

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

19 September 2017

Location: Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

In attendance: *Board members*: Wendy Bowkett, Megan Clark, Robert Florida, Paul Gandall, Nicholas Harrington, Ian Sutherland, *plus City liaisons*: Michael Hill, Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe. Guest: Breanna Merrigan

Regrets: Ruth Annis, Doug Boyd, Eric Ney, Sally Reid,

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Megan has agreed to take minutes as Sally is unable to attend today's meeting

1. Approval of Agenda:

- Approved by consensus

2. Approval of minutes of July 18, 2017 board meeting:

- Robert moves; Paul seconds; motion passed

3. Approval of minutes of August 15, 2017 s

4. pecial board meeting:

- Paul moves; Nicholas seconds; motion passed

5. Councillor's Report: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Cannabis dispensaries:

- At the September 7 Council meeting, Council ratified two of the motions to decline the rezoning applications for 543 Herald Street and 608 Johnson Street.
- Council approved the Temporary Use Application for 1601 Douglas Street to forward it for public comment at a meeting of Council.
- An application by the owner of 1406 Douglas Street for a heritage designation and rezoning for a cannabis dispensary is going to public hearing

Short-term vacation rentals:

- Public hearings take place on Thursday, September 21
- Bylaw officers are enforcing the zoning

- An anti STVR group is asking for an amendment to the grandfathering of transient accommodation zoning, so that the grandfathering would only apply to individual units rather than the entire building.

Ship Point Master Plan:

- Controversial—walk to beach
- Residents want more green spaces
- Parking will be retained (business demand)
- Neighbourhood residents should be consulted
- Add an enclosed dog area?

Johnson Street Bridge Approaches

- Councillor Thornton-Joe will follow up with acting City Manager Jocelyn Jenkyns. Charlayne has not forgotten about this issue

Camping / Overnighting in Parks:

- A protest group has formed and is camping for 7 days straight in each of Beacon Hill Park, and Topaz Park to bring attention to the problem
- Our Place is extending hours and adding 40 additional mats
- Choices (indoor camping shelter) is closing, however BC Housing is converting the Super 8 Motel on Douglas Street to low income housing.
- New slate of changes to camping in parks legislation will be up for a vote by Council on Thursday, September 21. Council will consider the following changes:
 - Ability to temporarily close a park or part of a park
 - Prohibition on interference with City workers engaged in clean-up, maintenance or other work in a park
 - Authority to impound property unlawfully left in a park and waive the fee to return impounded property
 - Ability to apply for permits to carry out protests and other expressive activities in a park
- Mt. Edwards (???)
- Fort Street bike lanes are starting to be installed
- The City expects to hold a grand opening for the new Johnson Street Bridge in March.

4. City Liaison Report: Michael Hill

- Proposals for the Participatory Budgeting program are due on September 28
- See attached file Downtown September 2017 Update for all of Michael Hill's report for this month

5. New Business:

- Looking for a representative of the DRA to attend the meeting tomorrow evening. Megan and Ian agreed to attend.
- Offer of Presentation from Point Hope Shipyard: The board decided that since the Point Hope Shipyard is in the neighbourhood of Victoria West, and that any expansion of their graving dock would have a negligible impact on the residents of the Downtown neighbourhood, that we should politely decline their invitation for a presentation.
- Offer of Protected Bike Lanes information session: Request from Sarah Webb and Timothy Hewett with the Active Transportation Project, City of Victoria, to present the 2017 and 2018 plans for bike lane installation. Nicholas will set up a time for them to present to the board and will invite the DRA Land Use Committee to attend as well.
- Workshops and Training Survey: Michael Hill and the Neighbourhood Team have proposed providing a series of workshops and training sessions to the neighbourhood associations on topics that would be beneficial to us. Mike and the Neighbourhood Team have created a list of possible training topics that they can offer, and would like to hear what we feel are our priorities. Paul agreed to survey the board, compile the results and get it back to Mike.
- Block Connector Idea: Nicholas had distributed the document, “Block Connector Idea.pdf” to the board prior to the meeting and asked the board to read it and consider whether or not we are interested.

6. Land Use Committee: Ian

New Proposals

- Iron Works: Large, 5 storey proposal by Le Fevre & Company to be constructed at 515 Chatham Street. 164 small condominium units (studio/bachelor, 1 bedroom), and ground floor commercial.
- Northern Junk: DRA LUC has been invited to see the new design
- Hudson Walk 3: 29 storey application

Ongoing

- UVic & Dave Chard - Duck Building on Broad St - ongoing
- Alpha Project Developments w/ dHK Architecture at Quadra & Johnson - rental
- Fraser McCall/Dan Robbins at 800 block Fort (east of Lunds) - condo
- Donald Butt - 937 View St - 215 unit rental - DP with variances

7. Community Development Committee: Wendy

- VicMatters TRC: New CDC member Victor had agreed to take this on, but has not been heard from since.
- VicMatters Town Hall: Doug is working on a survey to distribute to our membership as a follow-up to the DRA's 2014 Town Hall

- Eats & Beats on the Street: Took in \$72 in membership fees, and gained the DRA 17 new members. Luca, the owner of Famoso Pizza was very happy. Next time we should have a dance floor.
- Volunteer T-shirts or buttons: Consider buying T-shirts for volunteers
- Wicked Victoria: The DRA has secured a spot at Wicked Victoria 2017. Nicholas to arrange the volunteers and equipment.
- Get Downtown: CDC member Amanda to look into arranging a Get Downtown event for October 27 (location T.B.D.)

8. Governance Committee

Policy Binder

- Eric - recruiting, selecting, orienting & training board members: no submission
- Megan - Process of policy making: no submission

Meeting adjourned at: 7 pm (approx)

In Your Neighbourhood

Crystal Pool Temporarily Closed

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre is currently closed for maintenance and will re-open at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, September 25, 2016. During the pool closures, your Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre passes, and your Regional Recreation Pass are honoured at most other municipal facilities in the capital region.

Short Term Vacation Rentals

At their [September 21 meeting](#), Council will receive a report providing information and recommendations regarding regulations and enforcement strategies for short term rentals.

Ship Point Master Plan

Council approved a [staff report](#) recommending some minor design changes to the Ship Point Design Concept (i.e. replace the urban beach, better activate the southern portion of the site) and that staff then proceed with detailed design, class C costing and an implementation strategy. Council asked staff to consider inclusion of a small dog park and to [present the proposed Ship Point Concept to the DRA and \(its\) members for input](#), prior to reporting back to Council with a draft Ship Point Master Plan before the end of January, 2018.

Liquor Licence Support

Council determined that negative impacts were unlikely and supported the [application](#) of Interactivity Board Game Café, located at 721 Yates Street to obtain a new Liquor Primary Licence. However, Council did recommend earlier closing times than requested in the application. Council's recommendation for the licence would permit service from 11:00 am until 11:00 pm seven days a week with an occupant load of 65 persons.

Council similarly supported an application from Phillips Brewery, located at 2000 Government Street, to have a lounge endorsement added to each of its two manufacturing licenses. The endorsements would allow hours of operation from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm daily and an occupant load of 134 persons.

Marijuana Dispensaries

On September 7, Council received [staff report](#) recommendations to decline Rezoning and Temporary Use Permit applications for marijuana dispensaries at 608 Johnson and 1601 Douglas Street. Council authorized the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (two years) for 1601 Douglas, depending on comments received at a public hearing.

Creative Proposals Wanted

Would you or your organization like to spend up to \$50,000 to improve life in Victoria? This is the first year the City of Victoria has empowered the community to decide what to do with a portion of the City budget. If you have an idea for a project, initiative or event, now is the time to submit it to the Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee. Proposals are due by September 28, 2017.

Later this year, Victoria residents will be invited to vote on which ideas they like the most. Proposals can be for some or all of the \$50,000. The winning project or projects will be funded in 2018. Learn more and download an application form [here](#).

Parks Regulation Bylaw Changes

At their [September 21 meeting](#), Council will be considering a report recommending changes to the Parks Regulation Bylaw. The intent is to better regulate the use and operation of parks. The proposed changes include:

1. Ability to temporarily close a park or part of a park
2. Prohibition on interference with City workers engaged in clean-up, maintenance or other work in a park
3. Establishment of a time limit on occupation of a park or part of a park
4. Authority to impound property unlawfully left in a park
5. Ability to apply for permits to carry out protests and other expressive activities in a park

Neighbourhood Walkshops

The City is now offering “walkshops” in your neighbourhood. Walkshops are an opportunity to bring City staff and residents together to share information about the City’s role and activities in your neighbourhoods. The discussion is meant to be positive and constructive, and create opportunities for both the City and the community to discuss any concerns and questions. Walkshops typically happen in the early evening or on a weekend and the route is determined by the community members.

For neighbourhoods embarking on a neighbourhood plan process, opportunities to walk around your neighbourhoods will be incorporated into your planning process. For other neighbourhoods, please let your Neighbourhood Advisor know if you are interested in a walkshop and we will schedule a date that works for everyone. Staff availability is limited to one walkshop every two months, so some flexibility in scheduling is appreciated.

Understanding City Spending

At the request of Council, the Neighbourhood Team is preparing a presentation on the City Budget for Neighbourhood Associations this fall. Details on when and where this will take place will be sent out in September. All residents are welcome to come learn about the city budget, as well as discuss the draft Capital Works plan for your neighbourhood for 2018.

City Hall Lunch Time Lectures

Join us this fall for a series of lunchtime lectures at City Hall. Each month between September and December Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jason Johnson host the [Lunchtime Lecture Series](#). The lectures explore city development ideas and how they may apply to Victoria. The next lecture is at noon on October 2 when UVIC professor David Dunne will be talking about Design Thinking as an approach to tackling “wicked” societal problems, such as crime.

My Great Neighbourhood Grants

The next intake of applications for My Great Neighbourhood Grants begins September 11 and will be open for 5 weeks. The City has approximately \$51,000 available in the 2017 grant program for residents and non-profit organizations to create projects and activities that will improve the community. Think about something you might like to do and contact the Neighbourhood Team to explore your idea.





The deadline for this application period is Sunday, October 15. Pre-application meetings must be completed no later than Friday, October 6. More information can be found on the City's [website](#).

Gaga Ball Courts?

As part of the Great Neighbourhood Grant program this fall, we are asking resident groups if there is a project to do collectively. A suggested project is to build [gaga ball courts](#), which is reported to be an extremely [fun game](#) for all ages! We would prepare the materials and get them ready for a “weekend of construction” at neighbourhood sites that you have identified. Your group would creatively paint them up and assemble them... and of course we would share photos of all of your amazing designs amongst the neighbourhoods. Let us know if you are interested in learning more.

Block Connections

Part of the neighbourhood team's role is to help strengthen neighbourhood social connections. We often find that neighbours don't know the folks that live nearby, and when they do get to know them, it's a positive experience for them and it improves the quality of life on the block. In other parts of the country, residents have started “block connection” projects that have been successful in helping neighbours get to know each other. This involves neighbours knocking on doors of neighbours to introduce themselves and learn more about them and how they might like to make their block great. Through this survey, we hope that the block will identify some activities it would like to do. Perhaps a block party, an emergency response plan or simply making friends. This information from [Edmonton](#) will provide you with more information.

We are hoping to find residents who would like to try a block connection project on several blocks to help us develop an approach. We will be there to work with you through the project.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole (COTW) meets September [7](#), [14](#) and [21](#) at 9 a.m. Council will meet September [7](#) and [21](#) at 6:30 p.m. You can watch the live broadcast and find agendas [here](#).