

DRA Board Meeting Draft Minutes

23rd October 2013

Location: Victoria Silver Threads

Special Presentation: Meeting with City of Victoria Executive Director of Economic Devt, Sage Baker

Present: Wendy Bowkett (Queen and Exchequer of the Treasury), Ian Sutherland, Eric Ney, Robert Florida (Secretary Pro Tem), Lisa Helps (City Councilor and Liaison)

Guest: Ms Sage Baker, City of Victoria Executive Director of Economic Development

Regrets: C. Brankston

Meeting called to order at: 5:32 PM

1. **Approval of Agenda**, by consensus
2. **Approval of Minutes of 25th Sept meeting**, by consensus
3. **Presentation by Sage Baker:** Sage began her presentation with a brief rundown on her very impressive experience as a business builder, having been instrumental in several large entrepreneurial successes. She has been appointed to a two year term, beginning in June of this year, as a consultant to the City to help with new economic development projects

She has identified three important areas of interest: 1) Retail strategy for downtown, 2) Belleville Terminal, 3) David Foster Pathway. From these areas, three goals have been formulated: 1) Short Term Goal—develop the excellent opportunities for shipbuilding, a very high wage sector that our deep-water harbour provides. 2) Mid-Term Goal, Entrepreneurship in the downtown area—working with the various business sectors of the area, 3) Long Term Goal, Ross Bay development.

Since her office has a very limited budget, it must proceed through community cooperation and agreement. The presentation was very well received, and we do wish her the greatest success.

4. **Business arising from Minutes**

- **Johnson Street Bridge:** Lisa: contact appropriate city staff to follow up on our ongoing concerns re treatment of bridge approaches and public spaces. See under Lisa's Report

5. **Councilor's Report: Lisa.** Lisa noted that there were no particular new items from City Hall of interest to the Board. Ian Sutherland and others then noted that we still had not been able even to identify the City official and contractors in charge of the approaches to the Johnson Street Bridge. This is of critical interest to the Land Use Committee as it is such an important part of the cityscape. Lisa said she would redouble her efforts to help us in this matter. Lisa will redouble her efforts to track down the appropriate City person/people and invite them to join

our next board meeting. LUC members will also be invited to join for an update and Q&A. There was also some discussion of the new Storm Water Treatment policy. Details will be posted in our electronic media. Lisa will send Wendy the power point presentation for distribution. The City will run a public consultation process in Nov & Dec. Details posted on the City website.

Lisa had to leave at 6:30 pm due to another commitment.

6. Communications Meeting

- Meeting update: Tues 22th Oct. This committee is functioning rather well, and we are generally pleased with the Newsletter, the Web Site, and other Electronic communications. Robert, editor pro tem of the Newsletter, will be asking individuals for specific items to include. Next meeting in January.

7. Community Development Committee: Wendy

- Meeting update: Thurs 10th Oct 5:30 pm at QV
 - Victoria Matters: Wed 2nd Oct 7 pm @ VEC: debrief. 42 people attended the first Forum, which went well. Although there were press and TV reporters present, it did not seem to get any coverage. In the future, we now know that there needs to be more advance notice, publicity and promotion.
 - Victoria Matters: next event. We will hold the next event in January on the topic of Homelessness
 - Other possible topics for future events include, Infrastructure (including the ever-popular Sewage Treatment, Sustainable Cities, and Urban Design.
 - Roving Refinery Wed 16th Oct: The Taphouse on Yates: 17 attended, we raised 9 pounds of food and \$30, which was contributed to the Great Canadian Food Fight through the Mustard Seed Food Bank. David Lau was a genial and generous host, providing some delicious 'appies and donated a \$25 gift certificate. Thanks to all who participated. Three \$25 gift certificates were given away to Sterling, Kelly and Teresa.
 - Next Roving Refinery Mon 18th Nov at 6pm: Zambri's, in the atrium, capacity: 30 people. None in December.
- Next meeting: Tues 4th Nov 5:30 pm at QV

8. Healthy Living Committee: Eric

- Next meeting: Wed 30th Oct at 7 pm at QV.
- The HLC continues to make some progress on the areas identified for action.
- Ben Isitt and Shellie Gudgeon invited us to a workshop on: Safe Streets and Active Transportation in our Neighbourhoods Tuesday October 29, 5-7pm Sol Food Cafe, 2955

Jutland Rd Selkirk Waterfront. "We are encouraging community associations and groups working in the field of active transportation (walking, cycling, safety, greenways) to select 2 delegates to attend this workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to brainstorm Pilot Projects relating to traffic speed, the design of public rights-of-way and roads, and other quality-of-life improvements that will be presented to Victoria City Council. Food will be provided to fuel creativity." RSVP by 25th Oct. Eric is unable to attend but will see if another HLC member can attend and will handle RSVP.

9. Land Use Committee: Ian

- **1612-1614 Store St:** Janion Hotel: Public Hearing took place Thurs 17th. No one spoke against the project. The second hearing will be on 24th Oct, where Ian will raise our concerns about the Johnson Street Bridge approaches.
- **1075 Pandora:** Latest plans circulated to LUC members. Ian will write letter to City before the public hearing, yet to be scheduled. The LUC is rather Luke warm on this one.
- **1175 Douglas:** Development Variance Permit: increase max display surface of a fascia sign & increase the max display surface based on business frontage. No action deemed required.
- **1501 Douglas St:** Developer: Jawl, Architect: Franc D'Ambrosio: mixed use commercial/office. A CALUC meeting is scheduled for 28th Oct at 7 pm at the Atrium.
- **613 Herald St:** Kunju: Conrad Nyren has confirmed a second meeting with the LUC this Friday 25th Oct at 4 pm at Hillel Architecture.
- **800 block Broughton:** Dave Chard: Ian and Wendy attended the Fairfield/Gonzales CALUC meeting on Monday. This property borders Downtown. Chard is proposing to build a 10-storey residential building with 'city homes' on the ground floor. The Black Press building will be tarted up and zoning brought up to current allowance, but no redevelopment is slated. Attendees at the meeting seemed satisfied by the proposal and no comments in opposition were made.

10. New Business

- Carol James, MLA Victoria Beacon Hill Luncheon: Wendy will attend with our suggestions for topics.
- Newsletter: mystery photo: we stumped them in October. New photo for Nov with prize carried over: \$10 GC for Foo.
- No new GCs have been purchased from previous RR businesses.
- Ideas for guest speaker for AGM in January?

Meeting adjourned at: 7:15 pm

Date for next Meeting: Wed 27th Nov at Silver Threads at 5:30 pm