



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the Regional Housing Advisory Committee

December 10, 2020, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Kerriann Coady, David Corey, Lindsay Millburn, Bruce Anderson, Bill Brown, Kelly Roth, Kathy Witcher, Danella Parks, Leah Stohmann, Michel Turcotte, Jarret Matanowitsch, Kaye Melliship, Matthew Baldwin; Holly (City of Victoria),

GUESTS:

STAFF: Don Elliott, John Reilly, Jerry Michael (recorder)

REGRETS: Sharon Hvozdzanski (Nadine Kawata attended as alternate), Jim Hartshorne, Sharon Hvozdzanski, Danielle Deni, Malcolm McNaughton

Meeting called to order at 2:02pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 2:02pm. Co-Chair Kerrian Coady welcomed all RHAC members. CRD staff offered a territorial acknowledgment of the Indigenous communities in the Capital Region.

Introduction of Don Elliott, new Senior Manager of Regional Housing.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Kathy Witcher, **SECONDED** by Kaye Melliship

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Approval of September 24, 2020 Minutes

MOVED by David Corey, **SECONDED** by Jarret Matanowitsch

That the minutes from the September 24, 2020 Regional Housing Advisory Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Roundtable – Summary of RHAC Member Priorities

- CRD staff led discussion on member interest areas going forward. Topics include, but are not limited to, Municipal Planning and Zoning, Municipal Approval Processes, Housing Affordability, Housing and the Environment, and Homelessness Response. Current Committee members to make recommendations on focus topics at February 2021 meeting.
- Committee members shared some of the continual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing. Effects include scarcity in some building materials increasing development costs and a fast paced residential market driven by high demand and low supply.
- Members were updated on a number of initiatives the CRD is involved in including the Rapid Housing Initiative, Regional Housing Trust Fund and Housing Needs Reports.

- Conversations are ongoing on a community Rent Bank in order to assist families and individuals in maintaining housing and tenancy in response to economic challenges.

5. End of year wrap up and review

- Following the Emergency Declaration, the CRD suspended meetings of all Advisory Committees. There have been two meetings of the RHAC in 2020, one on February 13, prior to the Provincial Emergency Order, and one on September 24. This has significantly impacted the capacity of the RHAC to meet and consider matters related to housing in the region.
- The issue of municipal bonds creating an administrative and financial burden on affordable housing projects being funded by BC Housing was identified and BC Housing representative indicated there would be follow up with local municipalities to consider waiving this requirement for BC Housing funded projects.
- RHAC members received a presentation and provided feedback to CRD staff on the various definitions of housing affordability being used by various levels of government, particularly for funding program qualification purposes.

6. Next Meeting February 11, 2021 from 2:00-4:00pm

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Danella Parks **SECONDED** by Kaye Melliship.

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.