

**DRA Board Meeting Minutes
October 16th 2018
Victoria City Hall
5.30 p.m.**

Board members present: Paul Gandall (chair), Wendy Bowkett, Doug Boyd, Robert Florida, Ruth Annis, Dianne Flood, Marv Gandall, Nick Harrington, Ian Sutherland

City Councillor Liaison: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill

Approval of Agenda:

Wendy moved, Paul seconded, and carried that the agenda be approved.

Approval of July 17th, 2018 Board Minutes:

Wendy moved, Paul seconded, and carried that the the Board Minutes of July 17th, 2018 be approved.

Councillor's Report: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Charlayne reported on several development applications brought to Council, including 1314 Wharf, withdrawn pending resubmission; 1400 Quadra, rezoning application declined, although DRA sees it as supportable; 515 Chatham, height variance approved, and Broad St. properties, referred back for amendment to setbacks.

Charlayne also arranged for the City to purchase a shipping container to provide secure storage for the belongings of homeless people at the Our Place shelter on Pandora St., relieving them of the stigma and need to store and transport their belongings in shopping carts and makeshift trailers.

She reported that the Johnson St. shelter is experiencing problems with use of opiates in front of the building, conflicting with the policies regarding consumption sites established by the BC Centre on Substance Abuse.

Board members thanked Charlayne for her support to downtown residents during her past term on Council and looked forward to her re-election and reappointment as Council liaison to the DRA.

City Liaison Report: Mike Hill

Mike reported on several downtown community events in September, including the public open house regarding the Centennial Square redesign, consultation with North Park neighbourhood residents concerning the proposed new Crystal Pool development, and the volunteer graffiti removal effort east of Blanchard St. organized by city staff in conjunction with the Our Place and Portland Hotel societies.

Board members expressed interest in participating in future graffiti removal events, and Mike said "graffiti removal boxes" were available from City Hall.

The Board agreed to consider sponsoring another paint-over event and promoting it to DRA members.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Use Committee

Ian reported.

a) The DRA has been invited to add its name to an open letter to Council from a local working group of prominent planners, academics, and heritage planners.

The signatories are concerned that "the heritage program in Old Town is slipping out of balance...in return for limited conservation of heritage fabric, new additions and structures threaten to overwhelm the character of Old Town." The letter calls on Council to support the 3-1 floor space ratio and 15-metre height limit in Old Town, as mandated by the Official Community Plan and Downtown Core Area Plan.

Ian is a participant in the working group and its concerns are shared by the DRA.

The Board agreed the DRA should sign the open letter to Council and that the signatories should be invited to comprise a DRA subcommittee advising the board on heritage and other applications.

b) Proposed Townline development (Seventh Day Adventist site) - No application yet. Similar to Hudson Walk II.

c) 1314 Wharf (Northern Junk) development - As noted above, the application was pulled by the developer, citing public criticism of the project by the DRA's LUC.

The Board agreed the DRA should resume its intervention when and if Reliance resubmits its application.

d) CALUC - Ian reported that he will again encourage CALUC at its next meeting to press for public notification of application permits as a check against the current arbitrary power of city staff to interpret and apply land use policies and bylaws.

e) New firehall - Ian noted that Jawl's application conflicts with density, height, and parking space requirements.

The Board agreed that the DRA should propose that Jawl apply for a rezoning variance rather than trying to "game the system" in its calculation of the development's Floor Space Ratio (FSR).

Community Development Committee

Wendy reported.

a) VicMatters election event - An estimated 220 people attended the debate between the leading mayoralty candidates at the Victoria Event Centre. Wendy complimented Matt for doing an outstanding organizing job on behalf of the committee.

b) Get Downtown event - Scheduled for 5.30 pm October 24th at The Flying Pig on Wharf St. 15 tickets have been sold so far.

c) Wicked Victoria event - The DRA will have a tent on Government St. for this annual children's event sponsored by the Greater Victoria Festival Society on the Sunday before Halloween.

d) Christmas Cocktails event - Scheduled for 6 pm December 18th at Zambri's. The committee has budgeted \$700 for the event. Meal tickets are \$43 for Board and \$10 for committee members.

Governance Committee

a) Policy book - Wendy reported that the committee will meet on November 13th to review the updated policies before submitting them to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

b) Community Gardens grant application - Nick reported that the group had submitted an application for another city grant to add new raised garden beds and a vertical trellis among other improvements.

Nick moved, Wendy seconded, and carried that the DRA approve the application.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Dianne reported she is in the process of revising membership forms in consultation with Wendy and Nick.

Victoria Community Association Network

Paul reported that he was appointed to fill VCAN's vacant Vice Chair position, and was also one of four representatives named to a subcommittee charged with drafting new terms of reference for the group.

In the round table discussion, the DRA identified inappropriate downtown development resulting from the lack of consistent planning and enforcement of Heritage designation status as a major concern.

900 Block Pandora Good Neighbours Association

It was agreed to appoint Dianne as DRA representative to the Pandora GNA which provides for consultation between service providers and businesses and residents concerning the operations of Our Place and its effect on the surrounding community.

Late Night Action Committee

Paul reported that the committee is urging city and transit authorities to expand bus service to 3 am in order to reduce noise and other disruption following the closure of bars and restaurants in the downtown core.

It was agreed Paul would communicate to Council the DRA's support of the committee's position.

Downtown Service Providers

The DRA does not presently have a representative to this group. As it mainly comprises service agencies, it was agreed the DRA would concentrate its participation on the Pandora GNA.

Business Arising from Minutes

Internet Service Provider overcharge

Nick reported that the DRA's ISP had agreed to credit the Association for \$200 resulting from an overcharge. The Board agreed to forego a balance of \$14 owing, and thanked Nick for his effort in securing the recovery.

Truth and Reconciliation grant

Paul reported on the \$3000 Truth and Reconciliation grant from the city to the DRA. Discussion ensued on how to allocate it, and it was agreed Wendy would consult with Charlayne and local indigenous organizations and report back to the board with a recommendation.

Yates Street Community Garden branding

Paul noted that the YSCG was still identifying its policies as "bylaws". Nick agreed to follow up to correct the information on the website.

Excessive noise from vehicles

Charlayne reported that the Victoria PD referred to its limited authority to effectively address this issue under the Motor Vehicles Act. Paul said he would raise the issue at the next VCAN meeting to enlist other neighbourhood associations, possibly tying the issue to excessive noise resulting from the lack of late night bus service.

New Business

Centennial Square redesign presentation

Dianne reported that the city had offered to make a presentation to the DRA on the Centennial Square redesign.

The Board agreed both the Land Use Committee and the Community Development Committee should consider the offer and report back to the Board. One possibility suggested was to arrange for the presentation and membership discussion of the issue at the AGM.

Guidelines for Social Media Posts and External Communications

Doug said there was a need to ensure that all policy pronouncements on behalf of the Association on social and mainstream media had prior clearance from the Board.

It was agreed to table the issue to the next meeting where it could be addressed in the discussion of the Policy Binder.

Public relations and outreach

It was agreed Doug and Marv would consider a DRA newsletter and other forms of external communication and report back to the next Board meeting.

2019 DRA AGM

It was agreed to hold the AGM at the end of January, including approval of the DRA budget. In addition to the Centennial Square redesign, members could also be invited to discuss the proposed Ship Point Master Plan.

Adjournment: 7.45 pm.

Marv G.
Recording Secretary

In Your Neighbourhood

Municipal Election

General Voting Day is on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Learn more about what you need to bring, advance voting opportunities, Mayoral and Council candidates and more at www.victoria.ca/election



Centennial Square Engagement

In September, a stakeholder working group participated in an “Ideas Jam” workshop and open house event for improving Centennial Square. Common themes identified by the community through early engagement in July included how to make the Square feel more welcoming and safe, family friendly, and a desire to see more year-round activity and programming. Check out some of the ideas and let us know what you think!

Written feedback, questions and ideas can be submitted to engage@victoria.ca from now until November 1st. The feedback will inform refined concept options and programming recommendations that will be shared with the community in late 2018. A draft action plan for Centennial Square will be considered by Council in early 2019.

For more information, visit the project webpage www.victoria.ca/CentennialSquare

Crystal Pool

On September 6, Council received a staff [report](#) regarding parking at the proposed new Crystal Pool. Council resolved to:

1. Direct staff to consult with stakeholders and residents from the North Park neighbourhood on neighbourhood street parking options associated with a distributed parking approach; and
2. Approve \$40,000 to be funded from 2018 Contingencies, to complete an investigation of underground parking options in Central Park and/or modular parking on the Save on Food Memorial Arena Parking lot.



On October 4, Mayor Helps and Councillor Loveday presented a [report](#) and making further recommendations regarding the Crystal Pool site. Council passed a resolution directing staff to:

1. Work in partnership with the community to co-develop a plan for a consultation process for Central Park including mitigation of the impacts of pool construction on park users, plans for the future of Central Park, and land use issues related to the new pool and that this consultation planning take place this fall as staff are out in the neighbourhood engaging on parking options.
2. Revive conversations with the community to co-design park disruption and park improvements planning and enter into a Community Benefit Agreement between the NPNA and the City of Victoria with the United Way or other third party acting as convener.

3. Report back to Council, within two months of this motion, with:
 - a. An analysis comparing costs and benefits of siting the new facility:
 - (1) as proposed, in the south-west corner of Central Park;
 - (2) on the City-owned parking lot at 1952 Quadra St
 - (3) on the City-owned parking lot at 940 Caledonia Avenue;
 - (4) on the location of the current facility in the north-west corner of Central Park.
 - b. A proposal for how engagement and park improvement planning will be prioritized in the 2019 operating budget and workplans of relevant departments.
4. Amend the 20-year capital plan to commit the City to a minimum, timely capital investment for each of the a) temporary relocation of park assets, and b) reinstatement of the park's assets and/or other new park improvements at Central Park.
5. That the previously approved allocated up to 1% of the Crystal Pool project budget for public art and designate this public art funding to be incorporated into the Central Park improvement plan and its corresponding budget.
6. A minimum of one month prior to submitting the City's funding application for the Crystal Pool, direct staff to:
 - a. Disclose a detailed pool design budget and to work with the community to find opportunities for savings and "value engineering" in the Crystal Pool facility for which to fund the important community benefits being sought (underground parking, park improvements, community centre-like amenities).
 - b. Report back to Council on the eligibility and feasibility of including capital costs for underground parking, park improvement, and community-centre like amenities as a component of the Crystal Pool application to the Province for Infrastructure Canada's Community Culture and Recreation grant funding.

Graffiti Removal in Harris Green

City staff have partnered with Our Place and Portland Hotel Societies to clean up graffiti east of Blanshard Street. Each organization will dedicate a worker for 4 hours each week to clean graffiti from a defined area in proximity to their facilities. To kick off this initiative, Downtown and Harris Green residents were invited to help paint out graffiti in the area on Saturday September 29. Despite the low turnout, many hydro poles were cleaned of graffiti and the dedicated graffiti cleaners have now started their programs.

Storage for Homeless' Belongings

At their October 4 meeting, Council will receive a [report](#) and Council member motion proposing to release funds set aside for Our Place Society to build and manage a storage space for those experiencing homelessness.

Tenant Assistance Policy

Beginning September 1, a new [Tenant Assistance Policy](#) provides guidelines for tenant assistance when renters are required to move because their building is being redeveloped. The Tenant Assistance Policy is one of several initiatives the City of Victoria is undertaking as part of its [Housing Strategy](#). For more information about the policy, contact City of Victoria Community Planning at housing@victoria.ca or 250.361.0382.

Volunteer Victoria Workshops

Here are some other training opportunities from Volunteer Victoria that may interest you.

- [Conversations & Conflict](#) - Oct 18th



October 2018 Update

Downtown

- [Project Management 101](#)- Oct 23rd
- [The Volunteer Management Hybrid Conference 2018](#) - Oct 23rd
- [5 Min Facilitation - Developing workshops and training for your organization](#)- Oct 24th
- [Understanding Financial Statements](#)- Oct 25th
- [Powerful Facilitation Strategies through Liberating Structures](#) Oct 26th
- [Developing Your Non-Profit Leadership Practice](#)- Oct 30th

Check out their website for all workshops Not seeing a workshop that you would really like them to offer? Send Tracey Gibson an email at tracey@volunteervictoria.bc.ca or give them a call at 250-386-2269.

Land Development

1314/24 Wharf Street

The applicant redeveloping the site to the south of the Johnson Street Bridge withdrew their [application](#) prior to its presentation to Council. They will be making further changes to the proposal and resubmitting the application in the future.

1010 Fort Street

On October 4, Council received a [report](#) presenting Council with information, analysis and a recommendation for the applicant to work further with staff on a rezoning and a development permit with variances applications to construct a nine-storey, mixed-use building with ground-floor retail with residential above. Council requested the application be revised to better meet Downtown Core Area Plan objectives (increasing the tower setbacks, reducing the height of the podium, improving the relationship to the street and to the heritage corridor context, and reducing the uniform appearance of the side elevations), and then be reviewed by the Advisory Design Panel.

1400 Quadra Street

On October 4, Council received and approved a [report](#) with information and analysis on rezoning and development variances applications to construct a 14-storey, mixed-use building consisting of ground floor commercial and residential above with approximately 113 residential rental units, recommending the application be declined.

1159 View Street

On October 4, Council authorized the issuance of a Development Variance Permit in accordance with:

1. Development meeting all Zoning Regulation Bylaw requirements, except for the following variances:
 - i. reduce vehicle parking from 7 stalls to 3 stalls
 - ii. increase the site coverage from 30.00% to 45.56%
 - iii. increase the rear yard site coverage from 25.00% to 29.97%.
2. The applicant entering into an agreement with a car-share company to secure six car share memberships and car share usage credits in the amount of \$100 towards each car share membership, to the satisfaction of City Staff.



October 2018 Update

Downtown

515 Chatham Street

On October 4, Council issued a Development Permit with Variance for this site in accordance with:

1. Development meeting all Zoning Regulation Bylaw requirements, except for the following variance:
 - i. increase the height from 15m to 16.43m.
2. That Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute encroachment agreements, to be executed at time of the building permit approval, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and the Director of Engineering and Public Works for:
 - a. building encroachment(s) adjacent to Chatham Street and Store Street.
 - b. anchor-pinning in the City Right-of-Way.

Heritage Designation Permit applications were also considered and approved for 840 Fort Street, 1314/24 Douglas Street, 645/651 Johnson Street (including a Heritage Alteration Permit).

Council Meetings

Council meetings are limited this month due to the municipal election. Committee of the Whole met [October 4th](#) at 9am. Council met on October 4th at 6:30pm. Residents can attend meetings or watch them [here](#).