

# **DRA Board Meeting Minutes**

**18 August 2015**

Location: Greater Victoria Public Library  
735 Broughton Street

**Present:** Co-Chairs Kaela Schramm and Nicholas Harrington; Board Members Cathy Brankston, Erika Luebbe, Ian Southerland, Eric Ney, Don Elliott, Ruth Annis, Doug Boyd, Kelly Chirhart, Robert Florida; DRA member Wendy Bowkett.

**Regrets:** Karen Gallagher, City Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe.

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm. Ruth Annis volunteered to act as secretary.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:2 additions to LUC report; revised agenda approved by consensus.**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of 16 June and 21 July 2015 meetings: by consensus.**
- 3. Kelly Chirhart to step down from the board - we wish her well in her new neighborhood: North Park!**
4. Motion: To nominate Wendy Bowkett to replace Kelly. Approved.
- 5. Councillor's Report:** report deferred
- 6. Community Development Committee:** Kaela and Don
  - Government Street Pilot Closures update – Nicholas and Wendy attended. First closure tentatively planned for the weekend before Halloween, Sunday, October the 25<sup>th</sup>. Highlights will include a children's Monster March, a Hay Maze, and local bands and food vendors. The second closure is planned for Valentine's Day 2016.
  - Plans for Roving Refinery for Fall 2015. Wendy Bowkett will investigate the list of options generated at this meeting.
- 7. Urban Livability:** Eric and Nicholas

Committee has not met since last board meeting.

Greater Victoria Placemaking had approached us about sponsoring a community garden in the 900 block of Pandora. In the interim, Life Cycle offered to sponsor this garden so the request to DRA is withdrawn. Continued collaboration with Greater Victoria Placemaking is supported in principle; Nicholas will follow up. Requirement for DRA to carry liability insurance needs further investigation.

Next ULC Meeting: September 9, at Veneto Restaurant

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

A. Johnson Street Bridge – Options report for public realm and landscaping represented at GPC on Thurs 20 Aug for Council to review. Ian will send copy to DRA Board for comment.

B. Northern Junk: Reliance Holdings – CALUC meeting was held Tues 28 July 5:30 pm at Victoria Executive Centre. 65 residents attended. There was strong opposition to the 12 storey tower. Ian has since been contacted re the possibility of new designs coming forward.

C. 755 Caledonia: Townline – Pre-application meeting was held on 8 July for Hudson Mews phase 2. CALUC meeting for zoning text amendments to allow for Brewery and Distillery use for both Townline properties scheduled for Tues 8 Sept 7 pm at Hudson Market. (Time TBC)

D. 613 Herald: Conrad Nyren Real Estate/Hillel Architecture – Robert Florida replaces Ian during consultation on this project as Ian has a declared conflict of interest as an adjacent property owner. Neighbours at 601 Herald have concerns regarding the impact of the project and lack of consultation by the applicant and are taking steps to communicate them to Council and Design Panel.

E. Northern Quarter: 1724 Douglas St: Application for extension of hours on Fri and Sat from midnight to 1 am and inclusion of public participation (dancing) during musical performances. DRA practice is not to support applications for extended hours if the location is nearby to residential buildings. Letter due to be sent by 28 Aug.

DRA Board should consider developing a policy statement to this effect.

F. Government St Charette: deferred

- Mayor Helps will provide a 'synthesis' of the findings to the Economic Development Task Force. (not yet received)
- The City and the DVBA will collaborate to create a draft copy of the Government Street Action Plan complete with timelines by the end of July. (not yet received)
- There will be a no-host bar at the Bard & Banker to present the plan at the end of July.(not happened yet)

G. 727 Johnson Street (vacant heritage building). CALUC meeting to be scheduled in early September.

H. St Andrew's application. Request from North Park RA asking all other residents' associations to oppose the application. DRA practice is not to comment formally on applications outside of our boundaries. No action to be taken.

Motion: That the DRA respect the boundaries of other RAs and not comment on proposals outside our boundaries. Approved.

**9. Downtown Service Providers Meeting: Don Re Homeless Strategies:**

- Not considering parkades as suitable sites for homeless camping.
- Micro-shelters: no organization willing to manage a project.
- Micro-housing: not targeted for people with mental health problems and thus not a good fit for priority populations in Victoria.
- Camping in a city park: no organization willing to manage a campsite.
- Next meeting: August 25th.

**10. VCAN: Doug (written report)**

Victoria Community Association Network Meeting Notes - Tuesday, June 23, 2015

A. Katie Hamilton, City of Victoria Director of Strategic Planning & Citizen Engagement

Discussed the need to support neighbourhoods and NAs in a better way. Plan is to talk with NAs about how to support them, foster relationships, and engage the community. A request was sent asking to meet with each NA Board and LUC.

B. Placemaking Presentation and Roundtable Discussion

Lorne Daniel, gave a presentation on Placemaking. The goal of Placemaking is to creating great public spaces and streets through engagement and collaboration. Placemaking is a process that fosters community and stimulates interaction. It is all about people taking ownership.

Victoria Placemaking organizes events and experiences to get people engaged. Examples are pilots and pop-ups. They are planning fall and winter events related to bike plans and active streets.

Quadra Village was cited as an example of Placemaking. Also, the parklet on Fort Street.

C. Topics for Future VCAN Meetings

Suggested topics were local area plans, active transportation, housing affordability.

Meetings to resume in September, dates TBA.

**11. Business arising from Minutes:**

Official letters of support for the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Report and the City of Victoria Report. (Deferred) September DRA Board Meeting will consider:

- a letter to the editor of the Times Colonist calling on all levels of government to make homelessness a higher priority;
- endorsing the Coalition to End Homelessness' report;
- a letter of support for a homeless storage facility (deferred until a location is identified)
- a letter to the City applauding their work to make homelessness a priority issue.

## **12. New Business:**

- VicNews contact (Nicholas). DRA Newsletter will be forwarded to VicNews so they can reprint materials.
- Proposed City / DRA meeting re Neighbourhood Development: August 20th meeting cancelled. To be rescheduled in early September.
- August 20<sup>th</sup> City of Victoria GPC Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at: 7:01 pm**

**Date of next Meeting:** September 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the GV Public Library