

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, April 24, 2006 at 7:30 pm
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Mayor Jack Mar, Acting chair
Councillors: Bryson, Garrison, King and Mason
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer

ABSENT: Councillors: Graham, Thompson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

523.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
NO SECONDER
That the Agenda for the Planning & Development Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2006 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Town Hall Meeting – May 17, 2006

Councillor King indicated that Council had not yet decided which member of Council would coordinate the upcoming Town Hall Meeting, and in discussion around the table Mayor Mar and Councillor Thompson were designated as Council's representatives to assist in the organization and coordination of the upcoming Town Hall Meeting to be held on May 17, 2006 at the Central Saanich Seniors Centre (lower level).

The Planning & Development Committee Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:30 pm and reconvened at 7:40 pm.

2. City of Victoria Re: Advisory Housing Committee Report on Portable Housing Allowances

- a) Correspondence dated March 15, 2006 from Sheryl Masters, A/Corporate Administrator – City of Victoria Re: Advisory Housing Committee Report on Portable Housing Allowances.

Ms. Wendy Zink, Manager of Community Development Division – City of Victoria, gave an informational presentation on the Advisory Housing Committee's Report on Portable Housing Allowances, during which time the following points were noted:

- portable housing allowances would assist individuals and families to escape the cycle of poverty and homelessness, and would provide an alternative option for low-income families to afford low-end market rentals and stabilize their housing needs;
- portable housing allowances are necessary in the Capital Region because the majority of low-income renters are already housed but are paying up to 80% of their income for rent, leaving no money for food or other basics;
- the Victoria marketplace alone cannot address the problem of housing affordability, therefore in the absence of new affordable or subsidized units, portable housing allowances would provide low-income families with more housing options;
- it is critical for families with multiple barriers to receive financial assistance and support services if they are to be successful in achieving long term independence from government subsidies;
- the Provincial Minister has indicated that he is supportive of the concept, and with support from other municipalities this concept could be achieved.

The Committee discussed the concept of the proposed portable housing allowances as presented.

Ms. Sue Stroud, #106 – 7088 Wallace Drive, questioned if the Advisory Housing Committee would be seeking funding from the CRD Housing Trust Fund, and further questioned in the proposal was solely being considered for individuals and families with disabilities. She referred to the three “sample family” scenarios that were outlined in the Committee’s Report and stated that although the scenarios provide useful information on the financial challenges that face low-income families, they do not accurately reflect the need for additional affordable housing units in the Capital Region. Ms. Stroud advised that she wants to support the portable housing allowance initiative; however, she is acutely aware of the number of people in the Capital Region who reside in substandard housing and stated that a portable housing allowance would not address this serious issue. In conclusion, Ms. Stroud encouraged Council’s support for the portable housing allowance initiative, but also requested Council to also fully support the CRD Housing Trust Fund.

A brief discussion ensued.

524.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BRYSON
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the correspondence from the City of Victoria attaching the City of Victoria’s Advisory Housing Committee’s Report on Portable Housing Allowances, together with the presentation from Ms. Wendy Zink, Manager – Community Development Division, City of Victoria, be received, and Council endorse the concept of portable housing allowances that are combined with support services to facilitate family self- sufficiency.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Planning & Development Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2006 adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Recorded By: Trish Flanders
 Municipal Clerk