

# DRA Board Meeting Minutes

**21 April 2015**

Location: 843 Fort Street

**Present:** Co-Chairs: Nicholas Harrington and Kaela Schramm; Board Members: Doug Boyd, Don Elliot, Robert Florida, Karen Gallagher, Erika Luebbe, Eric Ney, Ian Sutherland; City Council Liaison: Charlayne Thornton-Joe; Resident Member: Wendy Bowkett.

**Regrets:** Ruth Annis, Cathy Brankston, Kelly Chirhart

1. 5:30 – **Call to order.** Ian volunteered to serve as Secretary for this meeting. Notes will be taken and distributed by (unofficial) LUC Secretary, Wendy Bowkett.
2. **Approval of Agenda by consensus.**
3. **Approval of Minutes of 16 March 2015 meeting by consensus.**
4. 5:35 - **Councillor's Report:** Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Update

- The City's Budget and Strategic Plans are complete. Highlights include: There was a good turnout from the community. Top issues identified include cycling infrastructure, safe consumption sites and food security. VCAN funding was approved. Increased funding for staff for garbage collection is planned for summer months in response to increased demand due to tourism and events downtown. The Downtown Activity Centre funding includes \$50,000 with request to develop better synergy and coordination with DRA. Charlayne will facilitate a meeting between the groups. This could entail providing the DRA with space for meetings, events or activities. There will be \$45,000 provided for capital costs to provide storage space for homeless. Non-profits will chip in for operating expenses. Details to be finalized soon.
- PLUC highlights: 595 Pandora was approved on Thurs. The Dominion will go to Public Hearing. While there are concerns regarding the planned use and design of this project, Council can only weigh in with regards to the variance requested: bike facilities provided in lieu of parking.
- Camping/Overnighting in parks has been discussed frequently in the city. On 1 April, winter funding for beds was cut which increases the number of folks overnighting. Staff is reviewing the issues and will report back to Council.
- Events: Kindness Meters were unveiled on the 15 April, raising about \$500 so far. The goal is to raise \$7500 per meter by Nov. There will be a presentation on 11-12 May called, *Dignity Village*, providing a review of options being used in other cities to deal with homelessness. Don will circulate info. Chard Development will hold groundbreaking for Escher on 22 Apr (technically not our district but LUC chair was invited to attend).

- Skateboarding: enforcement is not taking place downtown before new bylaw is enacted. There will be some communication from the City regarding what will be permitted. Several members noted an increase in the number of skateboarders downtown and that too many are riding on the sidewalks at high speeds with little consideration of pedestrians. We hope that better communication will see skateboarders ride on the streets, following the rules of the road.
- Fire Hall #1: Staff is compiling a report based on request for input. The DRA missed the deadline for submission.
- Doug asked why with the change of funding to the beautification budget the DRA was not consulted. Charlayne clarified that it was Victoria Vision 2020 and DVBA funding not City funding. However, the City has offered to match the funding those two orgs were providing. Their proposal is for the beautification of Douglas and Yates.
- Doug asked if there is a possibility for review of our downtown boundaries particularly with regard to including the stretch of Fort between Blanshard and Quadra (currently part of Fairfield). Charlayne will have to check with staff.

## 5. 6:00 - **Community Development Committee:** Kaela and Don

### Committee Meeting Summary:

- VicMatters: Economics of Downtown; planned for Fall 2015; team is looking into potential speakers; TEDX style forum. The Board is asked to convey ideas for speakers to Kaela.
- Endorsement outline drafted but needs to be fleshed out. Don will send draft to Board via email prior to next board meeting.
- Removing Tour Buses from Government Street Campaign
  - Move to Fort Street at the South end of Government: Kaela will ask Jon Vickers for specific details for request in writing from the DRA for our consideration prior to making official statement of position. At this point, it was felt that we do not have sufficient info. Eg: Has there been a traffic study completed for the proposed change? Other logistics considered?
  - Loading/unloading and idling of buses at the north end of Govt: members will observe and report this summer.
- Roving Refinery at Churchill in April will be confirmed in the next couple days.
- Next Meeting: May 7 at Lido (if open) otherwise TBA.

**6. 6:16 – Urban Livability:** Eric

- “Pipe Down” brochure drafted. Feedback: too wordy, too polite. Questions remain: Who will pay for production of brochures? Who will be handing out the brochures? Next steps: Eric will collaborate with Sgt. Ron Cronk at VicPD regarding campaign next week.
- Newsletter call for “Dog Watch” program: No new info.
- Thanks to members Ellen Henry and David Rittenhouse for all their work on these two initiatives.
- Next Meeting: 13 May at Veneto.

**7. 6:22 - Land Use Committee:** Ian

1. **951 Johnson:** CEI Architecture – CALUC meeting of 18 March 2015  
a.29 attendees (including 3 board members);  
b.Lots of questions regarding project but generally attendees were supportive;  
c.Some back and forth amongst attendees re parking and setbacks.
2. **816 Government:** Cielo Properties – Rezoning, Development & Heritage Alteration Permit – LUC feedback due by Fri 17 April 2015. Letter sent.
3. **595 Pandora:** Cielo Properties – Development Permit – Public Hearing Thurs 16 April 2015. LUC letter has been sent.
4. **960-962 Yates:** Alpha Project Developments – Rezoning and Development Permit – Minor revision of plans requiring no new LUC letter.
5. **845 Yates:** The Wave – Development Permit – With regards to the tile mosaic “...Council allow the strata corp for the Wave to resubmit a similar Development Permit to the original in less than the one year...”. City staff are preparing a report regarding the original application to assess the emphasis and importance of the mosaic.
6. **612 Fisgard:** Shon Yee Benevolent Assn – Heritage Designation granted by City.
7. **838 Fort:** Minor changes to building requiring Development Permit with Variances granted by City.
8. **840 Fort:** The Sawyer Residences: Three Point – Development Permit with Variances granted with Housing Agreement by City.
9. **OCP & Zoning Reg Bylaw Amendments** to support Rainwater Management Incentive Program – Public Hearing Thurs 16 April 2015. LUC did not provide input.

**8. 6:25 - Communications:** Nicholas

- Posting of DRA letters to Council on website: Board supports transparency of communication. Erika will make adjustments to website to accommodate and highlight new additions.

**9. 6:28 – Downtown Service Providers Meeting**

- Storage facilities for street individuals: The preferred site is kitty-corner from Our Place (the old glass company). Still open to using another location. This initiative is the work of several agencies and it's early days. Hero Work will complete any renovation work required. One employee and one volunteer will run the facility. It was agreed that the DRA will write a letter in support of the concept and Nicholas will take this on. Nicholas will also attend the next DSP meeting in Don's absence.

**10. 6:36 – VCAN**

- Next Meeting: 12 May. No other news.

**11. 6:36 - Business arising from Minutes: None**

**12. 6:37 - New Business**

- Nicholas: Meeting with Francis Mairet re Noise Management Around the Falls Bldg: Nicholas met with Francis Mairet of the newly rebranded Hilton Doubletree and home to Bartholomew's on 15 Apr. Community feedback so far regarding noise from Bartholomew's has been positive. Francis welcomes feedback on an ongoing basis. The next step of their project will be the redevelopment of their parking garage. Plans will include a green roof.
- Nicholas: Correspondence with Michael Hill re Noise Abatement Plan for the Humboldt Valley: Michael Hill is scheduling a meeting regarding the plan and has invited the DRA to continue its involvement in the issue. The Urban Livability Committee will take the lead, refine the message and report back to the board.
- Doug: Walk On, Victoria: This is a pedestrian advocacy group. They are planning a big event 3-5 Oct. Those interested can reach them through their Facebook page.
- Car Free Sunday on Douglas Street, Sunday 21 June has been announced. The DVBA is spearheading the initiative. Kaela will follow up with Ken Kelly to explore any opportunities for the DRA to participate.
- The Board will formerly invite Councillor Margaret Lucas to join our Board meetings and/or our Roving Refineries. Although Councillor Lucas is Co-Liaison for the DRA with Councillor Thornton-Joe, the councillors portioned out the portfolio: Lucas focusing on the business community and Thornton-Joe on the residential community. The Board felt there is value in establishing a relationship with our other Co-Liaison.

**Meeting adjourned at: 6:48 pm**

**Date for next Meeting: 19 May 2015 at 5:30 pm**

**Location: TBD (potentially the Library)**