

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

17 Oct 2017

Location: Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

In attendance: *Board members:* Ruth Annis, Nicholas Harrington, Sally Reid, Paul Gandall, Douglas Boyd, Robert Florida *plus city liaisons:* Michael Hill, Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe. *Guests:* Charmaine Niebergall (DRA CDC member), Andy Wachtel (DRA LUC member).

Regrets: Eric Ney, Megan Clark, Wendy Bowkett, Ian Sutherland

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm (*preceded by presentation on bike lanes*)

1. Approval of Agenda

- Nicholas dispensed with approval of the agenda in order to get the already late meeting started

2. Councillor's Report: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Cannabis dispensaries:

- Site beside Aveda (in part of current footprint) was most recent application
- Site at "Sally's" has applied for a temporary use permit

Land use:

- Chatham street: If we had CALUC meeting, we wouldn't be making input on two factors (one is height variance) because it's a development permit; not a rezoning

Homelessness:

- Mt. Edwards (not in downtown): was approved on Thursday night
- This building is now intended for people with a low-moderate need for supports and for people aged 55+ (no longer "low-barrier")

Note: Agenda amended—presentation on capital budget process to take place prior to November meeting [5:00-5:30]

3. City Liaison Report: Michael Hill

- Great Neighbourhoods Grant—budget should be used
- Johnson St. Bridge: still on track for Feb/March
- City is looking for a youth poet laureate (aged 14-24)
- STVR: open house 5-7 pm October 24th
- Changes to liquor licensing—taking out "good neighbour" requirement because now is redundant
- Late night—taxi stands working better; Strathcona improvements in place

- Modernization of off-street parking underway to reflect current priorities
- Meeting tomorrow re: plastic bag ban
- Bylaw enforcement re: closing down campsites each morning; challenge of managing space once campsites are down—it was proposed to council that people should have to move every 6 hours; this was not supported
- Development of neighbourhood toolkit underway
- Neighbourhood walkabout with city staff possible (similar to what Hillside Quadra community association did—4 or 5 staff members came out)—best done when light out later. Staff willing to continue to do this with other groups
- See attached file Downtown October 2017 Update for all of Michael Hill's report for this month

Note: Guest Charmaine departs at 6:50 pm

4. New Business:

- DSP meetings: DRA needs new representative, if anyone is able to attend
- Charlayne: Pandora meetings may be more relevant to downtown residents
- Could ask current resident attendees if they want to join DRA and provide updates
- Great Neighbourhood Grants—one applicant asked for our partnership but did not get back in touch

5. Business arising from minutes

- Block connector: no take-up on getting a group to do a grant application for this

6. Land Use Committee:

- No update

7. Community Development Committee: Nicholas

- New member
- Sunday Oct 29: Wicked Victoria—DRA will be participating; will require volunteers (1 hr time-slots)
- T-Shirts with DRA logos—will bring this up again next month. See if Pacific Design Academy students would be interested in helping design the shirts. Charmaine is going to make us buttons that read, 'DRA Volunteer'

8. VCAN:

- No update

9. Urban Livability Committee: Nicholas

- See agenda for full update on the Yates Street Community Garden

Note: Robert departs at 7:03 pm

- Fence will be implemented soon
- Workparty last Sunday—10 people showed up to stain shed
- My Great Neighbourhoods Grant—application was for \$5000—\$4,400 approved in error

10. Governance Committee:

- Paul has proposed new material, “Roles, Functions & Responsibilities of the Board of Directors”. Please see email attachment and review document for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:10 pm

In Your Neighbourhood

Johnson Street Bridge Update

The quarterly report on progress with the Johnson Street Bridge will be presented to Council on [October 19](#). Work is currently underway determining the public realm plans. Commissioning and testing of the new bridge is planned to run from February through March, 2018.

Hey Young Poet!

The City of Victoria in partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library is seeking nominations for the position of Youth Poet Laureate. The Youth Poet Laureate is tasked with reaching out to vulnerable youth-populations and encouraging peer to peer education and inspiration through new works and by developing a community youth poetry event. It is an honorary one-year term position from January 1 to December 31, 2018. The position will receive a \$1,750 honorarium and \$1,000 of project funding.

Applicants must be 14 to 24 years of age, reside in the Capital Region, and can submit their own application or be nominated by someone else. The application must include three original poems in any format including written, audio or video; a letter of intent outlining the applicant's vision for the Youth Poet Laureate position; three sample project ideas; and a resume noting their community engagement experience.

For submission guidelines, visit: www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Connor Tice - Arts, Culture, and Events Liaison at 250.361.0308.

Leaf Pick-Up

Fall is in the air, which means City crews will begin the annual leaf collection service soon. Of course, you can keep your leaves to make mulch or to feed backyard composters! For pick-up, you have three opportunities:

1. Downtown and Harris Green pickup dates will be December 3 and January 3. Leaves should be placed on the boulevard and be visible and accessible from the street. Residents can place their leaves in loose piles, in wire mesh rings, or in tied, clear, 100% compostable bags. Temporary "No Parking" signs will be placed along streets one day before scheduled collection to ensure crews can quickly and efficiently pick up leaves.
2. From October 16 to December 15, 2017 Victoria residents can also contact the City Parks office at 250.361.0600 to arrange for their bagged leaves to be picked up from the boulevard for free within five working days. Residents are asked to provide their name, address and phone number and the number of bags they have.
3. Victoria residents can also drop off their leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yards at 417 Garbally Road on Saturdays from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Proof of residency is required, in the form of a valid BC driver's licence or a City of Victoria utility bill that indicates kitchen scraps and garbage service.

Please keep leaves away from storm drains. Blocked storm drain grates should be reported to the City's 24-hour line at 250.361.0400.

Short-Term Rentals

On September 21, City Council approved a zoning bylaw change that removes short-term rentals outside primary residences (unless grandfathered) as a permitted use where they were previously allowed in transient zones.

Council also approved a proposed regulatory framework for short-term rentals, which outlines how and where they will be permitted across the City, proposed short term rental business regulations including changes to fees and other requirements for business licences and an enforcement strategy for how to enforce these changes.

The community is invited to attend an open house at City Hall on October 24 from 5-7 pm to learn more about the changes and to provide feedback on the proposed short term rental business regulations.

Liquor Licensing Bylaw and Policy Changes

On October 4, Council was presented with a [staff report](#) for proposed changes to Liquor Primary Licences' requirements for Good Neighbour Agreements. The changes are intended to remove redundancy and efficiently target compliance efforts.

Council directed staff to remove the current Good Neighbour Agreement requirements, introduce a new education program to familiarize licencees with relevant City bylaws and work with Victoria Police and the province to establish Good Neighbour Agreements with licencees when they are warranted. The report is also to be sent to the Late Night Advisory Committee for comment.

Off-Street Parking Regulations

Council welcomes comments from neighbourhood associations on the proposed changes to off-street parking regulations, which will be incorporated in to the Zoning Regulation Bylaw (see [October 5 staff report](#) to Council). The purpose of the changes is to modernize parking requirements – including the reduction of the number required and considering needs for bicycle and electrical vehicles.

Proposed Regulations for Single-Use Checkout Bags

The City of Victoria is considering new regulations to foster a shift towards reusable checkout bags to and keep avoidable waste out of our landfill and off our beaches. Your feedback will help form recommendations that will go to Council on October 26, 2017. Come talk to staff, ask questions and share your thoughts with Council.

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Open House 6:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., Town Hall 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Centennial Square

If you can't make it in person, send your feedback to engage@victoria.ca

Parks Regulation Bylaw Changes

At their [September 21 meeting](#), Council approved changes to the Parks Regulation Bylaw. The intent is to better regulate the use and operation of parks. The directives 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. Authority to impound property unlawfully left in a park and waive the fee to return impounded property;
4. Ability to apply for permits to carry out protests and other expressive activities in a park;
5. Consequential and housekeeping amendments;
6. To develop an effective lobbying approach to the province on the issue of tenting in parks and housing and homelessness;
7. Thank TAPS for their letter and ask them, in their experience to offer some solutions on the issues that the park bylaw amendments attempt to address prolonged use and occupation in the absence of sufficient housing;
8. Direct staff to report back in a year to see if other amendments need to be considered; and
9. Direct police and bylaw to report publicly at the next quarterly update on the implementation of the new direction.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets Oct [5](#), [12](#), [19](#) and 26 at 9 a.m. Councils meets October [12](#) and 26th, beginning at 6:30. Residents can attend both meetings or view them [here](#).

Over the summer, the City installed a new hearing loop in Council Chambers. This feature improves accessibility for citizens attending meetings in Council Chambers who have a hearing deficiency. Those with hearing aids will automatically experience the enhanced service when entering the room.