

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

June 24th 2014

Location: Victoria Silver Threads

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1. Approval of Agenda: Approved by consensus with one change. The LUC report will be given after Councillor's report as Ian will leave early for a prior commitment.

2. Approval of minutes of the May 27th meeting. Approved by consensus.

3. Business arising from minutes.

Since early June, city notices are also being sent by email to DRA chair. The emails are notifications of city meetings. For example, Governance and Priorities Committee, Planning and Land Use Committee, and Council meetings. This has resulted in a simple and timely distribution method for DRA board and members. Ian, as LUC chair, will distribute to LUC & board members as deemed necessary.

The date for change of venue for future DRA board meetings is still being established. Wendy will verify close date for Silver Threads location. Ken Kelly of DVBA has offered the DRA the use of their meeting room (located in Centennial Square). Wendy will confirm with Ken Kelly over the summer.

4. Councillor's Report: Lisa

The weekly Public Meeting Schedule with agendas will now be available on the City's website the Friday before. This will allow interested parties additional time to notify neighborhood groups, arrange meetings, etc.

Councillor Shellie Gudgeon has announced that a needle clean-up is planned for July 11th from 7am to 10am in the 700 block Pandora Ave. This is the parking lot/garden park site between Douglas and Blanshard Sts that borders the new Jawl Development Corp site.

An interim level of policy change is slated for the Boulevards to Gardens program. Changes planned are to allow planter boxes and growing of food on boulevards.

A public hearing will be held Thurs July 17th regarding the proposed speed reductions to 40km on certain blocks of Bay St, Gorge Ave, Richmond Ave and other city streets. There is no need to register in order to speak at the hearing. More information will be posted on the city's website Fri July 11th. DRA will post additional information as soon as it comes available. Wendy will write another letter representing the DRA board opinions on the proposal.

No city meetings will be scheduled for the time period of July 24th through till Aug 27th.

Johnson St Bridge public realm proposal came to council a few weeks previously. Lisa inquired as to what options the DRA board will pursue to further DRA's concerns for useable green space not "a Lot of Concrete ". Ian has had many discussions and sent his proposal to city staff and DRA LUC members. A new concern regarding the city's plan is possible site contamination, which could require hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove the soil. The design option created by Merrick, which the DRA board prefers, would be to leave the soil in place. Adding green space at the site would be a much more cost-effective solution. Options mentioned were a petition to city stating concerns, adding DRA's proposal to our newsletter to enable members to see both the city and DRA's plan side by side. An article in Focus Magazine, Times Colonist and as a topic at our next Victoria Matters Forum was also discussed. Ian is tasked to follow up.

5. Land Use Committee: Ian

Executive House/Bartholomew's: Wendy

A public information meeting is scheduled for June 25th 7pm at the Victoria Conference Centre Colwood Room. Francis Mairet will give an overview presentation and a question and answer period will follow. Wendy has tracked the correspondence regarding this concern, and been in touch with the strata and/or resident managers of relevant residential buildings.

New England Hotel: 1312 Government St

Cell Phone antennas have been erected on top of the new addition to this heritage building. Cell phone tower permits are issued by Federal Govt. Doug Boyd mentioned that the Federal Govt will listen to the local municipality wishes, but does not have to follow. Ian has forwarded images to Pam Madoff. Pam has asked city staff what can be done now for this building, and can the city set a policy for future. The images will be shared with all city councillors and staff. Call or email city officials with your views.

Kunju: 613 Herald St

Developer Conrad Nyren and Hillel Architecture have integrated some of DRA's LUC suggestions. Variances are required and the proposal is to go to the Planning and Land Use Committee. DRA have safety concerns raised by the parking gate set-back. A double-wide drive for 12 vehicles is also a concern for a pleasing street front image. The city's present policy is single-wide drive for 10 vehicles or less.

816 Government St: Custom House Site

Stan Sipos, Cielo Properties and Studio Architecture have a development application at planning. Proposal includes underground parking under the heritage portion. See www.customshouse.ca

777 Fort St: Deans Block

A rezoning application is being submitted for 777 Fort St and will be fast-tracked by the City as the applicant is a non-profit and the changes are minor. The plan is to restore the original entry way by

enclosing it and adding 200 sq. ft. The building is known as Deans Block and is the future home of VIATeC .

The Wave: 845 Yates St

A request to city council to remove the tile mural and replace with a painted version has been denied. The tile began falling from the building a few years ago and scaffolding/screening was erected for safety of pedestrians. City council's reason to deny the application was that the mural was a significant public amenity in a prominent downtown location, and was a part of the decision to grant a development permit.

6. Community Development Committee: Kaela

Planning is continuing for the next Victoria Matters Forum scheduled for end of September. Residents will be asked what issues should be talked about.

Roving Refinery Mon June 23rd was held at Lacey-Lou Tapas Lounge 1320 Broad St. www.lacey-lou.com Owner Natasha Grau-Ensminger welcomed DRA members and shared her vision for Lacey-Lou and the trials & triumphs of renovating and opening a community-based start-up. An indiegogo campaign was started end of May to help enable this place to continue. 14 people are employed here. 15 artists are currently displaying their works for sale. Natasha has another 60 artists waiting to exhibit in the next time slots. There is live music every night, and the dates are booked for the next 2 months. Check website "Upcoming Gigs" for list of musicians. Stop in, have fun and support this new community venture.

Every-one enjoyed a wide assortment of appetizers, which included bacon wrapped stuffed dates, Thai chicken sliders, and apple, bacon & brie paninis. The locally sourced food was delicious and the menu is affordably priced at under \$10.00 for food and \$6.00 for liquor. Canned food plus \$45.00 was raised to donate to Our Place. The two \$25 gift certificates were won by Robert and Janice Florida.

The next RR event will be held in September. An outdoor activity has been suggested such as Broad St Cycles on Broad St or Ocean River Sports on Store St, with hopes that we have a long warm Sept.

The project for a month of weekend closures of Government St for a pilot pedestrian mall was discussed at the latest meeting of this committee. Next year is more feasible and many options need to be considered. DRA wants to emphasize that we are a residential community not just an entertainment district. Shutting down Douglas St from The Hudson to The Falls to vehicle traffic for part of one day was also discussed to host a block party. The Parade protocol is in place already, and could be easily adapted. Wendy will work with Mike Hill, City: Ken Kelly, DVBA. Darlene Hollstein, The Bay Centre and Nick Blasko, Atomique Productions were mentioned as valuable resources.

Next Community Development Meeting is Thurs July 3rd at Lido Waterfront Bistro 1234 Wharf St.

7. Healthy Living Community Meeting : Eric

Conversation with the Victoria Police Chief regarding noise violations from illegal exhaust pipes was passed to Cst Ken Fetherston. Eric has not had a reply and again spoke to the Chief at the Esquimalt "Meet the Chief" meeting. Eric then met with Cst Glen Shiels who is willing to do an education session with DRA. Glen would ask city bylaw officers, who might have a meter to lend. Hot spots would be identified firstly, then those areas would be monitored. Weekends would be the ideal target, however with limited resources of 6 police on Glen's team that might not be workable. There are lawsuits before the Provincial courts in Ontario & Alberta regarding excessive noise. BC Province needs to set standards for noise limits and also a standard for capturing data that all municipalities could adopt. Vancouver West MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert and Victoria-Beacon Hill MLA Carole James are supportive of a solution to this ongoing issue. A few years ago Victoria Police mounted a successful jay-walking campaign on Douglas St near McDonald's. Police issued a Provincial ticket that said "Education". Garnered a lot of press, discussion and helped get the message out. This approach could be used for this issue. Eric will continue to explore options.

Block Watch: Nicholas. Wendy, Nicholas and Ken Kelly (DVBA) met to discuss a variety of downtown issues; Block Watch in downtown, being one of them. Cst Rachel Bourne is the Victoria Police dwn tn liaison officer. Themus Security Services have been hired by some downtown businesses. They have been hired for on call for incidents, and are not doing regular patrols. Therefore the monthly cost is relatively inexpensive.

Surveys, still work in progress.

Next Healthy Living Committee meeting is Wed July 16th at QV Bakery and Café.

8. Communications: Nicholas

For the past few months, the newsletter Mystery Photo prize has not been won. Options discussed were perhaps an obvious photo of a known landmark that could generate more interest. If you have a suggestion for a future newsletter Mystery Photo; send an email with the location & jpeg picture to editor@victoriadra.ca

Robert Florida has volunteered to write an article for the 1st Anniversary of The Public Market at the Hudson.

Communications suitable for the newsletter or website are encouraged from our readers and board members. Email to editor@victoriadra.ca

Next quarterly Communication meeting will be held Wed July 23rd 7pm at Veneto.

9. New Business:

Doug had asked Lisa to investigate the status of the small triangle of green space located west of Wharf St and north of Yates St. Doug will resend communication to Lisa, Lisa will follow up asap.

Ken has asked for DRA's help in starting a pilot project in a downtown residential building. The project is a "Recycle Organic Waste Collection". Most likely, the building's regular waste management company would collect and there could be a small cost to each unit. Details are still being finalized. No-one volunteered their site at our meeting. Any members interested in signing up or receiving more details can contact DVBA at info@downtownvictoria.ca or DRA at info@victoriadra.ca

Doug raised a question regarding membership renewal. Present policy was discussed. It has been decided to send an email reminder to all members regarding yearly renewal. This will be timed to the announcement of our next AGM slated for early 2015. Wendy has data regarding members who "Open Newsletter" and also "Receive Newsletter". Wendy will take on updating as a project.

DRA has table credits still available at Peacock Billiards on Douglas St. Nicholas will draft a Pool Based Quiz and add to our website.

Smoken Bones Cookshack, located in the Hudson, closed their doors in the past week.

Block Design; tabled.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Next DRA meeting is Tues July 22nd 5:30 pm at Silver Threads.