



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting
Held and transmitted electronically via Council Chambers located at 39 South
Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC
on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Carolyne Austin, Chair
Mayor Tim McGonigle
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

STAFF: Joseph A. Fernandez, Chief Administrative Officer
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works, and Engineering Services
Dalton Smith, Manager, Cowichan Lake Education Centre
Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary

PUBLIC: 9

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

3. **AGENDA**

No. CW.015/24
Agenda
Moved: Councillor Vomacka

Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024 were treated as information.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:

7. **DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

- (a) Zoe Lauckner of Take a Hike Mental Health Foundation was on-hand to introduce herself and speak on the grant-in-aid application for 2024 to assist with costs of programming which provides health and mental health support to local youth from Grades 10 through to 12 in the Cowichan Valley School District and the Cowichan Lake catchment area.

Ms. Lauckner further shared that the Take a Hike organization empowers the youth through academic counselling, community and land-base learning and its very high success rate in assisting participants to graduate high school and achieve future success with the ongoing support provided to alumni.

- (b) Margarita Dominquez, local resident requested the Town's support in the creation of a feline feeding station to address the rising feral and abandoned feline population in the community. She advised that it would be volunteer driven and similar to those she has worked on with success in Port Renfrew, Sooke and Jordan River with hundreds of cats rescued during her volunteer years.

Mayor McGonigle expressed his concern with the feline stations being an attractant to wildlife and asked that Ms. Dominquez reach out to a local organization called Su Casa and to work on a collaborative approach.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Action Items**

None.

(b) **Information or Consent Items**

None.

9. REPORTS**(a) Finance, Administration and Strategic Planning**

- (i) The Financial Report for the period ending March 31st, 2024, was treated as information.

The auditors will be on hand to discuss the 2023 financial statements with Council on April 23rd, 2024 and the financial bylaws will be brought for Council's consideration at its Regular meeting to be held same day, April 23rd, 2024.

- (ii) The Building Inspector's report for February, 2024 was treated as information.

- (iii) The Chief Administrative Officer's report on Bill 44 and affordable housing was treated as information.

No. CW.016/24
Rescind Motion –
Short Term Rentals

- (iv) Moved: Mayor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the Committee recommend that Council rescind Motion R0025/24 Short Term Rentals from the Regular meeting of Council held on March 26th, 2024.
CARRIED.

Mayor McGonigle shared his view that it would be prudent to pause implementation of the Short Term Rental Opt-in for 2024 until the additional provincial regulations are announced in November, 2024.

He also felt it was prudent to return the matter to the Advisory Planning Commission (APC). He further requested that staff notify the Province on the Town's decision to not opt-out of primary residence requirement(s) and encourage staff to look at other small towns that have opted into the legislation that are tourism based such as Parksville and Tofino with a report back.

Councillor Vomacka asked how many B&Bs held business licenses in Lake Cowichan. The Chief Administrative Officer responded that he would look into and make available.

(b) Parks, Recreation and Culture

- (i) The Chief Administrative Officer reported that Kenzie Knight, Tourism Cowichan was not available until after June, 2024 to meeting Council to discuss the Town's participation in the Spirit Loop.

He further reported that Tourism Cowichan was amenable to paying the Town's share to be a partner in the Spirit Loop's advertising and marketing plan(s).

- (ii) The information provided on sunscreen use and associated risks was treated as information. The Federal government regulates sunscreen products under the *Food and Drug Act*.

(c) Public Works and Engineering Services**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- (a) The next departmental tour will include the Education Centre, Lakeview Park and the Information Centre will be held in June, 2024 to allow for completion of the washroom upgrades and having a user group at the Education Centre.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. IN-CAMERA

14. ADJOURNMENT

No. CW.017/24
Adjournment

Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the meeting adjourn. (6:15 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____ .

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

Chair