

DRA Board Meeting Minutes Draft

26th June 2013

Location: Victoria Silver Threads

Present: Wendy Bowkett (DRA Chair), Ian Sutherland (LUC Chair), Robert Florida, Cathy Brankston (Board members), Eric Ney, and Nicholas Harrington (members)

Regrets: Lisa Helps, Councillor

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** By consensus, with one change to move Governance to first item.
2. **Approval of minutes:** By consensus
3. **New Business:** Governance
Hugh Kruzel has resigned as Secretary. Wendy will thank him for his outstanding work on behalf of the DRA. Cathy Brankston has agreed to take over the role of secretary. Eric Ney has been appointed as a new board member and will also serve as Chair of the Healthy Living Committee. Welcome to Eric. We are able to have 13 board members; currently there are 6 Board members.
4. **Councillor's report:** Lisa
 - **Plaza Hotel** - is moving forward to public hearing. Advisory Design Panel and Heritage Advisory Committee have given input that has been incorporated by the architect; the most notable change is that the building no longer protrudes out over the public square.
 - **Johnson Street Bridge** - construction has begun and the project remains on budget. Parking issues on the Vic West side have been dealt with by providing parking for the construction workers at an off-street lot.
 - **1075 Pandora** has moved forward to public hearing subject to Advisory Design Panel getting a better understanding and making suggestions as to the interior hallways and Atrium space.
 - **Blue Sky Site** at St. Andrews school has been sent back by Planning and Land Use for further refinement including the addition of a public walkway through the site. Council originally had talked about changing the highway access bylaw to accommodate traffic coming off Pandora but was advised that to change a bylaw midstream was not fair/legal! That will be a contentious public hearing if the project gets that far, as it is the first situation where the new OCP and the 'expansion' of downtown (through density/height/massing on the current fringes of downtown) will be put to a 'test.' It'll be an interesting one to watch.
 - **Jawl's** are getting their plans underway to develop - in two phases - the property across from City Hall bordering Douglas, Pandora and Cormorant. I've seen a preliminary sketch. I think they aim to be in to the City later this fall, which means CALUC before. The idea is two buildings with a laneway between them, built in two phases.

5. **Communications Committee:** Wendy

Next meeting will be held Tues July 23rd. 5:30 pm at Veneto

6. **Community Development Committee:** Wendy

Ruth and Andy had previously offered to contact their neighbour who is one of the owners of the Taphouse to suggest a Roving Refinery event. Robert Florida will follow-up with Ruth and Andy to see if they can send Wendy contact details. She will endeavor to arrange a RR date in late July.

7. **Healthy Living Committee:** Eric

First meeting was held June 18th at Veneto at Hotel Rialto. Topics to be discussed at future meetings include Street Crime/Block Watch, Homelessness, Graffiti, Noise Pollution, Addictions and Mental Health, Population Density and Zoning. The committee will explore existing city projects and endeavor to dovetail our ideas and to garner support for DRA's proposals. Eric Ney, chair of HLC will be the committee liaison to the DRA board. Next meeting will be held in early August. Date will be posted on our website.

8. **Land Use Committee:** Ian

- **613 Herald:** Previous development permit has expired. A new architect firm has submitted a completely new design. Previous design was not cost effective, according to developer. Proposing a 6-story wood frame building, with a 5-foot gap on either side. This design would not require a firewall on either side, however presents a blank wall to adjacent buildings. Developer is also asking for a height variance. Additional meetings will be held with DRA Land Use Committee.
- **CALUC meeting;** June 5th location city hall: Informative talk given by city officials on process.
- **1124 Vancouver St:** former bottle depot site. Fraser McColl and Dan Robbins presented a proposal to DRA LUC to rezone property to 100% office use. No structural changes are being made to the existing building. A cosmetic cleanup of site and some interior changes are planned. Ian will send a letter of support to city, noting that the zoning change to office use should be allowed for this development application only. In the future, when the site is going to be developed, the zoning should be reverted back to present use.
- **1075 Pandora Ave:** Advisory Design Panel will hear this application on June 27th. The next step will be a public hearing. Ian has sent a letter to the city outlining DRA members and adjacent properties concerns.
- **1612-1614 Store St: Janion Building** Heritage Advisory has seen this application and also Advisory Design Panel committees. Suggestions from the ADP include trellis and ornamental additions. DRA land use has had several meetings with city officials and the developer. Ian will verify if any of DRA's suggestions have been incorporated in the final design. Another letter will then be sent to city. A public hearing will be scheduled.

- **840 Fort St: Sawyer building** Requesting development permit with a variance. Land Use chair will send a letter to city.

9. **New Business**

- Parking Review; Ismo Husu, Manager, Parking Services: Advisory meetings are still underway. DVBA is holding meetings, which Wendy will be attending. City plans to start a panel review in July. Wendy to determine how many DRA members can attend. Wendy and Eric Ney have both expressed interest.
- Nicholas Harrington has offered to assist Robert Florida with photos for the newsletter. Thank you Nicholas.

10. **Postponed business**

- Motorbikes with illegal pipes.
- Asset mapping for new residents.
- Meet our Neighbors – Mondays

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Date for next meeting is Wed July 24th at Silver Threads