



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Report from: Councillor Lynda Hundleby

Subject: Report on the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)

Council Agenda: July 9, 2018

Recommendation:

That Council receives Councillor Hundleby's 2018 AVICC report.

Background:

The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the AVICC was held in the City of Victoria April 13 – 15, 2018 at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Pre-conference session: *An Update of the Cannabis Legislation.*

The Federal Government is currently looking for tools to discern driving impairment. The current device shows the presence of cannabis only, not the amount of drug in the blood stream.

The Provincial Government is working on regulations in the absence of the federal legislation. The policy working goals are: priority is health and safety; reduce crime in the illegal market; protect youth; capture more dollars. The Province is working with First Nations and with all local governments.

The Union of BC Municipalities is working on behalf of local governments providing strong representation on a specially created consultation committee to help inform policy decisions. For more info, please see <http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resolutions/policy-areas/community-safety/marijuana-regulation.html>.

A lawyer on the panel discussion indicated that the legalization of cannabis is a joint effort at all levels. He emphasized that recreational cannabis is not the same as medical cannabis and that regulations for one cannot override the other. Because neither the federal nor provincial regulations are known, local governments can only make broad principles. Operations currently in place cannot be "grandfathered" once the new legislation has been passed. If municipalities wish to discourage the sale of recreational cannabis, the best way is probably through zoning bylaws.

Sharing of federal and provincial revenues are unknown at this time and the costs of enforcement are also unknown.

Keynote Address from Charles Montgomery: Author of *The Happy City*.

<https://thehappycity.com/>

Happy City uses lessons from psychology and public health to design happiness into neighborhoods and cities around the world. Discussion on global happiness and happiness can be designed. Here is his recipe for community happiness. People who are socially connected are happier, live longer and have less sickness. Older adults living alone commonly are the most lonely 80% of the time. Unhappiness related to those involved in the opioid crisis, homelessness, and youth at risk. It's all connected, and connected to happiness or lack of it.

What is it that works? Design in housing. Extreme dispersal is associated with very low social interaction as there is a break in social ties – less social ties – less trusting. Watch out for building more dispersal in your communities. People in towers report feeling lonely and crowded at the same time. Believes in slotting more density into neighbourhoods e.g. secondary suites. Is a fan of co-housing – no more than 12 households, likes shared courtyards/spaces. Advocates happy walking feet and cycling in safe separated cycling spaces. Placemaking – emphasis on making public spaces better. Exercise as a programmed activity. Look at infrastructure to make movement in cities. Safety for pedestrians allow them to be more social. Emotional infrastructure – aesthetics matter. Feels that happier, more caring, more trusting people make for nicer people. Says people are much kinder than we think – spaces can change our behavior. Bottom line: for healthier stronger communities we need connections to walkable places, fewer cars. Walkable spaces should be part of a public health strategy.

Political Address: Premier John Horgan

Premier Horgan has given direction to MLAs to engage with UBCM and listen to what is being said. When we gather, let's make progress. If responses are No, we will tell you why. His comments included Budget 2018; Investment and Infrastructure; Ferries; KM Pipeline; Forestry; Medical Clinics and Diagnostics; Funding for Provincial Roads; Key to Staying in Power is the art of compromise.

Connecting the Dots on Affordable Housing. Ministry's housing plan for \$7 billion over 10 years. Emphasis on reducing homelessness, improve supply of homes and building partnerships with community groups and First Nations groups.

Workshop: Tools for Resilient Shorelines: Green Shores and Foreshore Protection

http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green_shores/

The take-home message is that sea level rise is rising quicker than previously - doubling in the past 10 years to 33 mm/year. How quickly will we be able to respond to sea level rise? The prediction is that in 25 years, those living near the water may have difficulty in getting long term mortgages. Also questionable if those property owners will be able to sell their properties once mortgages are done. Also predicted that sea level rise will increase to 100 mm/year and how will this affect our infrastructure?

Possible options: build a wall to block sea water; rock walls may not be sufficient. Gravel beach is a natural asset. Water levels may rise above the land depending on the nature of the shorelines and nature of property.

Implications on environment: marshes and eel grass sequester CO₂, therefore shorelines are important. Water retreat must be managed – current seawalls will be

damaged and destroyed. Loss of waterfront and implications offshore. Communities will need to start planning wisely, set aside money, perhaps hire a coastal engineer.

Centre for BC develops programs and resources to enhance ecological stewardship through collaborative partnerships. See The Green Shores Program – provides project certification and training opportunities. This provides rigorous standards to preserve the shoreline with maintaining and enhancing habitat function. Reduce pollutants in aquatic environments; avoid or reduce cumulative impact. Bluffs, docks, infilling grass to beach causes erosion, impact of walls on shorelines. Beach nourishment is vital to shorelines vegetation and micro-organisms. The impact of doing nothing is the disappearance of healthy shorelines.

Challenges and impediments? Competing interests for limited resources. The Green Shore Programs can work well with preserving shorelines. BC Pilot - Strategies include enabling property owners to revitalize their shores. Green shores for homes has an accredited rating system. Communities could incentivize best practices. The Stewardship Centre offers education and training for those in the working group. Monitoring, evaluation, analysis, and research will further improve programs. Green Shores is an ecosystem-based approach and not regulation based.

Political Address: Leader of BC Green Party: Dr. Andrew Weaver

Political Address: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing: The Honourable Selina Robinson

Resolutions: There were many resolutions put forward by Municipalities. I would like to highlight two.

1. The City of Metchosis forwarded a resolution to consider changing the 4-year term of office for local governments back to 3 years. This resolution failed.
2. The Township of Esquimalt put forward a resolution that was similar to others to ask the AVICC to endorse the efforts of the Province of BC to introduce regulations that will safeguard coastal communities and waterways from harm caused by oil spills. This resolution was endorsed.

New Executive for AVICC 2018-19:

President: Director Edwin Grieve, Comox Valley Regional District

Vice-President: Councillor Carl Jensen, District of Central Saanich

Second Vice-President: Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Electoral Area Representative: Director Ian Winn, Sunshine Coast Regional District

Directors at Large: Councillor Hazel Braitwaite, District of Oak Bay

Councillor Colin Plant, District of Saanich

Director Penny Cote, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District

Past President: Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hundleby