

# DRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## NOV 17, 2015

**Location:** Greater Victoria Public Library

**Present:** Ruth A., Charlayne T-J., Erika L., Nicholas H., Wendy B., Ian S., Cathy B., Karen G., Doug B., Eric N., Guest: Janet Strauss

**Regrets:** Robert F., Don E., Kaela S.

Recording Secretary: Cathy B.

Meeting called to order by Nicholas at 5:45pm.

**1. Approval of Agenda:** Approved Cathy, seconded by Wendy; approved with 1 new item Land Use. Order of items changed. #4 before #3.

**2. Approval of minutes of Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.** Amended minutes approved by Cathy, seconded by Karen. By consensus.

**3. Community Development Committee:** Nicholas

No CDC meeting was held in November, due to busy schedules.

The next Victoria Matters event, originally considered for the end of November has been postponed until early 2016.

**Roving Refinery:** October event took place at The Mint 1412 Douglas St. Rajen Shakya, one of the owners, welcomed all and gave a brief history of the restaurants. Rajen explained the concept of separate lunch and dining venues, and their varied menus. In the upper lunch area, many appetizers were served and enjoyed by all, who then progressed to the lower dining venue. A great success, with 3 lucky winners of The Mint gift certificates. The RR was well attended and all tickets were spoken for.

**Wicked Victoria** took place on Sat Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by The Victoria Festival Society. Pedestrian only zone along Government St between Courtney and Yates St. A celebration of Harvest and Halloween held between noon and 5pm. The event was deemed to be successful. Hundreds attended, many families, some in costumes. A free event with entertainment, music, face painting, pumpkin designing, and more. The fall weather was good. DRA manned a booth, raising awareness of our area boundaries and philosophy to encourage new membership. Children were able to get a candy, by winning a skill testing pumpkin game. Fun for all.

**November Roving Refinery:** To be held Tues Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 6 pm - 7 pm at The Northern Quarter. Located at 1724 Douglas St. Tickets are going fast.

**Next Community Development meeting:** To be held Tues Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at The Drake.

#### **4. Councillor's Report :** Charlayne

Charlayne spoke regarding many DRA priorities:

**Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club:** A Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club was proposed to go into the former Samuel's restaurant location in The Q Apartments, 655 Douglas Street (James Bay neighbourhood). The proposal has been withdrawn by the proponents.

**The Local:** Council unanimously approved a motion that will allow The Local, 1205 Wharf Street, to add a 'Patron Participation' endorsement to their existing Food Primary Liquor licence. It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that Council, after conducting a review with respect to noise and community impacts regarding the application, add a Patron Participation Endorsement for the Food Primary Liquor licence of The Local Bar and Grill, Liquor Licence No. 302531, located at 1205 Wharf Street.

**Strathcona Hotel:** Request for 1 hour early open for sport games was passed. Council requested staff to investigate what Strathcona is doing to mitigate some local residents concerns of noise, etc.

**Late Night Great Night:** People are asking for different venues of activities, other than bars. We have a pool hall and a board games establishment. What other activities/venues could thrive?

**Licensing marijuana dispensaries.** A staff report will go to city council on Nov 19. The proposed legislation focuses on location and operation. Charlayne spoke against waiting for Federal Government operating regulations, as many businesses already operating could be grandfathered. Our Victoria charter allows a maximum charge of \$3000.00 for a business licence.

**Homelessness Issue.** With the changing weather, more compassion is called for. On Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 85 new shelter beds were made available. The extreme weather protocol will be implemented when the temperature falls to 2 °C. Council has requested staff to look at the recent Abbotsford decision to allow overnight camping till 9 am. The Abbotsford decision mentions the rights of neighbours. The impacts of a change in policy are unclear. Would this mean out by 9 am, or wake-up at 9 am, etc. Some issues are policing, as less officers would be available for this task after 9 am, due to other duties and calls. Currently being woken at 7 am could mean the officer is still in the area for up to two hours, encouraging people to pack up. The most affected parks are Cridge, Beacon Hill and Kings. The Court House property is provincial land, and is 24/7. City council is working with the pastor from Church of our Lord at Cridge Park. The daycare centre is no longer operating due to safety concerns. If the park was a playground, then camping would not be allowed.

The Humboldt Valley has many young families. One building has 17 children under 5 years old, another has 5 newborns. We need to be able to attract and maintain a diverse population to have a vibrant downtown.

**DVBA** has conducted a survey asking what citizens feel a "Family Friendly" downtown would be.

**CRD** will be announcing a 200 unit affordable & supportive housing site to be ready in 2016. More units to be available in 2017.

**A film "Us and Them":** Will be shown Thurs Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 7 - 9 pm at City hall council chambers. A free documentary on homelessness by Krista Loughton.

**A Housing First Workshop** will be held Fri Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 9 am - 12 pm at City hall council chambers. Dr Tsemberis is the creator of Housing First in the USA. Event is free, check city website for more info.

On a lighter note, **the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Tree Light-Up is Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**. Information is available in a DVBA booklet that came with the Times Colonist last week. Many, many events are listed... Ferris Wheel, Trolley rides, Christmas carollers, Festival of Trees, and on. Check website: [www.downtownvictoria.ca](http://www.downtownvictoria.ca) or DVBA office in Centennial Square for all the exciting downtown holiday season events.

Charlayne distributed a poster for a concert at Alix Goolden Hall, Mon Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. "A Christmas Carol" presented by CBC radio and Our Place Society. Check websites for further info.

City Hall is reviewing sidewalk café bylaws.

**VCAN** (Victoria Community Associations Network) is presenting recommendations to council this Thurs. One item would be to have a city staff member present at regular community assn meetings. Another to develop guidelines for community place-making and public grants.

**Jukebox Lofts:** A new, 9 storey development on View and Vancouver went before the Planning & Land Use committee Nov 12. The development permit had expired years ago, however no rezoning was requested. A CALUC was not required.

**Growing in the City Open House and Workshop.** Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 - 9 pm at Oaklands Community Centre. Enhancing our local, urban food systems. Check website [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca) under Community events calendar. Open House 6 - 7 pm...RSVP for dinner and discussion 7 - 9 pm.

An invitation to attend the **Government Street Charette reception** was sent to those who attended the late May charette. A draft twelve-month work plan for the street will be presented at the Bard & Banker Thurs Nov 19 at 5 pm. If any other board members wish to attend, send an email to Nicholas, and he will request room for more participants.

## **5. Urban Liveability:** Nicholas

Nicholas and Janet attended a meeting Nov 12.

Janet reported on community gardens. City maps show very little available public land owned by the city. Janet met with Graeme Sykes, Real Estate Manager, Shared Services BC. Options discussed were St Ann's Academy (SE corner) and the park adjacent to the Provincial Courthouse. Janet is gathering photos and site info. St Ann's is not in Downtown district, and the Court House plot is heavily treed. Janet is also approaching individual owners in the downtown. Smith Bros. Foundary site in Rock Bay was mentioned by Ian as a possibility and also vacant site beside Moxie's on Yates St. Charlayne said staff is looking into the successful Davie Street site located in Vancouver. **Charlayne suggested that the DRA make a "Top 10" list of items wanted for Downtown**, perhaps gardens would be part of that list.

Janet will attend the Growing in the City Workshop Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> on DRA's Behalf.

**Next meeting:** Wed Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm at Veneto.

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

**755 Caledonia:** Townline: Development Permit with variances. Public Hearing date TBA. LUC letter is being composed with comments from the CALUC meeting Sept 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Government St Charette:** Update scheduled for Thurs Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bard and Banker.

Lack of notification for all relevant items for City PLUC meeting Nov 12.

Development permit Application for 1029 View St (The Jukebox Lofts) does not include variances, therefore, consistent with the Community Assn Land Use Committee (CALUC) procedures related to development applications. It was not circulated to DRA for comments. Ian mentioned DRA specifically requested notification on all LLA's. Charlayne will investigate why process has not been followed.

**Northern Junk:** Developer Reliance Properties to hold another CALUC meeting on Wed Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at the Victoria Executive Centre, 915 Fort St., 5:30 to 7 pm. Revised plans will be discussed.

November is Tree appreciation month in the city. #30daysoftrees. Wendy is keeping a tally of removed trees, to monitor timely replacement.

## **7. Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN): Doug**

The most recent meeting took place Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to determine VCAN's priorities for the upcoming year. A list of priorities was compiled from the submissions of the constituent neighbourhood assns. The first action was to determine how many associations voted for each of the items that had been identified at the previous VCAN meeting and by the online survey of VCAN reps. The identified priorities are listed:

- a. VCAN is an active community network-includes information sharing, capacity building, emergency preparedness.
- b. Active Transportation
- c. Land Use planning/CALUC process
- d. Role of Community Associations in Land Use planning process

Following this, a table was set for each of the four issues. Those present, moved from table to table to form groups to brainstorm actions required. Results will be compiled and will form the basis of the VCAN agendas for 2016.

**Next meeting:** To be held Tues Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## **8. Business arising from minutes: Charlayne**

Neighbourhood border alignment ? Charlayne is waiting for a response from staff.

**9. New business:** Nicholas

**2016 AGM;** The Downtown Community Centre, located at 755 Pandora Ave, is booked for Thurs Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

Donna McKenna, the Downtown Community Centre co-ordinator, was suggested as a guest speaker. Nicholas will follow-up.

A regular board meeting will not be held in December. A possible social event is in the planning stages. Tues Dec 15<sup>th</sup> was chosen. TBA.

**Membership drive:** Doug mentioned a lack of resources. In 2016, the focus will be to have events planned and carried out, larger membership, and more ways to increase involvement .

**Public Art:** Eric

Eric requested Charlayne to investigate the \$60,000 that the developer at Hudson was to give to the city for public art in that development.

**Meeting adjourned at:** 7:10 pm.

**Next Board Meeting:** 2016 AGM on Thurs Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 5:30 - 7 pm, 755 Pandora Ave.