

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

18 April 2017

Location: Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

In attendance: *Board members*: Nicholas Harrington, Wendy Bowkett, Ian Sutherland, Douglas Boyd, Sally Reid, Eric Ney, Don Elliot, Kaela Schramm, *plus city liaisons*: Mike Hill and Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Regrets: Ruth Annis, Megan Clark, Paul Gandall, Robert Florida

Meeting called to order at 5:36pm

1. Approval of Agenda:

- Addition: Neighbourhood Ideas Event
- Addition: Invitation to meet with Capital Public Affairs
- Wendy moves, Doug seconds; motion passed

2. Minutes from Jan and Feb meeting:

- Approval of Feb minutes; Nicholas moves, Kaela seconds; motion passed
- Approval of March minutes; approved as amended with changes made by committee
 - #6 (title): add the word “committee”

3. Charlayne’s update:

- Johnson Street housing, Our Place: having a DRA member attend would be desirable; could sign up new DRA members
 - Johnson St.: Most issues are internal to the building
 - Our Place: No longer allowed to sleep on mats here; this has resulted in displacement
 - Safe injection site is proving its value
- The Tally-Ho will be run by Cool-Aid

- Choices public hearing: space will be open to end of year, residents may move to Tally-Ho afterwards
- Sleeping in cars: will be tabled until end of May (next quarterly report)
 - Goal is to avoid adding new issues to agenda without first evaluating workload/cost implications
 - When this issue is raised again, many issues to look at
- Rezoning approved for “Trees” on Yates
 - Key issue here was appropriateness of location
 - Business license is second requirement
 - Police and bylaw will also be involved
- Question from board about smoking lounges: they are not permitted by bylaw; ticketing can result but takes time
- Johnson St. Bridge: City manager happy to come to a meeting if we’re interested
 - Wendy suggests other stakeholders that participated in the process should also be involved
 - Concerns that stakeholders’ wishes were disregarded by staff; current plans do not reflect stakeholders’ input; many were not invited to follow-up meetings
 - Everyone who was at the Ocean Pointe charrette should be invited to review plans

4. Mike’s update:

- April 19th: My Great Neighbourhood Ideas Fair happening at City Hall (3:30-7:30, presentations 4:30-6:30)
 - Food and slideshow; tables
- Visual Victoria and Wayfinding: Public Realm Plan and Wayfinding Strategy going to council in next two meetings
 - Limited funds are available to implement
 - Wayfinding has funding available and we will see some implementation soon
 - Public Realm Plan will take a long time to realize
- Public Engagement meeting: There was recognition that once the city is involved in a real public engagement process, it must be followed through right until the end

- Updates available online
- Late Night/Great Night: minutes will be available later this week
 - Re-establishing portable urinal program
 - Committee is working with Strathcona on taxi stand issues, etc.
 - Multi-Agency Taskforce: Strathcona and food primaries operating as liquor primaries were two issues that were identified
 - Promoting the late night economy is another issue the committee is looking into
 - If concerned about mess on the streets, city suggests using Connect Victoria app
- See attached report

5. Community Development Committee

- Truth and Reconciliation: still in the works
- Vic Matters: Discussed last meeting about whether to do update
- Vic Matters/Short-term rentals: more relevant to Urban Livability
- Get Downtown: event is being promoted (Hawk and Hen, 5:30pm)
- Fiesta on Fort: confirmation that the Taqueria is wanting to do it
 - Sticking point is whether we can include liquor on the patio. insurance is the issue
 - One or two extra spots may be used
 - Exploring ways to involve surrounding stores
- DRA recruitment poster is circulating
- Car Free Day: we're registered; looking for new ideas
- Megan interested in another summer event
- Next meeting: May 2nd

6. Urban Livability Committee

- Garden update:
 - Contract with contractor signed (6-month term)
 - Quotes for fence coming in

- Shed: decision on shed has been made; will be assembled May 9th; Whole Foods plans to sponsor it
- Centennial Square: is this something we want to form some type of vision for?
 - Board thinks this is a good idea

7. Land Use Committee

- Three projects got underway in the last month:
 - Alpha (Quadra and Johnson); 12 or 14 story rental
 - Fraser McCall/Dan Robbins (parking lot east of Lunds Auctioneers); condos
 - Chard and UVic (building housing St. Frank's on Broad and the buildings on either side); at least one side for UVic graduate student housing. They are looking for an OCP amendment for height.
- Number of multi-family units in planning: 1,470 units in planning stages in Victoria (2.5x the number in planning stage in Langford)
- Mike's update: Bastion Square residents/owners have been surveyed; there will be a meeting to review the results; goal is to determine what future of Bastion Square might involve and how it will be decided

Charlayne departs at 7:02pm

8. Governance Committee:

- All three topics to be tabled until next month
- Action: Board members to review proposed text

9. Business arising from minutes

- Everyone has been sent a link to the insurance documentation

10. New Business

- Co-chairs received invitation to meet with Jeff Bray re: expansion of DVBA's territory. They have a different system based on paid membership; their borders are already larger than the DRA's; uncertain whether there will be any impact on DRA. Nicholas will meet and report back
- Kaela and Don will be moving out of downtown; can no longer be board members

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

In Your Neighbourhood

Rezoning Bylaw

Interested DRA members can attend an Open House prior to the Neighbourhood Association meeting. The open house will be held on April 18 from 3-6 p.m. at City Hall to receive public input into the draft [Zoning Bylaw](#) for the Downtown Core and Historic Commercial districts of the downtown (adjacent to North Park). 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”.

Playing Courts

Many of the sport courts in Victoria need some maintenance work, such as lighting, refreshed lines and resurfacing. Priorities for short term improvements have been determined through a condition assessment, but we also want to hear from users on how the City should best spend the \$50,000 budget for maintenance for 2017. We will also want input into priorities for the next few years. A workshop will be held on Wednesday May 3 at City Hall from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP to parkspermits@victoria.ca.

Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVR)

At their [March 9 meeting](#), Council directed staff to provide advice on tools available to limit the number of STVRs where they are currently allowed and that this include options for:

- a) A City-initiated rezoning to remove transient accommodation as a permitted use from residential strata property, with an "opt-out" process where stratas can apply to retain transient accommodation as a permitted use, where a majority of strata lot owners in a residential strata indicate their support for that use.
- b) A business license scheme for Short-Term Vacation Rentals that is consistent with the Strata Property Act and does not include granting licences for stratas that do not allow Short-Term Vacation Rentals in their bylaws.
- c) Maintaining transient accommodation as a permitted use, with the option of an "opt-in" mechanism for a City initiated rezoning to prohibit transient accommodation as a permitted use, where a majority of owners of units in a residential multi-unit building (condominium) downtown indicate their preference for this rezoning.

Visual Victoria

An Open House was held on March 30 at City Hall for comments from the public on the [two plans](#). We have appreciated your valuable input and it has been considered in the preparation of the draft plans. The Way-finding Strategy will be presented to Council on April 27 and therefore comments on the document must be received before Tuesday April 4, 2017. The Downtown Public Realm Plan report is scheduled to go to Council on May 25, 2017 with any final comments due by Friday April 7.

Public Engagement Roadmap

A workshop and open house on citizen and business engagement in City decision making was held February 18 at the Royal BC Museum. Based on feedback from the workshop and consistent with the [International Association of Public Participation \(IAP2\)](#) principles, a draft [Public Engagement Roadmap](#) is being developed. The roadmap will map out the level of engagement on upcoming City initiatives to make public involvement in city decision-making easy and effective. The draft Roadmap will be ready early April, at which point a survey and next steps will be communicated.

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. As of March 17, 33 cannabis retailers had applied for a business license 23 had applied for rezoning. Sixteen cannabis retailers had 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.

Pop Up @The Square Design Competition – People's Choice Voting

Over 30 great ideas have been submitted for a temporary playable pop-up feature in Centennial Square. Pop by the Douglas Street foyer at City Hall or vote for [your favourite design](#) at from April 21-30. The People's Choice winner will receive \$1,000. The overall winner of the design competition will be selected by a jury and the playable feature will be installed in Centennial Square this summer. Winners will be announced on May 2.

Crystal Pool

Planning for the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre continues to progress. The City has recently developed a dedicated [project web page](#) with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This list will be updated to provide timely information regarding the plans for the referendum anticipated for fall 2017. If you have other questions, please email staff at crystalpool@victoria.ca.

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.

Heritage Properties Register

On [March 9](#), Council defeated a motion to approve a [recommendation](#) for the addition of fifty properties to the Heritage Register. As registered properties, the buildings would have been given consideration for heritage designation status, should redevelopment of the sites be considered in the future.

Housing Strategy Garden Suites Policy

At their [March 9](#) meeting, Council provided direction to staff in implementing the City's housing strategy with regards to Garden Suites. This included additional guidelines to mitigate privacy impacts in response to public feedback and information on the City's website providing further clarification of the rezoning process and provisions to ensure that garden suites are used for rental accommodation.

Neighbour Day

In addition to [Neighbourhood Day](#) on Sunday, May 7, neighbourhoods are invited to do three things to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. The campaign was started by a challenge from Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi to residents in cities across Canada to get involved in serving their communities. More information can be found at the [Three Things 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 about this event.

City Book Prize

Submissions are now being accepted for the \$5,000 City of [Victoria Butler Book Prize](#) and the \$5,000 Bolen Books Children's Book Prize. The Victoria Book Prize Society's annual fall gala showcases the literary achievements of authors and illustrators who make Greater Victoria their home. Books must have been published between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. The deadline for submissions is May 12, 2017. For applications and guidelines visit www.victoriabookprizes.ca or www.victoria.ca.

Shortlisted nominees for both prizes will be announced in September and authors will be showcased at a gala held at the Union Club of British Columbia on Wednesday, October 11, 2017.

Motion to Amend Streets and Traffic Bylaw

In response to the low vacancy rate for accommodation in Victoria, at its [April 13 Council meeting](#), Council directed staff to report back at the next quarterly update on implementing bylaw amendments to address potential waivers for sleeping in vehicles offenses and/or deleting Section 84 of the Streets and Traffic Bylaw 09-079.

Staying in Touch

- For information on other key initiatives at the City, check [here](#) and follow the links for details.
- You can download the [ConnectVictoria app](#) and stay up to date on latest news, jobs and events. Through the app, you can contact the City and submit a service request like a streetlight outage or pothole.
- [Council Highlights](#) provides a snapshot of the progress made on City programs, initiatives and on Council decision-making. [Email staff](#) if you would like to subscribe to the highlights.
- You can check on the status of new development in your neighbourhood with the City's online [Development Tracker](#).

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole will meet April [6](#), [13](#), 20 and 27 at 9 a.m. and Council will meet April [13](#) and 27 at 6:30 p.m.