

Report of Sidney Community Association Member Meeting January 2019

Value Proposition

In order to better guide the Board in the activities of the Sidney Community Association (SCA), we conducted a survey to seek the input of members on the proposed Value Proposition. There was overwhelming approval from all the survey respondents and those attending the meeting.

The Board will be directed by the following statements, as approved by the membership:

WHY - *The SCA believes that every Sidney resident is part of creating the future of our town.*

HOW - *The SCA Board and our volunteers will Engage, Encourage, Educate to inform me about local government and how it affects me and my neighbours & to connect me with other residents to speak up about the future of our town.*

WHAT - *SCA members want to be involved in creating the future of*

- *the places we live (housing, zoning, development);*
- *the places we enjoy (parks, environmental sensitive areas, beaches); and,*
- *the streets we travel on (safety, accessibility, sustainability).*

Committee Overviews

Members gathered in the following groups to discuss actions, activities, meetings and volunteers. The outcomes of each group follow:

Council Watch (Jocelyn)

“Informing me about local government and how it affects me and my neighbours” is a very important aspect of SCA for 95% of members who completed the January member survey. However, only Jocelyn is currently volunteering to produce Council Watch reports. In the survey, a couple of people offered to be involved occasionally. Three more came forward during the January 20 meeting. This group has met once, and some have already started taking notes at Council meetings.

Transportation (Eric)

Encourage you all to read sections 2, 14 and 17 in the current OCP located below. <http://www.sidney.ca/Assets/Development+Services/Bylaws/1920+OCP+2017.pdf>. Section 2 is relevant because it sets the tone for the rest of the document. Let's think about this and decide if we want to shift it in any direction. Section 14 is relevant because the future generations of people who will inhabit Sidney will be living with the decisions that we make both now and in the coming term that this next OCP is relevant, no matter what the economic situation, which of course we don't know. It could be better, but it could also be much worse due to a variety of factors. Section 17 is, of course, transportation and we have to decide which direction if any we want to shift this section.

At the transportation table, people were interested in the following subjects: Airport issues, employee parking, development parking, bus service on the peninsula and downtown, taxi service late at night, Highway cross traffic, slowing down cars.

Development (Dennis)

Role

- Ensure right development in right place

This Means

- Make sure we understand documents that impact development e.g. OCP
- Be prepared to provide input in development applications as they move through the process
- Push the Town to deal with development issues that are important to our membership

We need

- People to monitor development application
- People to do the necessary research and analysis that can be shared with the membership

Outcome of Group Discussion

- Concern expressed that Sidney is losing its character and we need to focus on a developing a Sidney identity.
- There is a need to ensure that there are strong policies in the Official Community Plan and proper oversight to ensure the buildings are well designed.
- We also need to look at ways to keep downtown vibrant and maintain the character that people value.

Member Engagement (Elaine)

Three people met at the membership interest group table. One other person had indicated on the survey that he would be interested in being involved. The ideas that were generated to promote membership in the SCA were as follows:

- Connect with Sidney celebration group
- Kids' Bike teach-a-thon/ride through Sidney
- Table at Thursday's Market
- Garden Match-Up
- Earthquake preparedness
- Beach Cleanup
- Meet and greet park potluck picnic

As was obvious from the attendance at the other interest groups, SCA members' priorities were not on membership promotion. To those people at the table, both connecting with the Sidney Celebration group and pursuing a table at the Thursday market seemed reasonable goals. Therefore, these two goals will be followed up by the group.

Habitat & Environment (Lynda)

A dozen interested members came to the Habitat and Environment table. Their interests and concerns include protecting and increasing tree canopy in Sidney, having beach clean-ups, community gardens, storm water management, preserving habitat and sensitive areas, to name a few. Lynda has written to everyone who expressed interest and hopes to hold a first meeting soon to prioritize issues and start to review the SCA Urban Forest Submission for specific areas to address re personal input,

such as protecting Beaufort Grove, asking council for a Tree Management Report, replacement trees and heritage trees. etc. She recently sent a letter to the Town of Sidney about hosting a Tree Appreciation Day similar to the ones other municipalities have held.

They plan to attend the Town’s Feb 6th Urban Forest Open House to review the consultant’s draft, ask questions about the plans and perhaps gather more information.

If you are interested in joining any of the above groups, please contact us at sidneycommunityassociation@gmail.com OR visit our website, www.SidneyCommunityAssociation.ca for more information and updates.

Neighbourhoods

From our neighbours, the SCA has heard of a number of topics which can be further discussed. The two final questions in our recent (January 2- 18, 2019) member survey were: “Are you concerned about anything in your neighbourhood that the SCA could help with?” and “Do you have ideas that we haven’t included here? This is YOUR community association. How can we help you pursue your interests?” Some of the responses were:

Neighbourhood Issue or Other Idea
If we are becoming a “flat roof” society, without architectural details, at least mandate solar panels/green roof designs.
Sidney needs more and brighter streetlights, more wider sidewalks without obstacles like trees, poles. Light focused <u>down</u> so <u>dark sky</u> .
Access to health care.
Parking Issues
Lobby to create the Tri-municipal meetings again
Traffic speed on Sidney streets. 30 km All Streets. Speed of traffic on Resthaven – 40 km should be the limit.
Preserving access to Shoal Harbour Bird Sanctuary
Many more and larger No Smoking signs along the waterfront walkway, and enforcement
Water uses in Tsehum Harbour
Moratorium on big, new development until vision and bylaws are updated.

We do not have a group focused on neighbourhood issues, but the Association needs to find a way to communicate these concerns to Council and engage our members on specific issues.