

# DRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014

Location: Silver Threads

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm.

**Present:** Wendy Bowkett, Ian Southerland, Robert Florida, Nicholas Harrington, Erika Luebbe, Doug Boyd, Eric Ney, Cathy Brankston (Board members) Lisa Helps (City Councillor)

**Regrets:** Kaela Schramm (working out of town)

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved with 1 additional item under New Business.
2. **Approval of minutes of June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Approved with 2 corrections under Land Use Committee.

Old England Hotel should be New England Hotel. Kunju developer is Conrad Nyren.

### 3. Business arising from Minutes

DVBA's request for a downtown condo building to volunteer for the Organic Waste Collection Pilot Program was discussed at last month's board meeting. Janice Florida (DRA member) has contacted DVBA and will ask the strata board members of the Corazon if they would be interested in participating. The strata board meeting is scheduled for this week. Janice will report back to Wendy. The Corazon is presently participating in a compost program with their current waste/recycle company. Doug Boyd mentioned his building; The Vogue could also be a candidate for the program if needed.

### 4. Councillor's Report: Lisa

Some suggested improvements from DRA and Planning have been made to development plans for Kunju 1613 Herald St. The garage set-back has been addressed, however the building frontage does not line-up with the neighbouring 601 Herald building. Ian will send a letter to Planning regarding DRA's thoughts on the development and that DRA would support a small variance to improve the street frontage appearance.

Staff has completed the Harbour Vitality Principles Report, which will be presented at the Governance and Priorities meeting 9am Thurs July 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a draft plan for Belleville Terminal, Ship Point and Lower Wharf St taking into consideration suggestions from public engagement sessions and present city regulations. Council will be asked to approve in principle, arrange more public hearings and report back by Sept 2014. A link will be posted on DRA's website. Lisa suggested reading the principles of the plan as the document is 1200 pages. The documents are available on the city website under the Planning and Governance meeting agenda for July 24.

Johnson Street Bridge quarterly update is also on the agenda at the G&P meeting July 24<sup>th</sup>. More difficulties in making improvements to landscape plans. Pam Madoff and Lisa will put forward a motion

to ask staff to find a way to add more green space. DRA has been working towards this goal since the bridge approach plans were first unveiled.

Storm Water Utility Program and Bylaw is also on the agenda at the G&P meeting Thurs July 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a new funding model and to promote sustainable storm water practices. Everyone will now pay their share, which includes government and non-profits; who had been exempt. Final date is Sept 2016 in order to allow time for residents and businesses to complete their infrastructure changes.

The Crystal Gardens could be a site for a new Scotch whiskey distillery, restaurant, tasting room etc. Lisa has had contact with an experienced distiller from Scotland. Some zoning changes would be required, such as change of use. DRA board will work with developer and city to expedite the CALUC process, if this site is chosen.

#### **5. Community Development Committee: Wendy**

An informal meeting was held Thurs July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lido. Victoria Matters and Roving Refinery plans will be discussed in more detail at the August meeting. Next committee meeting will be held Thurs Aug 7th 5:30pm at Lido Waterfront Bistro.

#### **6. Healthy Living Committee: Eric**

Meeting was held Wed July 16<sup>th</sup> at QV Bakery. A small group attended. Next Healthy Living meeting is Wed Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm at Veneto Tapa lounge

#### **7. Land Use Committee: Ian**

##### **a. Executive House/Bartholomew's: Wendy**

A public information meeting was held June 25<sup>th</sup>. 36 community members and city councillors attended to voice their opinions on the liquor primary change request and also noise issues in the area. Wendy received 2 letters from the Aria. One letter covered the issues in the neighborhood. The second letter gave thoughts on the application. A number of emails were also received. Wendy has given them to Ian, who will be sending a letter to council stating the issues mentioned and DRA's stand. The main issues to be addressed are adding a door person to manage patrons, closing the patio at 11pm, and a redesign of the patio expansion to help to mitigate the noise.

##### **b. Hermann's Jazz Inc. 753 View St:**

A Primary Liquor application is before city council Thurs July 24th 7pm. This venue is located beside the existing Jazz club, replacing the old Army and Navy Club. This request has received a lot of support from neighbours. The capacity is 80 people and is not nearby any residential units. The existing club is well-run and DRA has sent a letter of support to council. The new club will be a sports bar, which adds more diversification to our downtown area.

##### **c. JSB Bridge Approaches:**

Ian spoke to Brad Delabure, City Traffic planner, some months ago regarding DRA's ignored input. Staff is still resisting any changes and state that the contract cannot be opened now. Northern Junk and Janion developments are greatly affected by the proposed plaza. Lisa suggested that Ian request Jon Stovell to send a letter to council for this Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> stating his concerns regarding the impact on Jon's 2 properties.

**d. 1515 Douglas St:**

Jawl Properties Ltd, D'Ambrosio Architects & Urbanism. Development permit granted. Very positive feedback from city, community members and DRA. See [www.jawlproperties.com](http://www.jawlproperties.com)

**e. 816 Government St:**

Custom House site. Ian met with Stan Sipos, developer; recently to discuss latest changes to this project. Ian will distribute new drawings to LUC members when they become available. See [www.customshouse.ca](http://www.customshouse.ca)

**f. 920 Yates St: Philip Nyren Clothing Store Site**

A 17 story retail/residential building is planned for this site. A CALUC meeting will be held Thurs Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 5pm at the Victoria Executive Centre 915 Fort St. Developer Alpha Project Developments Ltd built the Aria and most recently The Mondrian building. Rezoning will be requested as a site specific zone. Ian will distribute information to LUC when received. City staff will mail out meeting notices to affected neighbours. All community members are welcome to attend the CALUC presentation.

**8. Communications Committee: Nicholas/Erika**

Updates have been added to link DRA website to newsletter. A click on our Logo will then open website. No winner on last month's mystery photo. Nicholas will post an easy challenge; suggestion The Hudson Market Sign. Nicholas will add some photos from the 700 block Pandora Ave Clean-up and more photos from the ongoing Buskers Festival. Email any suggestions on to Nicholas at [editor@victoriadra.ca](mailto:editor@victoriadra.ca). Next communications meeting is scheduled Wed July 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30pm at Vento Tapa Lounge.

**9. New Business: Wendy**

**a. VCAN: Victoria Community Association Network**

Wendy gave an overview of history of this newly formed association. The DRA was involved briefly with a similar group about 8 years ago. This group was comprised of other neighborhood associations, and disbanded years ago. Graham Briggs (DRA NR Member, CDC - Victoria Matters) and Janet Simpson (Rockland Neighborhood Assoc) have been instrumental in forming VCAN. The DRA has not participated in meetings as yet with this group. Wendy has drafted a letter for DRA board for review. Recipients will be DRA board and members, city council, and Graham Briggs. Based on current confusion in the community about the DRA's role and participation to date, questions arise concerning policies and practice around membership, representation, communication and transparency.

**b. Reduce Speed Limits: Lisa**

Ongoing discussions at City regarding proposal to reduce speed limits on certain roads. A Special Council Meeting on 17 July included a lengthy public hearing which was well attended. Council has directed staff to consider implications. Will the traffic just move to another road with a higher speed limit, will there be enforcement, or just a speed limit sign change-out. An implementation plan will come before Council. A substantial bylaw change needs to occur.

**Healthy Living/Noisy Pipes update: Eric**

Eric has met with VicPD again for a discussion on the noisy pipes issue. Noise and safety are continuing concerns.

**c. Community Meeting re Quality of Life Issues: Wendy**

Wendy will arrange a fall community meeting as a result of the numerous issues identified by residents in the Humboldt Valley area. DRA will host the public meeting. Suggested topics include "Liveability of Downtown" and "Solutions for Downtown". Police Chief Frank Elsner, Michael Hill Downtown co-ordinator, Mark Hayden Bylaw inspection, Council members and Liquor Branch Inspector will be invited.

**d. 700 Block Pandora Ave Clean-up July 11th: Lisa**

Shellie Gudgeon, Councillor, arranged a clean up from 7am to 9:30am for overgrown landscape. Shellie, Lisa and Charlayne along many volunteers worked tirelessly to saw branches, cut back overgrown shrubbery, pull blackberry and ivy, pick-up litter and generally improve an area that had become somewhat of a safety concern. The sight lines are much improved. Many thanks to Shellie for the coffee and snacks to keep us going. And thank you to City Parks for heavy duty gloves and clippers. Robbins Parking marked out a safe area for workers and carted away a huge amount of debris. DVBA also supplied 2 workers to aid the volunteers. Many passersby complimented everyone on taking on such a large task.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

**Next Board meeting will be Tues Aug 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm. Location: Silver Threads**