

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 28 October 2014 @ 5:30 pm

Location: Rifflandia HQ 1501 Douglas St

Present: Wendy Bowkett, Ian Sutherland, Cathy Brankston, Erika Luebbe, Eric Ney, Robert Florida, Nicholas Harrington, Doug Boyd, Kaela Schramm. (Board Members)

Regrets: Lisa Helps: City Councillor

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm.

1. **Approval of agenda:** Approved with 1 addition under New Business and reversal of items 5 and 6.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 23rd meeting.** Approved with 2 corrections: Approval of Minutes of last month's meeting should read August 26th not September 23rd and Doug Boyd was present.
3. **Business arising from minutes:** Wendy

Board meeting location: Temporary new location is 1501 Douglas St, Rifflandia HQ. Future development is slated at this site. For the present time, we have been offered the free use of this meeting area by Nick Blasko and the team at Atomique. Thank you to Ken Kelly of DVBA for previous use of his meeting room.

4. **Councillor's Report:** Tabled: Lisa is in the midst of her campaign for Mayor.
5. **Healthy Living Committee:** Eric

Eric: Charlayne has referred 2 business owners to speak to the DRA HLC chair regarding a proposed new taxi service. This business plan is regarding a van taxi service which would include among other routes, student transportation to and from UVIC/Downtown on the weekends. Presently the owners are presenting their proposal to the Transportation Authority. The owners would like a letter of support from DRA to send to City council. Eric has met with the owners, draft a letter and submit to board members for approval.

Wendy: Downtown Victoria Livability Solutions:

Erika has posted the minutes from the Town Hall Meeting held October 1st on our web site including a link to "the spreadsheet" which gives the raw data Wendy compiled. All comments & suggestions collected from participants can be viewed by opening the link. Wendy will contact Police Chief Elsner as he expressed an interest in seeing what information was generated. Nicholas has included the event in our newsletter.

Nicholas: Survey

Nicholas has been working with Graham & Rachel setting up 4 surveys on Survey Gizmo. Nicholas has sent the first survey Quality of Life 2014 to DRA board for suggestions. The survey was discussed and the following suggestions were made. The comment space could be larger. (There is a double arrow in lower rhs that will stretch the comment space). More suggestions should be added to some questions so that participants don't feel limited to certain topics. Make some questions optional, add prefer not to answer to some questions. Nicholas has asked all board members to send additional improvements to himself & all other board members.

Next Committee meeting: Nov 19th 5:30 pm at Veneto. (Every 3rd Wed)

6. **Community Development Meeting:** Kaela:

Victoria Matters –All Candidates Open House held Oct 21st at Rifflandia HQ was well attended. Participants were happy with the format of 7 topics discussion zones. A 10 minute reminder was used to help circulate attendees, and many ideas & suggestions were collected and recorded by the DVBA. This event is co-sponsored with DVBA and GVPL (Greater Victoria Public Library). This will be our first joint venture with the library.

Mayoral Candidates Debate Wed Oct 29th

This event is scheduled from 7pm – 9pm at Victoria Event Centre 1415 Broad St. Jo-Ann Roberts from CBC Radio will moderate. The event is for four selected mayoral candidates to debate topics. Questions are to be submitted in writing. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Councillor candidates will be able to display material for their election bid. This will be our second joint venture with the DVBA and the GVPL. Our board members agreed the library is a also very good fit, in addition to the DVBA. More diversity in attendance at any event ensures that all interested parties have a voice.

Roving Refinery

Oct 20th was the date for an RR event at Varsha 1600 Government St. Newly opened sips, nosh house and restaurant located in Historic Chinatown, corner of Pandora Ave & Government St. A family owned venture featuring Indian food, with a full menu and lite fare (nosh) and drinks (sips). Website is www.varsha.ca. All attendees were welcomed warmly by the owners, and great food was enjoyed by all. One of our board members lives in close proximity and has already frequented Varsha quite a few times. Nicholas Harrington and Kelly Chirhart each won a gift certificate. Ideas for Nov include Bodega and The Drake. Kaela will confirm place and time and post through media. All are encouraged to attend. A fun way to explore our community. Local business support is also crucial to ensure a vibrant downtown.

Proposed Social event: Wendy

A proposal for a social night was discussed. Kaela will add to the Nov 6th CDC meeting agenda.

Next Community Development meeting: Nov 6th 5:30 pm at Lido Waterfront Bistro (every 1st Thurs).

7. **Land Use Committee:** Ian

840 Fort St: The Sawyer Building. Three Point Properties has requested an informal LUC meeting at Number 10 Architects office this Thurs Oct 30th at 4:30. The developer has made numerous changes to materials, number & size of units, and overall design. LUC members will review and Ian will draft a letter stating DRA's opinions & concerns.

595 Pandora Ave: A four storey office building to be converted to rental accommodations with ground floor commercial space. This is the old Service Canada building, on the south side of Pandora between Government and Store Sts. No CALUC is necessary. Ian has received email specs and he will request an informal meeting with Cielo Properties.

Communications: Nicholas

Nicholas asked Robert to submit another article for the newsletter, an "opinion piece" topic open. Nicholas will rearrange format of newsletter and will email Rob Cauntor to request new photo images of our community for mystery photo. Erika has assumed the social media duties for this quarter.

Next Communications meeting is proposed for Thurs Jan 22 2015 5:30 pm at Veneto.

8. **New Business:** Wendy

December board meeting. A poll was taken regarding the Dec meeting, decision was to cancel. This would be at prime holiday time. Instead a small social event will be scheduled late Nov/early Dec.

AGM: Will be held Thurs Jan 8th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Cool Aid 755 Pandora Ave. A discussion was held regarding proposed guest speakers. Options mentioned were the Mayor, Rob Johns Emergency Coordinator, Dan Gunn of Tectoria, or developers from Jawl Properties or Chard Developments.

UDI luncheon sponsored by Citta Group, and DeHoog & Kierulf Architects is slated for Nov 17th at the Union Club. The board will send 2 members and Ian has put his name forward.

Posters: Eric has proposed that we print DRA posters to post on condo/apartment bulletin boards. Kaela will organize, and the first edition will have the AGM January meeting information.

VCAN meeting will be held Tues Nov 4th 5 pm to 7 pm at City Hall. Cathy, Nicholas & Doug have volunteered to attend. Each community association can send up to four people to VCAN meetings. Wendy will RSVP to invitation, including board members email so they can correspond directly.

Wendy stated a reminder that each chair of a committee is the one point of contact with relevant community partners. Emails/queries are to be sent to the chairs in order to have continuity and the same information distributed to all concerned.

Wendy also mentioned that although she is stepping down from the DRA chair position in January, she will still be involved and is most happy to help with the transition. If you are eager to join the

board or want to nominate anyone for a board placement; please email Wendy. Everyone is invited to the AGM. This is your opportunity to help shape the DRA'S 2015 agenda for the coming year.

CFOX Broadcast; Monday Nov 10th 12:30 PM. We have been invited by CFOX 1070 to be featured on Bruce Williams' show. "What Are You Talking About". We have been invited to send a couple of representatives to speak about neighbourhood, community, and residents associations about what we do, our concerns and issues, projects, successes, priorities, etc. Wendy will follow up and potentially accept depending on the time commitment.

Wendy requested board members to send any additional questions for the Mayoral Debate to her by 2pm Wed Oct 29th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Next DRA board meeting is Tues Nov 25th 5:30 pm at Rifflandia HQ 1501 Douglas St. (Every 4th Tues)