to the land, territories, and resources.

Question: Are these resonating? Is this what you have heard? Are these the directions you think we need to move?

Committee discussion:

- Concern that 13 goals is a lot of goals. Possibility of grouping together into something more manageable, such as 3 big goals with each one having 3 subgoals.
- Clarification from DIALOG that the intention is group them together.
- DIALOG will work on consolidating. If members have specific ideas, please email. List will come back to committee once organized.
- Concerns regarding survey questions and ideas for engagement methods can also be emailed to DIALOG.

Question: How can we reach under-represented demographic groups who have not responded to previous engagement methods?

Committee discussion:

- Committee members have reached out to specific groups and individuals by phone. For example, waterfront businesses and institutions were contacted and had not heard about OCP engagement opportunities.
- Concern that while specific groups have been targeted, individuals within those groups have been missed.
- Individual phone calls can extend reach of digital engagement efforts.
- Concern about inability to interact face-to-face, missing opportunity to connect with people during COVID.
- Mayor and Council hear a great deal from community members. Perhaps they should be engaged shortly to ensure they are hearing the same themes.
- **Action:** Councillor Beddows and staff to introduce the idea to Council.
- Reminder that reaching people is not the same as engaging them. People will choose not to engage.
- Concern that “Picture Sooke” branding may be confusing.
- Possibility of using Rotary Club Business Directory.
- New methods of approaching people are required when using the same tools

yields the same results. Repeatedly asking people to fill out a survey is not going to make them fill out a survey.

- DIALOG to investigate hosting focus groups where targeted demographics are compensated for their time and expertise. Lack of time is a barrier that can be overcome this way.
- Putting up more community sounding boards in places where people gather.
- Engaging with individual businesses to learn what is needed to encourage and grow small business in Sooke.

Next steps:

- Committee members to provide further feedback to DIALOG and staff via email.
- DIALOG to organize goals into categories and bring back to committee.
- Continued discussion on various opportunities to reach additional community members.
- DIALOG and staff to develop list of where targeted engagement is required and committee members can make individual contact as appropriate.

Public Input:

There were no comments or questions from members of the public.

7. Adjournment

MOVED BY: Terry Cristall

THAT the November 25, 2020 Official Community Plan Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair

Recorder