

LCC Advisory Committee (LCCAC) Minutes

Meeting of June 6, 2022

In attendance:

LCACC: Gayle Baker, Darryl Martin, Kees Ruurs, Sonja Collumbin, Peter Meyer (Alternate for Mary Richardson), Michael McCallister, Gerard Zentner, Director Gary Holman. **Regrets:** Jamie Holmes.

Discussion Paper Authors: Brian Webster

1. Territorial Acknowledgment

By Chair Gayle Baker.

2. Agenda Approved as Amended

Committee to return to discussion of business if **there is time after the** ~~no additional~~ public comments.

3. Minutes May 27 Meeting Approved.

Director Holman designated as minute taker for this meeting.

4. Bylaw Review

Director Holman presented outcome of discussions with CRD staff after May 27 Committee meeting. CRD staff have agreed to provide the Committee with draft bylaws for discussion at their next meeting.

CRD staff recommend that local services not currently overseen by the four island-wide Commissions would continue to be administered as at present, but to be gradually brought under the auspices of the LCC, ideally within the next term. Director Holman suggested that in the interim, the Director could still seek guidance from the LCC regarding the priorities and requisitions for these other local services, and will check this with CRD staff. Brian Webster stated that the Discussion Paper proposes that all local CRD services be brought under the auspices of the LCC, but other than the eight services now administered by existing Commissions, did not explicitly recommend this would be done immediately.

CRD staff also raised the issue of how vacant LCC positions would be replaced mid-term, and suggested that an appointment process would be less costly. Director Holman indicated that his preference would be for a by-election process, given that it should be a relatively rare event, and even if this meant the need for a modest requisition increase to ensure funds for a by-election process were available. It was noted later in the meeting that the School District can fill Board vacancies by appointment.

5. Sharing of Committee Minutes / Public Comments

The Committee, primarily through Chair Baker and Director Holman, continue to receive comments and questions from the public. Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Martin, and Director Holman will coordinate placement of Committee minutes at various public venues (e.g., CRD Admin office, library, Chamber **Visitors' Information Centre**). They will also write articles summarizing the process, Committee discussions, and public feedback to date, for publication in the *Driftwood*, *SS Exchange* and local *Facebook* Discussion Forums.

Concern was expressed regarding the Committee's perceived advocacy for an LCC before it had reviewed the draft CRD bylaws. It was agreed that the Committee should publicize as much information as possible describing the intended nature and purpose of an LCC, as well as Committee proceedings to date. The Committee would determine their role in continued advocacy based on their review of the proposed CRD bylaws.

6. Public Comments and Advisory Committee Discussion

Remuneration levels for Commissioners was identified as an important issue to clarify, from the perspective of taxpayer cost, but also as a means to attract candidates. It was noted that salaries of councillors for municipalities similar in size to Salt Spring could be a possible benchmark, as well as remuneration for School District 64 Trustees.

Director Holman also took the opportunity to respond to several issues raised by John Gauld, a former member of the Community Alliance Governance Working Group. Mr. Gauld's suggestion about the possibility of a ward system for an LCC is not allowed for in legislation. Mr. Gauld also correctly stated that an LCC could simply be appointed without a voter approval process, although this contradicts the fundamental purpose of broadening elected CRD representation.

Two participants expressed interest in a "sunset clause" that could be included in the establishment bylaw to assure voters that the LCC could be dissolved if it did not perform well. Committee members indicated the legislation was silent on this possibility and were not aware of such an approach being taken in other jurisdictions. Director Holman was not supportive of a sunset clause because it would require another voter approval process in order to continue, potentially setting up the LCC for failure.

It was noted that a CRD LCC would not apply to improvement districts. They could still convert to a CRD entity in the future, subject to approval by their Trustees and ratepayers.

Committee member McAllister expressed concern about the limited opportunity for public education regarding the LCC proposal prior to the CRD Board approval (subject to voter consent) of the LCC bylaws at their July 13 meeting. Director Holman acknowledged this concern but has been informed by CRD staff that the July 13 Board meeting would be the latest date for conditional bylaw approval that would allow time to prepare for an Oct. 15 referendum. Committee member Ruurs

spoke to his experience regarding voter assent processes in local government. He **told us** that, typically, public campaigns did not begin until six to eight weeks before the referendum/election date. Other Committee members expressed the view that the key time for public education and information would be the July 13 - Oct. 15 period. During this period the CRD itself would be a main source of information, and the Advisory Committee, NGOs such as the Transition Society, the Chamber, Positively Forward / Community Alliance, and CRD candidates can also be involved In public education, advocacy, or opposition.

Committee member Darryl Martin recommended that the consolidation of the four island-wide Commissions be undertaken in a way that minimized any loss of expertise and community engagement provided by these Commissions (e.g., by phasing in the consolidation). Committee member Meyers recommended that part of the advocacy for an LCC include a reminder to voters of the considerable authority already exercised by the CRD Director.

7. Next Meeting

Next Committee meeting to be devoted to providing recommendations to CRD regarding the draft LCC bylaws. Meeting to be organized by Shayla Burnham in coordination with CRD staff (including CRD Corporate Officer Kristen Morley). Subsequent discussion with Ms. Morley after this LCCAC meeting confirmed that the draft bylaws would be made available to the Advisory Committee for internal review on June 20, and that she would be available for a closed session of the Committee at the end of that week to discuss the bylaws. The meeting will be closed to avoid any possibility that draft bylaws, subject to change, would become public.

7. Adjournment