

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2019

Location: Esquimalt Nation Meeting Room, Victoria City Hall

Time: 5:30pm

Attendees:

Board members: Paul Gandall (chair), Doug Boyd, Dianne Flood, Nick Harrington, Ian Sutherland, Matt Yee

DRA members: Wendy Bowkett, Sandra Severs, Rosa Neville

City Council Liaison: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill

Agenda approved.

Minutes of March 19, 2019 Board Meeting approved.

Councillor's Report:

Charlayne Thornton-Joe reported on:

- The liquor application approval process and the Herald Street application, noting that she was asking staff for more information on applications. Policy work is underway as more detailed by Mike Hill.
- Backup beepers, advising that staff have been asked to monitor alternatives used elsewhere and are currently working on options to deal with this issue, which include new technologies to replace the back-up beepers. The noise bylaw is going to be reviewed next year.
- Northern Junk site: the councilors have been asked to meet on the new plan, which seems to be an improvement on the previous plan, more meetings are expected to follow.
- Janion Plaza: follow up is being done to ensure completion; the issue has been five different departments are involved.
- Chase, the Police Dog: Charlayne was looking for support for a statue or water fountain to commemorate Chase, the Police Dog who died on duty, with the Janion Plaza being a proposed location.

The Board passed a motion to support the design and execution of a memorial in Janion Plaza to commemorate Chase the Police Dog, to encourage the City to

develop a dog park in the Downtown Harris Green Neighbourhood, and to complete the Janion Plaza as has been designed and approved.

City Liaison Report:

Mike Hill provided the April Update (see “Downtown April 2019 Update.pdf”).
Mike highlighted:

- the opportunity for a bike path walk with the City’s Transportation Department staff, with the possibility for other neighbourhood walks with other city departments, such as By-law and Parks.
- the results of the social media survey of the neighbourhood associations, which indicated a wide range of usage and needs, and an inquiry by Fernwood Neighbourhood Association about next steps.
- A Neighbourhood Summit is being planned to look at the quality of life across the city, to try to ensure equity in access to amenities. Re-aligning the neighbourhood boundaries may be a part of the summit.
- the next Great Neighbourhood Grant intake will be in September.
- the Centennial Square refresh is on “pause”.

Presentations

- 1) Liquor Licensing Process and CALUCs – Mike Hill made a presentation on the process and the City’s role in that process.

Issues raised by Board members included:

- a desire for greater clarity and transparency of the City’s real role and input into the approval process, that is, that while the Liquor Licensing Branch is the licensing authority, licenses are not typically issued if the local government does not support the application.
- Council’s ability to recommend conditions be imposed should be made clearer.
- the notification to potentially affected neighbours is often too limited; 100 meters is not enough in many cases.
- The form of the notice is not clear what it is about – “A Proposed Change to Liquor Licence” in large letters is recommended.
- The “real” owners and operators should be identified, especially if other locations are being operated so how they are being operated may be a consideration.

- Awareness that once issued, hours and other conditions are only expanded, never subsequently limited, so a staged approach may be better.
- Guidelines by neighbourhood associations would be helpful to inform council.

2) Council's Participatory Budgeting Process – Mike Hill advised that this year's focus is on Youth, with 2020 being New Comers, and 2021 being Place Making. Grants would be made to the most viable projects of those submitted for consideration within the focus area. Matt advised he participated in last year's review process and felt the review process was valuable. Discussion included the challenge to get a youth representative on the DRA Board.

Business Arising from Minutes

- 1) MGNG 2018 - tabled
- 2) Truth and Reconciliation: Dianne advised that she would be meeting with two DRA members to discuss developing some proposals for the Board's consideration. Grant funding of \$3750 confirmed. Paul undertook to inquire of other VCAN members for their contact emails for their Truth and Reconciliation efforts, for possible co-ordination and/or sharing of information.
- 3) DRA February 2019 Meeting Minutes. The minute taker resigned before the minutes were submitted. Paul is going to produce an abbreviated version of these minutes.
- 4) Paid Recording Secretary: Sandra offered to take Board meeting minutes in the future.

New Business

- 1) Communication/Membership Issues:
 - The Board passed a motion to set the annual fee for 2019 at a voluntary donation of \$10, payable in cash or by Paypal.
 - The setting of future fees and the review of the fee bylaws and any other related bylaws was referred to the Communications and Membership and Governance Committees for presentation to the Board for review and recommendations, by November, 2019.
 - Paul undertook to inquire of other VCAN members with respect to any their contacts for communication and membership, for sharing of information.

- The Committee chairs were authorized to order new DRA posters.
- 2) DRA External Communications Policy - referred to the Governance Committee and to be brought back to the Board.
 - 3) Backup Beeper Noise Issue – Wendy reported that residents who can fill out on-line forms for complaints with the Bylaw Services Department who can then investigate potential bylaw violations, or they can use the Connect Victoria mobile app – videos of the offender are a good way to prove the occurrence.
 - 4) North Park NA Proposal for Greater Integration. Concerns were raised about the existing workload of the DRA, especially the LUC, and whether there is any capacity to take on greater integration. A joint Board meeting with North Park, possibly in July, is to be proposed, to give some consideration to possible opportunities.

Questions on Standing Committee Reports

- 1) **Land Use Committee (LUC):** Ian advised as the outcome of the Bonus Density Bylaw, with the net result of a loss of community amenities. Refer to file: “2019_04 LUC Committee Updates for BM.doc”

External Meeting Reports – none presented

Meeting adjourned at: 8:00

Date of next Meeting: Next Board Meeting – May 14, 2019



April 2019 Update Downtown

In Your Neighbourhood

City Strategic Plan

On March 14, after a series of Council meetings, a community workshop and a public survey, Council approved their four year [Strategic Plan](#). Please look at this document, as it has many objectives and actions of significance to residents.

Grants

The Spring 2019 intake period for [Great Neighbourhood grants](#) is now open and will close on April 15. Last call to consider what you or your organization would like to do towards improving your neighbourhood!

Late Night Program Update

Staff will be presenting a report updating Council on the City's Late Night Program on April 18. The report will outline activities since the last report in 2016 and describe some of the current issues and proposed actions. A municipal alcohol policy will be undertaken this year with input from downtown residents.

Inclusionary Housing and Amenities

On April 4, Council received a [staff report](#) providing an update to Council on the Inclusionary Housing and Community Amenity Policy and to seek direction on implementation.

Parking

On April 4, Council received a [staff report](#) relating to parking services. Council resolved to:

- Direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw to authorize charging fees for metered on-street parking on Sundays,
- Direct staff to update the Parking Rates Policy to reflect monthly rate increases, and
- Direct staff to implement a four hour time limit on Sundays and rates in 90 minute zones to be at \$2 per hour and \$1 per hour in other areas.

Party on the Block this Summer!

Hosting a neighbourhood Block Party is a great way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon having fun and getting to know your neighbours. It's easy. Just...

1. Reach out to the residents of your block a few months before to see if they are in. This is a great way to create a "Block Party Team" and make sure that everyone is okay with closing the block for a few hours.
2. Think about the types of things you would like to do and take a look at the permit form. Don't worry – the permit is free. And we can help you with any concerns you have about the paperwork! victoria.ca/eventpermits
3. But wait, it gets even better! If this is your first Block Party, you can apply for a My Great [Neighbourhood Grant](#) of up to \$1,000 to help out with the festivities.

Have questions or need ideas? Feel free to reach out to us at neighbourhoods@victoria.ca.



April 2019 Update Downtown

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on April [4](#), [11](#), 18 and 25 at 9am. Council meets on April 11 and 25 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#). Note that the Minutes of Council meetings (which include Council's resolutions) are now being posted to the City's website.