

DRA BOARD MEETING

15th January 2014

Present: Wendy Bowkett (DRA Chair), Ian Sutherland (LUC Chair), Cathy Brankston (Secretary), Robert Florida (Board Member), Eric Ney (Board Member), Doug Boyd, Nicholas Harrington, Kaela Schramm.

Regrets: Lisa Helps (City Liaison Councillor)

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm.

1. Approval of agenda: Approved

2. Approval of minutes of Nov 27th meeting. Approved by consensus.

3. Business arising from minutes.

AGM: Thurs Jan 23rd 5:30pm.

Frank Elsner, the new Victoria Police Chief, has been confirmed to be our guest speaker. Frank will be first on the agenda at 5:30 pm. An opportunity to meet with our new chief. To hear his thoughts and ideas on the current policing situation and possible future changes for the city.

Election of officers will be held at the AGM.

Ian's position as LUC Chair is up this year. Ian has offered to stand for another year term.

Wendy Bowkett will continue as Chair. Wendy has indicated this will be her last year as Chair.

Cathy Brankston will stay on as secretary. (2nd year of 3-year term)

Eric Ney will stay on the board till 2015 to complete Hugh Kruzel's term.

Doug Boyd has agreed to stand for the treasurer's position. Doug is a recent member and has much experience as a treasurer. Has been a treasurer for his Strata, a Community Radio station and the Kensington Business Assn. Wendy, as current treasurer, will work with Doug to ensure a seamless transition. Doug will be nominated to the DRA board at the AGM.

Kaela will also be nominated to the board at the AGM and will take chair for the Community Development Committee when elected. Wendy will assist Kaela with the transition over the year as needed.

Nicholas has also agreed to join the board as a member at large and will stand for nomination at the AGM. Nicholas will issue the February newsletter in Roberts's absence.

All committee chair positions will be confirmed at the next regular board meeting following the AGM.

Robert will ask Ruth and Andy if either or both would be interested in joining board and help give representation for the Humboldt Valley area residents.

Rules of election were discussed. Agreed by all. A person's position runs with the person's term.

4. Councillor's report: Lisa. Lisa had sent regrets and reported, as the city did not hold meetings during the festive season, she did not have any news or updates for our meeting. Lisa will continue her role as DRA's city liaison till the November election.

5. Community Development Committee: Wendy

Latest meeting was held Sat Jan 4th at QV Bakery.

Victoria Matters Thurs Jan 30th 7pm. Victoria Event Centre 1415 Broad St

Planning is on track. Posters are printed; all media, TV, radio and Community Associations have been notified. Wendy and others will distribute posters to local businesses and strata groups.

Video programming has been arranged for the event. Recruitment for new members will also take place at this event. Wendy is arranging the printing of business cards. Contact info regarding Web, Email, Facebook, and Twitter sites will make it easier for a person to sign-up or follow DRA activities in their preferred communication venue. Mike Miller from Abstract Designs has been asked to be a guest speaker but it's not expected that he will join the panel at this late date.

Ideas for Victoria Matters events in 2014

Proposed are two more Victoria Matters events to be held in late spring and late summer. Suggested topics are Alternative Justice, Alternate Transportation and Sustainable Cities. A critique on our first two events will be done to continue to improve our successes and determine if more events will be planned for 2014.

Roving Refinery: Tues Jan 21st 6pm at The Guild 1250 Wharf St. Sign-up through DRA website to Eventbrite.

Next Community Development Committee meeting will be held Wed Feb 5th 5:30 at QV Bakery.

This committee will continue to meet on the first Wed of each month.

6. Healthy Living Committee: Eric

Meeting was held Wed Dec 18th at QV Bakery. Eric will get an update from Rachel and Graham regarding their progress to build a survey for our website. Eric and Nicholas have also been working to organize a more focused survey. Possibly 2 or 3 a year is a reasonable goal. Survey Monkey will allow 5 free questions only. Sites mentioned as better meeting our needs were Survey Gizmo and Google Survey. DRA board had voted to use one of the paid survey sites, which allow for a larger questionnaire.

Parking: City Parking Service review. Eric has not received any recent update from Izmo. The review will be going to council. Consensus from the board expects this will be a difficult matter to resolve.

Motorbikes: Loud pipes/noise pollution is the issue. MLA for Vancouver West has been lobbying the Provincial Government to come up with legislation to alleviate this problem. No updates on progress are available. We need our City Council to also champion this cause. Eric will continue to follow progress.

Next meeting will be held Wed Jan 22nd 7pm at QV Bakery.

Healthy Living Committee will continue to meet on the 3rd Wed of every month.

7. Land Use Committee: Ian

1515 Douglas St; Developer Jawl Bros and Architect Frank D'Ambrosio; Development request is officially submitted to council. A public hearing could be held by summer.

DCAP: Downtown Core Area Plan:

An Open House is on today Jan 15th from 3pm to 7pm at City Hall.

City of Victoria is proposing a new zoning Bylaw for the Central Business District that covers a 15-block area of downtown. An online survey is available till Feb 17th at Victoria.ca/zoning or email concerns/suggestions to developmentsservices@victoria.ca.

The Central Business District area is the first neighborhood to be implemented. The city will rewrite the existing zoning bylaws, leaving the current site-specific zones as they are. The city's plans include new permitted uses, new density and height allowances, support for alternative transportation and no requirement for on-site parking.

The changes are being proposed to enable a more welcoming environment for business and a more liveable community for residents.

Peacock Billiards 1175 Douglas has submitted a request for changes to liquor licensing. Ian will ask Lisa to send the request to the LUC Chair to enable DRA to discuss the changes and reply to city council.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Date for next meeting. Wed Feb 26th at 5:30pm at Silver Threads.

DRA monthly meetings are held the 4th Wed of each month.