

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

21 March 2017

Location: Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

Present: Nicholas Harrington, Wendy Bowkett, Ian Sutherland, Douglas Boyd, Robert Florida, Paul Gandall, Sally Reid, Megan Clark; City Liaison Mike Hill; City Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Regrets: Eric Ney, Don Elliot, Kaela Schramm, Ruth Annis

Meeting called to order at 5:40pm

1. Approval of Agenda:

- Two additions to agenda:
 - Doug: VCAN event
 - Paul: DSP (downtown service providers)
- Wendy moves, Doug seconds, agenda approved

2. Minutes from Feb meeting:

- to be sent around and approved next meeting

3. Insurance:

- Certificate has arrived, will be put in dropbox

4. Mike's update

- See appended update from city staff for updates from Mike
- Questions:
 - Garden support grant—can we apply for it again?
 - There is already funding in place for the garden; this grant would be for new initiatives
 - Neighbourhood Ideas event on April 19th: Someone from DRA should go to this
 - Megan will attend if possible
 - Late night integrated teams
 - Have been visiting bars
 - Every three months staff will summarize issues

- Comment from board member: Issue with food-primary licenses not being used as such is a concern; with Good Neighbourhood agreement not being used as an enforcement tool; need to also support nightlife by being conscious of developments near existing bars e.g., ensuring they're soundproofed

5. Charlayne's update:

- Canada Day celebrations: multi-day event this year
- Charlayne will be making a motion to request Island Health and CRD to enforce smoking bylaws
- Heritage registry: 50 properties were proposed to put on registry, council opposed because owners were generally opposed (many didn't seem to understand the difference between registration and designated)
- New liquor store mentioned on the radio is in North Park, contrary to the report
- Homelessness: spring hours at Our Place and end of emergency shelters means there will be more people sleeping outdoors
 - Rosa Lee village is now open; will open some units in Victoria
 - Cottage Grove is also now open
- Safe injection hubs becoming more well-used
- Cannabis retailers
 - Second one has moved to public hearing
 - Island Health is enforcing against edibles
 - City now targeting those who haven't applied for rezoning/permits
 - Charlayne will follow up to see what enforcement mechanisms will be set in motion
- Short-term vacation rentals
 - City is hearing from lots of owners of short-term rentals and others
 - More questions for staff before any final decisions will be made
 - Several different approaches being considered

6. Community Development Committee Update

- Tabled until next meeting
- Add to agenda for CD meeting: apply to Car Free Day

7. Urban Livability Committee

- Garden update: new liability waiver should be much more enforceable

- Lots of interest in sign-ups
- 1 non-profit and 23 gardeners so far have signed up; there are 50 boxes total
- Will be applying for development permit for fence
- Nicholas will send around governance documents for DRA board to review
- Moving towards hiring a coordinator using grant funds
 - Contract being developed now; Nicholas will distribute to board—add to agenda next meeting
 - Ian will see if he can find pro bono lawyer

8. Land Use Committee

- 49 cannabis applications, at least one has wanted to make an application
- **Motion to not engage with cannabis dispensaries so long as federal law prohibits sale of cannabis. Ian moves, Robert seconds, motion passed.**
- Committee looking at a more broad-based response to these applications
- Ian has forwarded letter on position to council, Nicholas will post online
- As individual applicants come up, land use committee may re-send
- Proposed development at Fort and Quadra (in Fairfield) re: retirement home
 - Ian attended event last night
 - Building is very large—half block, ten stories
 - Some individuals were in opposition

9. VCAN:

- Doug and Paul attended meeting
- Marianne Alto gave presentation on IAP2
- Mike gave presentation; Doug will circulate powerpoints and meeting minutes

10. DSP meeting

- Topics covered by Charlayne

5:44: Charlayne and Mike depart

11. Governance committee

- Eric, Nicholas, and Don to go next meeting
- Everyone in April goes to May, everyone in May goes to June

- Role of secretary: add something about managing virtual files?

Role of secretary:

The secretary is responsible for:

- recording the minutes of each DRA meeting;
- sending the draft minutes to all members of the board for review;
- revising the minutes; and
- uploading the finalized version of the minutes to the Dropbox.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

In Your Neighbourhood

Visual Victoria

We are now in the last stages of the planning process and would like neighbourhood associations to attend the final public session on March 30 from 5-7 p.m. at City Hall.

The draft plans will be completed the week of March 20 and we will let you know once they are posted on our [website](#). We have appreciated your valuable input, which has been considered in the preparation of the draft plans. We hope you have a chance to review it prior the meeting and help us consider the priorities for implementation of these plans once they are finalized.

Rezoning Bylaw

An Open House will be held in early April to receive public input into the zoning regulations for the Downtown Core and Historic Commercial districts of the downtown. The bylaw regulates elements such as permitted uses of properties, density, building height and requirements for off-street parking. Council directed staff to “undertake focused public consultation on the draft Zoning Bylaw and related maps and to report back to Council by May 2017 with a proposed bylaw that considers the public feedback received prior to a Public Hearing”.

Cannabis Dispensaries (media release)

The exemption period for compliance with the City’s cannabis regulations has expired. The City will now be launching legal proceedings for any cannabis retailer who has not applied for a business license or a rezoning. From the outset, the City’s objective has been to work with the industry to gain compliance with the regulations, which took effect in November 2016.

The regulations provided a grace period of 60 days to allow businesses to meet the requirements of the regulations, which include applying for a business license and rezoning the property. The City provided education and support during that period to help businesses become compliant.

To date, 33 cannabis retailers have applied for a business license 23 have applied for rezoning. 16 cannabis retailers have yet to apply for rezoning and one for a business license. The legal proceedings can be halted by non-compliant cannabis retailers by applying for the required business license and rezoning.

Marijuana Dispensary 950 Yates

Council has received a [staff report](#) recommending that a rezoning application for marijuana sales at 950 Yates move forward to a Public Hearing following the issuance of a Building Permit and completion of some modifications to the building.

Crystal Pool

Council provided direction for the future of Crystal Pool at their February 16 [COTW meeting](#). Project Update (#2): Crystal Pool Feasibility Study. Council approved funding to consist of \$10 million from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve and the remainder through a combination of external borrowing and other funding. Staff were directed to:

- Develop an implementation plan for a new facility to cost no more than \$69.4 million total.
- Amend the 2017-2021 Financial Plan for 2017 to include \$10 million towards the funding of the project;
- Develop a plan to use the referendum process as the method for placing the borrowing question before the electors, once additional funding opportunities have been explored
- Consult with citizens and stakeholder groups on the design elements of the future facility, in alignment with Council’s decision on a facility option.

Cycling Network Implementation

Following feedback from the public and stakeholders along the Fort Street corridor, the revised designs will go to City Council for consideration and approval this spring.

Capital Projects

Here are the Downtown and Harris Green Public Works capital projects for 2017.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Storm Drain - Mains Replacement | Douglas | Cormorant to Pandora |
| Water - Main Replacement | Fort | Wharf to Government |
| Water - Main Replacement | Belleville | Menzies to Oswego |
| Storm Drains Replacement | Douglas | Cormorant to Pandora |
| Water - Main Replacement | Broughton | Blanshard to Douglas |
| Bike Lanes | Fort | Wharf to Cook |
| Bike Lanes | Pandora | Cook to Wharf |

Johnson Street Bridge

Council will receive the [latest report](#) on progress constructing the new bridge at its meeting on March 23. Much work is underway in proximity to the Janion building and the bridge remains on schedule to open at the end of this year.

Neighbour Day

Council approved a proclamation request for Neighbour Day on Sunday, May 7. According to the proclamation, Neighbour Day is a day designated to residents opening their doors and getting to know their neighbours through a variety of social activities and engagements. For ideas on things to do and toolkits for an event, check their [website](#).

Great Neighbourhood Grants

The Great Neighbourhood program will be opening for applications mid-April. The City will be launching the program on April 19 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a Neighbourhoods Ideas Fair at City Hall. The purpose of the event will be to stimulate ideas for projects and provide guidance in preparing grant applications. Neighbourhoods which have been involved in projects that they think would be of interest to other prospective grant applicants are invited to submit photos for the event. Please let your neighbourhood City staff contact I know if you have suggestions or questions.

Create Victoria

The City is developing a Cultural Policy and an Arts and Culture Master Plan branded [Create Victoria](#) to guide the City's investment in arts and culture over the next five years. The community is invited to participate in an online survey at www.victoria.ca/create until March 31, 2017. A pop-up kiosk will be at Crystal Pool during Spring Break from Monday March 20 to Saturday March 25, if you would like to provide input in person. The City will come back to the community in mid-June for feedback on the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Pop-up @ the Square Design Competition

Submission for the pop-up play feature design in Centennial Square are due on March 30. Winners will be announced May 2. There will be a jury's choice and overall winning design selected as well as a People's Choice Award. Details on the People's Choice Award process and opportunities for viewing are to come prior to the middle of April when voting will take place in person and on-line.



March 2017 Update

Downtown

Reeson Park

Based on community input, a proposed park design has been prepared for [Reeson Park](#). There will be an open house to share and gather final input on the design at the park on Tuesday March 21 from 4-6 p.m. A comment board will be onsite for two weeks and a survey will be posted online until March 31.

Social Enterprise

The task force has completed its report, the *Good Jobs + Good Business = Better Community Action Plan*. Council will be considering adoption of the [report](#) at its meeting Thursday, March 23.

Home Renovation Rebates and Heating Oil Tank Incentives

The City of Victoria is partnering with BC Hydro, Fortis BC, the Province and CRD to enhance the Home Renovation Rebate and Oil to Heat Pump Programs. Switching to an air source heat pump could qualify for a combined incentive of \$2,000 from the Province of BC (\$1,700), the City of Victoria (\$150) and the Capital Regional District (\$150). The offer is only available to City of Victoria residents until July 31, or until funds are exhausted.

Victoria homeowners who have had an Energy Evaluation may also be eligible to receive free Home Energy Coaching through the Municipal Partner Offer. The coaching will assist you with prioritizing and selecting home energy improvements.

For more information on the Home Renovation Rebate (HRR) Program or the Municipal Partner Offer, visit www.victoria.ca/sustainability or call 1.844.881.9790. For more information on the Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program visit www.oiltoheatpump.ca or call 1.877.545.6247.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole will meet March [23](#), April 6, 13 and 20 at 9 a.m. and Council will meet March [23](#) and April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

For information on other key initiatives at the City, check [here](#) and follow the links for details.