

# DRA Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

## Attending Board Members:

Paul Gandall (Chair), Ruth Annis, Ian Sutherland, Dianne Flood, Wendy Bowkett, Doug Boyd, Nicholas Harrington, Robert Florida, Breanna Merrigan

City Councillor Liaison: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Brad Dellebuur, Mike Hill

Regrets: Megan Clarke, Robert Florida

## 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

## 2. Round of Introductions

- All attendees introduced themselves.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was approved with no additions.

## 4. Minutes Recorder

- Breanna agreed to be Minutes Recorder for the meeting.

## 5. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2018 Board Meeting

- Minutes from the March 20 meeting approved pending minor changes.

## 6. Presentation on 2019 Capital Budget Process: Mike Hill & Brad Dellebuur

- Refer to circulated file “Spring Budget Presentation Downtown.pdf”
- Mike provided an overview of budget development, which is a multi-year, continuous process. Initial neighbourhood feedback is being solicited from the DRA, which will inform the budgeting process. **Action:** The DRA will discuss at the May meeting.

*City Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe arrived at 5:35 pm*

- Brad provided an overview of transportation projects for 2019 to 2021. The DRA provided support for additional sidewalk updates, replanting trees, and the Douglas St Revitalization.

## **7. Councillor's Report: Charlayne Thornton-Joe**

- City Councillor Charlayne provided an overview of Council activity related to downtown. Updates included:
  - The 26 story development at Herald Street was approved.
  - There are ongoing discussions regarding Fort Street (Mike Miller) and Pandora (Chinese Freemasons).
  - Developments 930 Fort and Chatham Iron Works are returning to Council.
  - The new Johnson Street Bridge was opened and the old bridge is being removed.
  - A number of Johnson Street Community improvement are underway (e.g. tenant mix, front entrance, roof access, screening on windows and clean team).
  - Council is waiting for the staff report on backup beepers.
  - The Late Night Task Force Task Force is focusing on late night issues downtown, with the goal of creating a comprehensive and cohesive strategy to ensure the City of Victoria maintains a vibrant downtown core that balances the needs of local stakeholders. A question was raised about whether the Strathcona will host a DJ outside until 12:30 am.
  - Regarding the APEX site, the City received six proposals in response to its Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) 17-054. The City is in negotiations with a preferred proponent and the procurement process remains ongoing. If the negotiations are unsuccessful, the City may choose to move to negotiations with another proponent or may terminate the competition, under the terms of the RFEI. Given the ongoing nature of the procurement process, we cannot comment further at this time.
  - The City has received positive coverage from the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

## **8. Business Arising from Minutes**

- Officer Position: Secretary
  - The position remains vacant.
- Internet Service Provider Billing

- The provider is no longer billing for the service. **Action:** Nicholas will secure a refund or credit from the provider.
- Website Update
  - A process is required to keep the website updated. The group discussed the possibility of paying someone who provide that service. **Action:** Nicholas will follow up with Erica to update the DRA website.

## 9. New Business

- Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) Branding
  - The group discussed ways to increase the visibility of the DRA in relation to the YSCG (e.g. a more prominent banner, reference on website). **Action:** Nicholas will bring this issue to the Urban Liveability Community.

## 10. Committee Reports

### *Land Use Committee: Ian*

- Pre-CALUC: Pacific Mazda - Jawl Residential - Fire Hall
  - 2nd meeting is April 18, 2018
- CALUC Meeting: 550 Pandora - 5 Story Rental with OCP Amendment for Density
  - A well-attended meeting, residents had concerns about the loss of Habit Coffee as well as issues with the unaffordability/indignity of micro lofts.
- Zoning Bylaw/Old Town Design Guidelines
  - Meetings with staff held to discuss Old Town design guidelines and what is expected of developers.
  - The DRA provided input to improve amenities for downtown residents relating to the density bonus system.
- CALUC Meeting: The Drake Brewery/Peter DeHoog
  - At the sparsely attended meeting, no concerns were identified.
- CALUC Meeting: Abstract Developments - 1010 Fort Street 10 Storey Tower
  - Issues arose relating to disclosure of conditions relating to another development.

### *Community Development Committee: Wendy*

- DVBA Survey
  - Feedback provided by the board was incorporated. Survey sent on April 12. The group discussed distributing the survey through stratas to target downtown residents.
- Get Downtown
  - Event will be held on April 25 at Veneto. Tickets on sale now.
- Car Free Day
  - The DRA will have a presence at the event in June 2018. The group discussed allocation additional funding (irrespective of My Great Neighbourhood Grant)

for Volunteer apparel. **Motion:** Approve additional funding for volunteer apparel. Moved by Dianne. Seconded by Ruth. Carried.

- Silent Disco
  - Cancelled due to organizer absence.
- Eats and Beats
  - Event to be held in July/August 2018. Organizers may look for a 3rd partner.
- Vic Matters
  - Budget still exists for this event, but the potential organizer has not responded.

#### *Governance Committee: Wendy*

- The DRA's updated constitution and bylaws have been filed. The DRA is now compliant with the new Societies Act.
- The Committee has started reviewing the Policy Binder.

#### *Urban Livability Committee: Nicholas*

- Yates Street Community Garden (YSGC) My Great Neighbourhood Grant Application
  - Refer to 2018 My Great Neighbourhood Grant Application YSCG.pdf. A grant application was submitted for the Native Bee Apiary and for one day event with Pollinator Partnership Canada.
  - Due to difficulties in scheduling, steering committee meetings will be held in the evenings for now.

## 11. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

#### *Membership Committee: Dianne*

- My Great Neighbourhood Grant Application 2018
  - Refer to circulated file 2018 My Great Neighbourhood Grant Application DRA.pdf. There is a need to recruit more volunteers, which will be helped by the DRA receiving the the grant. Additional portions of the grant will aid in increased organization visibility.
- Membership Email
  - The group discussed providing an email message to new members and to recruit volunteers. **Action:** Dianne to circulate draft email.
- Call for Volunteers for Postering
  - Once the weather improves, Dianne would like to have a group assist with putting up posters for upcoming events.

## 12. External Meeting Reports

- Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN)

- The most recent meeting included discussions about heritage preservation, inclusionary zoning, and gentle densification. **Action:** Paul will circulate meeting material when available.
- Downtown Service Providers
  - The DRA is looking for a representative to attend this committee on Tuesday mornings.

### **13. City Liaison Report: Mike Hill**

- Refer to circulated file Downtown Apr 2018 Update.pdf

### **14. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 (Robert sends his regrets for the May meeting, as he is travelling).

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Neighbourhood Block Party

On March 14, the City hosted a “Neighbourhood Block Party” at the Da Vince Centre in Vic West. After a keynote address on the importance of getting to know our neighbours, participants sat down together to identify places they love, community gathering space and active streets in their neighbourhoods. The resulting map will be made available for further exploration of ideas for projects in the neighbourhood.

### Back Up Beepers Downtown

In response to a request from the Downtown Residents Association, Council approved a [motion](#) presented by Councillors Thornton Joe and Lucas that “...Council direct staff to report at the next quarterly update on the resources needed to: Explore what other cities are doing, whether there are policies that the City can implement and whether there are other costs needed to have this considered.” Beepers can be disruptive to residents and technology now offers options to address this nuisance sound. Initial discussion suggested that changes with municipally owned vehicles would likely proceed while broader changes in senior government policy are pursued.

### 777 Herald Street Approved

At their April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Council authorized the issuance of the Development Permit with Variances for 777 Herald Street, in accordance with plans date stamped January 24, 2018 and ensuing the ongoing provision and maintenance of the sky garden. The building will be Victoria’s highest at 26 storeys.

### 930 Fort Street and 515 Chatham Street

At their April 19 meeting, Council will be considering a [report](#) recommending that Council instruct staff to prepare the necessary Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendments that would authorize the proposed development outlined in Rezoning Application No. 00593 for 930 Fort Street, that first and second reading of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendments be considered by Council, and a Public Hearing date be set once stipulated conditions are met.

A [report](#) relating to the construction of a five-storey, mixed-use building containing ground-floor commercial uses and residential units above will also be considered.

### Great Neighbourhood Grants

The program is open only until April 15, 2018. Please review the [guidelines and application form](#) online and contact City staff to finalize your application. In the Downtown neighbourhood, there are currently applications in the works for a bee pollinator awareness event at the Yates Street garden and a community outreach project from the DRA..

### Garden Micro Grants Awarded

On March 22, Council approved awarding of [Micro Grants](#) (\$500) to [all applicants](#). Micro grants are intended for eligible community groups delivering a service or program for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens. This included a grant to the Victoria Disability Resource Centre for the Yates Street Garden site.

### New Victoria Fire Hall and Emergency Operations Centre

A new Victoria public safety building will be built downtown under an agreement reached with local developer Dalmatian Developments Limited Partnership, a Jawl Residential and Nadar Holdings Ltd. venture. The state-of-the-art, post-seismic rated facility will be located on Johnson Street as part of a new

mixed-use development adjacent to Pacific Mazda. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) has agreed to lease 3,200-square-foot of space from the City to operate a stand-alone facility for paramedics and four ambulances. The agreement is subject to the developer bringing their overall project through the rezoning process, which includes the construction of the new public safety building. Learn more [here](#). Council approved allocating \$35.9 million from the City's Debt Reduction Reserve in the 2018 - 2022 Financial Plan for the project.

### Fort Bike Lane

Opening of the new [AAA bike lane](#) on Fort Street is planned for late May. Consideration is being given to a celebration of the opening following a trial period to identify any fine-tuning required.

### Gorge Waterway Update

In early March, the BC Supreme Court ruled that the City of Victoria has the authority to regulate the Gorge Waterway. Last year the City sought an injunction to require owners to remove their vessels and docks that were illegally moored in the waterway. As a result of the ruling, vessel and dock owners must remove their property from the Gorge Waterway by May 7, 2018. Learn more [here](#).

### Poems for the Planet

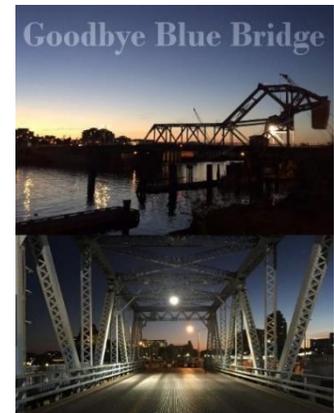
Celebrate Earth Day with *Poems for the Planet* on Sunday, April 22 from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Centennial Square with free poetry readings from Yvonne Blomer and guest poets who will express their climate change concerns and passion for Southern Vancouver Island and the Pacific Ocean through poetry. Featured poets will include Marilyn Bowering, Stephen Collis, Marlene Grand Maitre, Heidi Greco, Anne Hopkinson, Tim Lilburn, Garth Martens, Wendy Morton, Kyeren Regher, Chris Smart and Christine Walde. Dancers Nikko Snow and Dyana Sonik-Henderson will perform in response to Bruce Cockburn's "False River," a poem commissioned by Yvonne Blomer. The event is hosted by the City of Victoria with the support of the League of Canadian Poets. [www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate)

### Call for Entries to 2018 Victoria Book Prizes

Submissions are now being accepted for the 2018 Victoria Book Prizes that consist of the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and the \$5,000 Bolen Books Children's Book Prize. Celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the Victoria Book Prize Society's annual fall awards gala showcases the literary achievements of authors and illustrators who make Greater Victoria their home. [www.victoria.ca/bookprize](http://www.victoria.ca/bookprize)

### Hello New, Goodbye Blue

The new Johnson Street Bridge opened to traffic Saturday, March 31, following an official opening and community celebration event. Lane closures on the new bridge are scheduled for Monday to Wednesday (Apr 16-18) from 9am to 4pm to facilitate removal of the old bridge. The project is fully completed later this summer. View a video recap of the bridge replacement [here](#).



### Arts Hub in Downtown?

On April 5, Council received a [report](#) summarizing an exploration of a new potential use for the former Provincial Courthouse at 28 Bastion Square. In fall of 2017, the Arts Consultant Group (ACG) was retained by the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) to examine the viability of the building as a



## April 2018 Update

# Downtown

downtown arts hub. Based on research and data gathered during the Create Victoria engagement process and additional engagement undertaken by the ACG Group, they recommend moving ahead with a project plan for 28 Bastion Square to become a self-funded, shared arts space for the arts, culture and creative sector.

### **Downtown Victoria Business Association**

The DVBA will be presenting their [annual report and budget](#) to Council on April 19.

### **Parkade Rates Increase**

In order to provide incentives to improve parking accessibility, Council has approved an increase to rates for parkades to take effect June 1, 2018. Daily maximums will go to \$16 at all parkades except for the Bastion Square parkade, which will go to \$17.50. The staff report can be viewed [here](#).

### **Capital Projects in the Downtown Neighbourhood**

City staff will be presenting information on the 2019 capital budget and requesting local knowledge on transportation projects at the Downtown Residents Association April meeting. The following projects are currently scheduled for 2018.

### **Have Your Say: Victoria's Draft Climate Leadership Plan**

The Climate Leadership Plan is Victoria's road map for the transition to a prosperous, affordable, sustainable and low-carbon future. It includes short and long-term strategies and actions to help the community get to an 80% reduction in Green House Gas emissions by 2050, while transitioning to 100% renewable energy. The City will be hosting a number of community workshops in the coming weeks to allow you to share your ideas and feedback on the plan.

**Low-Waste Living**, Wednesday, April 18, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Antechamber, City Hall. Register [here](#)

**Community Workshop**, Wednesday, April 25, 5 – 7:30 p.m. Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street. A light dinner will be provided. Register [here](#) by Wednesday, April 18

**Business Workshop**, Wednesday, May 2, 7:30- 9:00 a.m. Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street. Learn about what the Climate Leadership Plan means for your business and how you can be involved. A light breakfast will be provided. Register [here](#) by Sunday, April 28

To learn more and to share your feedback online visit [Victoria.ca/climateaction](http://Victoria.ca/climateaction)

### **Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole meets April [5](#), [19](#) and 26 at 9am. Council meets April [19](#) and 26 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend meetings or watch them online. Note that the April [12](#) Committee of the Whole meeting was rescheduled so that Council could attend the funeral of Chief Andy Thomas.