

# DRA Board Meeting Minutes

16 May 2017

Location: Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

In attendance: *Board members*: Ruth Annis, Nicholas Harrington, Wendy Bowkett, Douglas Boyd, Sally Reid, Megan Clark, Eric Ney, Don Elliot, Paul Gandall, Robert Florida Kaela Schramm, *plus city liaisons*: Mike Hill

Regrets: Ian Sutherland, Councillor Liaison Charlayne Thornton-Joe

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Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

## 1. Approval of Agenda:

- Change in order of items: Item #6 (Urban Livability) moved to become #3
- Wendy to give land-use committee update
- Add new item: Separate bank account for Yates St. Community Garden
- Add item to new business: Communications committee update
- Approval of agenda as amended: Nicholas moves, Don seconds; motion passed

## 2. Approval of past Minutes:

- Approval of April minutes: Nicholas moves; Robert seconds; motion passed

## 3. Urban Livability Committee:

- Yates Street Community Garden. Delegated development permit to be applied for by Nicholas for fence
- Cory Shankman (existing member of Yates St. Garden committee) to fill DRA board spot June to August. Kaela and Don stepping down as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. DRA constitution allows temporary member.
- Election of new member (Cory Shankman): Nicholas moves; Robert seconds; motion passed
- Bank account for garden: would have different account number but not be a separate account:
  - Majority of transactions for DRA at this point are for garden; having a separate bank account would simplify things.

- How would signing authority and oversight work? Signing authority would remain the same as DRA account
- Motion to create a sub-account for Yates Street Community Garden: Robert moves; Doug seconds; motion passed

**Kaela arrives 5:43pm**

#### **4. City Liason Report—Mike Hill**

- Crystal Pool: consultant and team for referendum re: funding
  - June and July: further info sessions
  - Plan is possibly to build adjacent to it; Mike will find out about whether there will be a shutdown and let us know
- Great Neighbourhood Grant program now open to activities (up to \$1000 match)
  - City staff willing to help work with people to figure out manageable projects
  - Meeting with city staff required first so project is vetted; council approval happens afterwards
- Reeson Park: Mike unsure of reasons for delay on changes to Reeson Park; will find out and update us
- Membership and email circulation of DRA: City working with community associations to look at terms of reference and membership numbers
  - Nicholas volunteers to look up membership numbers for Mike
  - DRA doesn't currently have a strategic plan

**Cory S. departs 6:00pm**

#### **5. Community Development Committee:**

- Get Downtown: event in planning stages
- Fiesta on Fort: key vender no longer plans to participate: Wendy to follow up
- Building directory: seeking contacts in remaining buildings
  - Posters to be posted near the specific condos (or ideally, inside)
  - DRA members to remember to keep in mind—who do you know in those buildings?
  - Contacting property management companies might work

- Using the member mailing list to recruit contacts in those missing buildings might work
  - Nicholas to draft email, Wendy to send out and track replies
- Get Downtown event: 12 ppl registered, 2 no-shows, 2 new, took place at Hawk and Hen. Icebreaker planned for next event
- Meetings continue to be first Tuesday of the Month, at the Drake (or Swans if Drake closed)

## 6. Land Use Committee

- Two upcoming CALUC meetings for public to attend:
  - Wed, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm: McCall Robbins proposal at 838 Fort Street. Empty lot next to auction house is the subject.
  - Thur, May 18<sup>th</sup>: 900 Johnson
- All DRA board members to receive updates

## 7. Governance Committee

- Governance renewal project--assignments coming up:
  - June: Megan
  - July: Robert
- Don willing to incorporate input until the end of the month (when his tenure ends)
- Nicholas' AGM paper: discussion about list of tasks--addition of sign-up sheet suggested

## 8. Business arising from minutes:

- Nicholas met with Jeff Bray of Capital Public Affairs re: expansion of DVBA boundaries
  - Business owners in outlying regions haven't been spoken to
  - If there's interest they might go northward into Chinatown
- Johnson St. Bridge approaches:
  - Do we want to do something about the fact that what was put forth didn't reflect the public consultation? Keep on agenda for next time. Can we at least object?
- DRA extends our gratitude for Kaela and Don's 4 years of service!

## 9. New Business:

- City notifications: Do people want to be forwarded all of them?
  - City's "Engage" listserve—about 2 emails per week
    - Nicholas is going to forward them all for the next two weeks; DRA board members to decide whether to sign up themselves or not
- Short-term vacation rentals:
  - Many DRA members feel something should be done
  - Last month's downtown update had info
  - Should DRA board come up with a position/draft a letter?
    - Urban livability committee could come with recommendations?
    - Clearly no consensus on board, will not be feasible to come up with a meaningful position
    - Potential to comment on future staff report remains
- Sleeping in cars
  - Mike to update later
- VCAN meeting:
  - Doug sent out outcome
  - Nicholas suggests DRA board members look at it
    - Suggestion was that Councillor would no longer attend community association meetings as liaison; staff member liaison only.
    - Councillors have mixed feelings on attending meetings
    - Comes back to our terms of reference—if councillor no longer attends, what replaces this linkage with city hall? Also relates to representativeness of DRA board
- Leadership Victoria
  - Leadership course available; Wendy has sent information

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### **Crystal Pool**

In February, City Council voted unanimously to replace Crystal Pool based on an in-depth study, community engagement and recognition that investing in Crystal Pool is investing in the community.

This fall, the City will be asking residents for permission to borrow funds to pay for the new facility through a referendum. Over the course of the summer, more information will be shared through community events and online, to ensure everyone has all the information they need to inform their decision.

If you would like to be added to our distribution list, send us an email and we will be sure to let you know of updates as they arise: [crystalpool@victoria.ca](mailto:crystalpool@victoria.ca) or check [Victoria.ca/poolfuture](http://Victoria.ca/poolfuture) for more information.

### **Bicycle Vending and Storefront Sales**

Council has approved a pilot program for bicycle vending in the City. The program will allow vending for specified periods of time and exclude some areas like Beacon Hill Park. Businesses will also be allowed to place products on the sidewalk during special events on Government Street. The pilot project will inform a review of vending in the public realm, possibly introducing more opportunities for vending in 2018.

### **Harbour Pathway Bridges Deferred**

At their [May 11 meeting](#), Council delayed Raymur Point and Heron Cove bridge construction, which was expected to be an important step in the development of the harbour pathway. Only one tender on the \$4.3 million dollar project was received and it was \$1 million over the allocated budget. Funds will be directed to other elements of the walkway around Reeson Park and the new Johnson Street bridge.

### **Great Neighbourhood Grants Now Open!**

The Great Neighbourhood program is currently open and actively receiving applications for the 2017 program. The City launched the program by hosting the inaugural **Neighbourhoods Ideas Fair** at City Hall April 19. The event included displays and presentations by both community partners and City staff focusing on creative ideas for placemaking and things to consider when planning a project in the public realm. This year's grants include new Activity grants of up to \$1000 with matching in kind funding from the applicant for a variety of themed activities including: social connection, education, diversity, celebration and neighbourhood improvement campaigns. More information can be found held at [My Great Neighbourhood Grants](#).

### **Victoria Wayfinding Strategy Adopted**

City Council has approved the [Visual Victoria Wayfinding Strategy](#). The strategy includes freestanding pylons with maps and several types of signage that direct visitors to and between destinations and areas of the City based on a four tiered hierarchy of significance. The strategy provides guidance in assessing sign locations and appropriate selection of sign content, format and design.

The wayfinding system is applicable to neighbourhoods in providing direction to and between village centres and destinations within the area. In 2018, wayfinding map pylons and directional signs are anticipated to be installed in three neighbourhoods based on those deemed to have the greatest amount of tourist traffic and other wayfinding considerations.

*Unique* wayfinding or route markers may be appropriate in some cases (e.g. historical walks) that may use signage that differs from the city-wide system, but consideration should be given to the strategy's principles and guidelines.

### **Reeson Park**

Council postponed consideration for endorsing the Reeson Park Improvement Plan pending receipt of park priority information arising from the Master Plan. Council did approve proceeding construction of the new 3 metre wide pathway portion in 2017.

### **Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan**

The [Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan](#) was approved by Council on May 11, 2017. This Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan provides a “...roadmap to guide planning, management and investment over the next 25 years.... It will be used to focus efforts and prioritize resources towards achieving outcomes.”

Its guiding principles include “*striv(ing) to improve dialogue and communication with neighbourhood organizations and residents through neighbourhood and park planning processes.*”

Council also directed staff to “...provide active support for food systems...including... expansion of community gardens into each neighbourhood and support for other neighbourhood food systems initiatives”.

### **CALUC Support Costs**

In 2016, Council passed a motions to increase Pre-Application Fees for various land uses to better account for mail-out costs associated with community meetings. At their [May 11 meeting](#), Council approved a bylaw amendment that would increase the pre-application fees from \$400 to \$750 for Council Rezoning Applications, and from \$800 to \$1,250 for OCP Amendment Applications

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Are you and your family prepared for an emergency? Take the opportunity to attend a FREE Victoria Ready Workshop to learn how to prepare for emergencies such as an earthquake or tsunami, or a power outage or winter storm. Learn about hazards in Victoria, items to include in your emergency kits, things you can do to minimize injury and protect your home, and reuniting with loved ones after a disaster. The next workshops will take place at the Victoria City Hall Antechamber on Wednesday, May 24 from 7-9 p.m. and Monday, June 5 from 1–3 p.m.

### **Pandora Protected Bike Lanes**

On May 1, Victoria’s first protected bike lanes in the downtown core area and the south edge of North Park were opened. The Pandora Avenue two-way protected bike lane is the first of five corridors that are designed to encourage and support riders of all ages and abilities. City staff and volunteers will be out on Pandora throughout first next two weeks to share information and answer questions from road users.

Key features:

- New traffic signals for bicycles
- Painted green “turn boxes” provide dedicated space at intersections for bicycles to safely turn off Pandora and on to other streets
- No vehicle right-hand turns on red lights – motorists must wait for green arrow signals
- New bus stop locations on medians
- Reconfigured on-street parking - positioning on-road parking in between the bike lane and moving traffic
- New mid-block pedestrian crossings

There is more information, including an introductory video, on the [City website](#).

### **Victoria Day Events**

The Victoria Day Parade will be held on Monday May 22 from 9 to 12 p.m, including a variety of activities in Centennial Square. There will also be a Canada 150 celebration from 1:30 to 5:30 on the blocks around the Union Club at Gordon and Humboldt Streets, which will be closed to traffic.

### **Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole will meet May [4](#), [11](#), 18 and 25 at 9 a.m. and Council will meet May [11](#) and 25 at 6:30 p.m.