

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

19 May 2015

Location: Greater Victoria Public Library
735 Broughton Street

Present: Co-chairs: Kaela Schramm and Nicholas Harrington; Board Members: Robert Florida, Ruth Annis, Erika Luebbe, Karen Gallagher, Ian Sutherland, Kelly Chirhart, Doug Boyd, Karen Gallagher, Don Elliot; City Councilors: Charlayne Thornton-Joe and Margaret Lucas; DRA Members: Wendy Bowkett; Guest: Janet Strauss

Regrets: Cathy Brankston, Eric Ney

5:35 - **Appoint Secretary for this meeting:** Erika Luebbe

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved by consensus.

2. Approval of Minutes of 21 April 2015 meeting

Approved by consensus.

3. Councilor's Report:

Margaret Lucas:

- City Council has directed city staff to work with the Downtown Victoria Business Association and the Downtown Victoria 2020 Society to design and implement an improvement to the downtown portion of Douglas Street in 2015. \$180,000 will be put forward in equal parts by the two organizations and the City. The DRA and the James Bay Neighbourhood Association will be consulted on this project.
- City Council has created a Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Prosperity. Comprised of community leaders, the Task Force will deliver recommendations for economic development to City Council by the end of June.

Charlayne Thornton-Joe:

- The DVBA and the City of Victoria are hosting a charrette on the future of Government Street on Wednesday May 27. The DRA is invited to participate.
- Fort Street Community Scrub Up is on May 27 at 8:15. Everyone is welcome to help.
- City Council approved Victoria's first parklet, which will be located on the 700 block of Fort Street.

- City staff will draft new business and zoning regulations for marijuana dispensaries.
- A Micro-Housing Community Development Workshop and Presentation was held at City Hall on May 11 and 12. City staff will investigate the feasibility of a development similar to OpportUNITY Village in Eugene, Oregon. Further discussion of Victoria's homeless campers is postponed until after staff report their findings.
- New police ambassadors will hit Victoria city streets this month. The ambassadors, who are reserve constables, will roam about, providing a visible presence of safety and security.

Questions/Concerns from the Board:

- DRA not invited to Douglas Street charrette or Car Free Day planning discussion.
- Issue of marijuana dispensaries operating without a business license.

4. Community Development Committee: Kaela and Don

Committee Meeting Summary:

- VicMatters: Possible partner with DVBA, find a way to include results from the City's Economic Task Force Report due to be released in June as part of this session
- Endorsement policy approved by consensus. Action item: create an application form for the Board's approval at the next meeting.
- Roving Refinery at Perro Negro on May 28, from 6:00-8:00 pm
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 2 at Lido

5. Urban Livability: Nicholas and Ruth

- Eric, Nicholas, Wendy and Ruth attended the City of Victoria Noise Solutions presentation. According to the plan, the taxi exclusion zone will be expanded to include the neighbouring 7/11 on the 800 block of Douglas Street. A commissionaire will enforce the exclusion zone. New signage will direct late night revelers to the taxi stand which will be relocated to Broughton Street. Consideration will also be given to late night transit service.
- “Dog Watch” program: Orientation session is May 27 at Bosley's on Yates. Charlayne has been handing out posters and helping to promote the event.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 10 at Veneto

6. Land Use Committee: Ian

- **595 Pandora: Cielo Properties** – Development Permit issued.
- **1205 Wharf & 10 Bastion:** Three-part resolution passed by Council; Heritage Alt Permit authorized w/ 4 subject to, permission for temporary patio structure w/ 4 subject to & receipt of report from staff reviewing sidewalk café regulations in 3 months.
- **960-962 Yates:** Alpha Project Developments – Public Hearing 14 May 2015. Approved by Council.
- **819 Yates:** Chard Development Ltd – PLUC 14 May 2015. Will go to Public Hearing.
- **759 Yates:** The Dominion – Public Hearing date TBA.
- **816 Government:** Cielo Properties – ADP scheduled for 27 May. Public Hearing date TBA.
- **Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Plan – UDI and City of Victoria Discussion with community and industry:** Thurs 28 May 7:30-9:00 am. Includes Rock Bay and portion of Douglas Street.
- **Development Tracker** – New online tools for tracking progress of project in City includes current and archived projects. Provides communication and transportation. Based on Development Summit with City. Another summit planned for June.

7. Downtown Service Providers Meeting

- Karen attended on the DRA's behalf. She reports that planning for a shopping cart storage facility is temporarily on hold. Don will attend the next meeting.

8. VCAN – Doug and Ruth

The focus of the meeting was discussion with Mayor Lisa Helps and Assistant Director of Community Planning, Andrea Hudson. Following brief opening remarks by both, each association had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Here are the salient points:

- Currently working on Burnside-Gorge community plan. There are no specific plans for when other community plans will be done. The city is looking at how these can be expedited re resources and budget.
- Priority is how to make village centres, important places in neighbourhoods, "come to life" over the next 4 years.
- Objective 2 of Strategic Plan "empower and engage community" will be vital to all planning processes. City's new neighbourhood division is looking at best ways of doing that.
- Comments from associations that there should be general planning principles that are universally applied, and that can form the basis for all neighbourhood plans, received general support.
- Concern expressed about how the various plans tie together - neighbourhood plans, corridor plans, park plans, Placemaking, etc.
- AH advised there was another development summit planned for June, CALUCs will be invited.

- Concern expressed about Highways Access Act and the restrictions it imposes on planning.
- Concern expressed about density along corridors as per the OCP, also results in noise issues.
- LH stated budget increase of \$200K for local plans and \$300K for implementing Strategic Plan.
- LH stated Placemaking will be part of the ongoing planning process, that we should move away from planning in the traditional sense.
- AH stated council has given more resources for urban villages and corridors, that a plan for these will be developed in 2 months.
- Various other items of specific interest to neighbourhoods were also discussed.

9. 6:41 - Business arising from Minutes:

- Car Free Sunday on Douglas Street, Sunday 21 June: We have a booth for the DRA from 12:00 – 6:00, need volunteers to staff booth for 1 hour slots. We will have a quiz game and prizes available as well as other information about the DRA and joining or getting involved. Two volunteers an hour slot needed. Kaela will send out an email asking for volunteers.

10. 6:46 - New Business

- 900 Block Pandora Good Neighbour Agreement meeting on June 9: Looking for a volunteer to attend on the DRA's behalf.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Date for next Meeting: June 16, 2015 at 5:30, GVPL