

SIDNEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
“COUNCIL WATCH” REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING HELD Monday March 25, 2019

DISCLAIMER

These notes provide a quick overview of some of the highlights of this meeting for the benefit of Sidney Community Association members.

- *For complete details, please consult the agenda, the official minutes and the video of the meeting when they become available on the Town website’s [Council Meetings Agendas and Minutes 2019 page](#).*
 - *Residents may also consult [members of Town Council](#) for clarification of details.*
 - *We will correct any significant errors that are brought to our attention.*
 - *Please do not forward this document without permission from the Sidney Community Association. People who want to receive our information may join the Association at sidneycommunityassociation.ca.*
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Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith was in the chair and acknowledged First Nations Territory.

Councillor Chad Rintoul was absent on vacation.

Audience: 36. The room was full.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD - 10 speakers

- **Margaret Lounds, Kay Wyckham and Zokia Lace** plan to live in the **Ravens Co-housing** development on the agenda for final approval. They spoke about what it means to them
- **A woman** who didn’t give her name wanted to know who is behind the **development to replace the old Fire Hall**. She is very concerned about parking for Sidney Animal Hospital, especially during construction. Without customer parking, the vet may have to relocate. The Mayor and staff replied that developers Dan Robbins and Fraser McColl have not yet applied for a building permit, but staff will address these issues in the Construction Management Plan.
- **Jocelyn Gifford** said she does not speak for West Sidney residents. She commended Mayor and staff on the March 19 meeting with residents about the **Galaran sidewalk** which was exactly the kind of consultation requested by the Sidney Community Association since 2016.
- **Ian Bruce of Peninsula Streams Society** thanked Council for approving a grant for core operations as well as the school program, suggested ongoing liaison and shared the good news that a recent survey of Roberts Bay shoreline confirmed that small forage fish are spawning there.
- **David Calvey** Expressed disappointment that there will be no designated employee parking in the new **Employee Parking lot** which has cost taxpayers \$1 million and has been touted as solving all problems. ([See page 6 in the March 18 COW minutes](#)). Mayor McNeil-Smith explained that it is on Mary Winspear land, which requires benefit to the community. There will be employee parking.
- **Pat Woodward of Island Treats** asked for a change in the Committee of the Whole recommendation so the ice cream carts can cross the COM-1 zone to get safely to their routes.
- **Teresa Wright** felt that the proposal for **Raven’s Co-housing** on Brethour is too big for the area.
- **Chad MacIsaac**, owner of Quince Café on Beacon, objects to the approval of direct competition by **Island Treats**. His is a small business with high costs and ice cream sales are 30% of summer revenue. He asked how the bylaws and agreement with Island Treats would be enforced? **Staff** advised that enforcement would be in response to complaints.

PRESENTATIONS

Victoria Airport Authority 2018 Report ([Report is pages 6-26 in the Agenda](#) package)

The report was presented by the President and CEO of the Airport Authority and Sidney's 2 nominees to the VAA Board of Directors. Questions and comment from Council:

- **Climate Emergency** - How do the airport's growth projections square with the need for action on climate change? **Mr Dickson, VAA CAO** said there will be 35,000 more planes flying in the next 10 years. Emissions come from airplanes, not airports. The VAA has reduced its footprint.
- **Noise levels** – The report says they have dropped. How is this measured? It does not match everyone's experience. **Ans:** Noise is measured every 5 years at selected sites at varying distances.
- **Property leases?** Are there future plans for the Gateway site or the Cube site? **Ans.** They have hit pause on the Gateway site but are marketing the Cube site and the one to the south.
- **Taxi problems** – Residents and Sidney hotels say that Yellow Cab dislikes servicing Sidney and has refused fares. Early morning pick-ups are a special problem. Sidney Taxi doesn't start early enough. **Ans.** VAA has a contract with Yellow Cabs and wants to hear about problems. One issue for early morning is that Yellow Cabs overnight in Victoria.
- **Transit improvements?** **Ans:** The VAA is in regular contact with BC Transit. Everyone wants transit but the busses are empty

Cycling Without Age (See page 27-28 in the agenda).

Steve Duck described this volunteer-run non-profit organization to help those who cannot venture out of their homes easily. They hope to run 6 tricycle buggies. The first is running based on a \$15,000 loan.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Council's first town hall on 19 March was a new approach to involve and consult with the community. Feedback was very positive.
- The CRD approved its 2019 budget of \$315m to serve the 430,000 people in the District.
- Everyone is invited to greet the first Anacortes ferry of 2019 on Sunday 31 March, 11 am.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- **Councillor Terri O'Keeffe** – [see pages 34-35 in the agenda package](#) for her reports on the Urban Reconciliation Dialogue and the Healthcare Working Group.
- **Councillor Barbara Fallot** – reported on the **ArtSea** puzzle wall and the **Vancouver Island Regional Library**. The Sidney library will reopen in June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole March 18, 2019 – see page 37-44 in the [agenda package](#).

- **Grants in Aid**

Page 44 lists the organizations and amounts requested and approved by Council. In addition, the 3 churches that provide free lunches received grants of \$500 each. The [CoW video](#) shows the discussions leading to these decisions.

- **Island Treats Request for Street Vending License**

After discussion and several motions, Council's decisions (abbreviated) were that **Island Treats Business License be approved** for four carts to sell ice cream products from public property, subject to: 1.

meeting requirements of the Street Vending Policy; 2. proof of Vancouver Island Health Authority approval and liability insurance; 3. Restricting the carts from retail sales in areas designated as COM-I in the OCP, as well as Beacon Park, Bevan Park, East View Park, and including pedestrian trails and sidewalks; 4. Deleted; 5. Prohibiting waste generated by the operation of the business from municipal waste containers; 6. That only ice cream products be sold. **CARRIED 5:1 Councilor Duncan opposed**

- **Employee Parking Lot Discussion**

MOVED that the Council Liaison and Town staff for the employee parking lot project meet with the Mary Winspear Centre to discuss the concerns raised by Council. (page 42). **CARRIED**

STAFF REPORTS - page references are to the [agenda package](#).

- **Debrief on Snow Removal** (page 49-56)

Council commended staff on this comprehensive and informative report. Some key points in Council's discussion were: the desirability of activating Block Watch or something similar to organize the public to check and assist neighbours; recognizing the needs of elderly and mobility-challenged residents; possible activation of Emergency Operations or Search and Rescue organizations; recognizing that climate change means extreme weather will be more frequent. Bylaws make property owners responsible for clearing sidewalks, but this does not always work well. 2019 snow removal cost \$117,000, \$81,000 over budget. If the public want better service, there is a tax implication. Staff were commended for the incredible effort and overtime with strategic prioritization of needs and resources. Council discussed ways to inform the public about the contents of the report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Climate Emergency Declaration (CRD letter page 62)**

Councillor Sara Duncan, Sidney's representative on the CRD Climate Action Task Force, **MOVED** that Council: 1.) declare a Climate Action Emergency, and 2.) continue to work toward achieving carbon neutrality both in the community and corporate level.

Councillor O'Keeffe agreed this is very important but declaring an emergency and not doing anything different undermines the whole issue. Other Councillors agreed but wanted, pending their own climate plan, to support the CRD, which is working on an action plan, and to send a message to the community.

MOTION CARRIED 5:1 Councillor O'Keeffe opposed.

BYLAWS/DEVELOPMENT PERMITS etc. – page references are to the [agenda package](#).

- 3 Bylaws to set **water and sewer rates** were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**. (pages 69-72).
- **2319 & 2325 Brethour Ave & 9927 Seventh St (Raven's Co-Housing)** Councillors discussed the 4 letters (page 78-84) opposing the development. Several objections are to the zoning rather than the specific Variances before Council. The building is smaller than zoning has allowed since 1988. Residents' concerns are appreciated because it is a significant change in the neighbourhood. The concept is a good non-profit housing option. The concerns about parking will be addressed in a Construction Management Plan. The Development and Variance Applications were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

NOTICES OF MOTION - Councillor Peter Wainwright's Notice of Motion (Page 4 in the agenda package) about options to accelerate **conversion of Sidney's light duty fleet to electric vehicles** was unanimously approved to be on the next regular council agenda.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned.