

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2019

Location: The Dock, 300-722 Cormorant St., Victoria

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Paul Gandall (chair), Ruth Annis, Doug Boyd, Nicholas Harrington, Ian Sutherland, Sandra Severs, Suzanne Dubé

DRA Members: Wendy Bowkett

City Council Liaison: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill

Regrets: Matthew Yee, Dianne Flood

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Paul Gandall called the meeting to order and the agenda, as circulated, was approved with a conversation on signing authority added at the request of Doug Boyd.

Approval of the June 11, 2019 Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the June 11, 2019 minutes be approved.

Moved: Ian Sutherland

Seconded: Ruth Annis

CARRIED

Action: A decision about whether or not to include committee reports to the minutes posted on the website will be made in September.

Questions on Downtown Update:

Report attached to minutes.

Mike provided information about the planned 2019 Neighbourhood Summit and the relationship to the budget planning process.

Questions were raised about the decision-making process used in the moving of already existing public art from Bastion Square to Triangle Island and how funds from the Johnson Street bridge project, already earmarked for public art, will now be used.

Action: Ian will draft a letter on behalf of the DRA outlining the DRA's concerns

Councillor's Report:

Discussions are underway leading up to the 2020 Budget process. Agreement that where there are areas of significant development taking place in neighbourhoods, Council needs to include budget for community amenities.

The neighbourhood grant process is now complete with most applications approved.

Concerns by residents about the proposed plaza at Vancouver and Pandora have been received and are being taken into consideration.

Placemaking- A new public plaza is being constructed at Humboldt and Douglas Streets and a ping pong table is being included as part of the installation. Concern has been expressed by Humboldt Valley residents about the lack of consultation with local residents.

Noise issues – Residents of Mermaid Wharf have raised concerns about noise levels emanating from the outdoor patio at CANOE. Residents having concerns should send their letters to Mayor and Council.

Government Street pedestrian walk report – The DVBA are not supportive of proposed closures to Government Street arguing that the impact on businesses has not been fully assessed and that a transportation study is needed before such a decision is implemented.

Business Arising from Minutes

1) MGNG 2018

Action: Paul will consult with Dianne when she returns from holiday.

2) Truth and Reconciliation Grant

No report.

3) North Park NA Proposal for Greater Integration

Action: Suzanne will attend North Park Board meetings

New Business

1) Confirmation of the election of the Chair of the Community Development Committee (CDC)

The Board confirmed the election of Suzanne Dubé to the Board and to the position of chair of the Community Development Committee.

2) Banking

The Board will sort out signing authority after the next AGM.

Questions on Standing Committee Reports

1) Land Use Planning (LUC)

Report attached to the minutes.

Action: Ian will send details of the proposed Abstract project to Doug for inclusion in the newsletter.

Action: Doug will confirm that letters generated by the LUC on behalf of the DRA are posted to the website.

Action: Ian will draft a letter re. 1140 Cook Street for consideration by the Board

Action: Ian will provide Doug with information about the Starlight meeting for inclusion in the newsletter.

2) Urban Livability Committee (ULC)

Report attached to the minutes.

3) Urban Ecology/Urban Agriculture Committee (UEC)

Nicholas reported that the issues with Paypal appear to have been successfully resolved.

The increase in the City grant from \$6,000 to \$10,000 has raised concerns in the Yates Community Garden committee about whether the grant must be used for the payment of the Coordinator or whether the original terms of reference have been revised to give the committee greater spending flexibility.

Action: Mike and Nicholas will check whether the terms of reference on the City grant allow the Yates Community Garden committee to use the City grant for more than payment of the Garden Coordinator.

4) Communications/Membership Committee (CMC)

Action: Doug is working on a newsletter which will be sent out next week.

5) Community Development Committee (CDC)

Action: Suzanne is working on a workplan for the committee over the summer and will send out a doodle poll to invite people to work with her.

Action: Doug will make Dropbox available to Suzanne

6) Governance Committee (GC)

Dianne and Paul have met to review the External Communications policy.

Action: The draft communications policy will be presented to the Board in the Fall.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

1) Budget Committee (CBC)

Doug reported that the work is on hold until there is clarity about the City budget process.

External Meeting Reports

1) Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN)

Questions have been raised about the Binnars Project which is set to be introduced to Victoria.

Action: Sandra will provide information about the Binnars Project to Board members as requested.

2) 900 Block Pandora GNA -No report

Charlayne reported that camping continues to be an issue for the committee. Conversations about an inhalation space are under discussion.

3) Late Night Action Committee (LNAC)

The city has hired Responsible Hospitality Institute to consult with residents, organizations and businesses in the Downtown core. A report will go to Council early in September.

4) Downtown Service Providers (DSP)

Action: Sandra will represent the DRA on this committee.

Action: Paul will provide contact information and back minutes to Sandra.

Other Business:

Sandra reported on her attendance at the AGM of the Downtown Victoria Business Association.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Board meeting – September 10th, 2019



July 2019 Update

Downtown

In Your Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood Amenities

At Council's July 4 meeting, Council approved a [resolution](#) from Councillor Loveday for Council to consider, as part of the 2020 budget discussions, the allocation of some new assessed revenue for parks and greenspace acquisition and amenities in neighbourhoods where development is occurring.

Art at the Bridge

On June 28, Council approved a [staff report](#) recommending relocation of the Commerce Canoe art installation to the median on the east side of the Johnson Street bridge, and to approve the carving of a welcoming (totem) pole to replace the canoe in Bastion Square. Recommendations also include a proposal to allocate \$155,000 to create a new art piece for the bridge area constructed from parts of the old Johnson Street bridge.

Council also received a [staff update](#) on progress with landscape completion of the public lands surrounding the bridge.

Late Night Policy

Work has begun on a city alcohol policy. Following preliminary work in May, the consultant ([Responsible Hospitality Institute](#)), conducted a series of focus groups in June and are now beginning to consider options for the policy. Proposed policy directions will be presented to Council and the community for feedback in late summer with the project scheduled for completion before the end of 2019. You can find out more about the project on the City's Late Night Program [webpage](#).

Strategic Plan Update

Council will be discussing recommended changes to the City's Strategic Plan at their July 11 meeting. This includes a proposed Council workshop in 2020 to resolve the anomalies in neighbourhood boundaries.

Inclusionary Housing Policy

At their June 27 committee meeting, Council approved adoption of the Inclusionary Housing and Community Amenity Policy and set a threshold for a 20% inclusionary housing requirement where there are at least 60 units in a proposed development. Where inclusionary housing is not required, community amenity contributions will be made to the municipal reserves with 70% going toward affordable housing and 30% to other local amenities. Council also provided several conditions where these parameters would be modified.

Residential Speed Zones

On June 27, Council approved a [resolution](#) from Mayor Helps for a proposed UBCM resolution that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure be asked to consider an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act that would allow incorporated municipalities to institute blanket speed zones in residential areas. The report indicates that the current blanket speed limit is 50kmh, whereas a speed limit of 30kmh would be more conducive to public safety.



July 2019 Update Downtown

Rental Zoning

On July 4, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) presenting Council with a plan for applying residential rental tenure (RRT) zoning to existing multi-unit rental properties. The initiative seeks to improve the provision and retention of rental housing and overall housing choices within Victoria's challenging housing market. Recommendations are to apply residential rental tenure zoning using a phased approach and excluding secondary suites and garden suites. It is also suggested to undertake consultation with affected property owners on the plan and report their feedback to Council.

Summer Banners

Local Coast Salish artist Dylan Thomas has designed the City's summer banners this year. The series of four City designs depicts traditional stories about the Lekwungen People. "As a person with Lekwungen (Songhees) heritage, who was born and raised in Victoria, I feel a profound connection to this area in its modern, historical and pre-historical contexts, all of which I've tried to capture in my banner designs," said Dylan Thomas. "For these banners, I've symbolized some of the lesser-known aspects of this territory's history and mythology." They will be up on downtown lampposts until the end of October.

Cannabis Consumption Sites

Last September Council directed staff to examine the regulatory context for cannabis consumption sites, including review of other jurisdictions (e.g. Denver), and to report back on the advisability of initiating a pilot or introducing regulations for cannabis consumption sites. A [staff report](#) has found that there are no transferable options for initiating consumption sites in Victoria, due to senior government legislative constraints. Council voted to defer any actions pending developments with senior government.

Sexual Harassment Prevention

At their June 27 meeting, Council approved motions:

- That Council includes sexualized violence prevention in the mandate of the Municipal Liquor Policy and the Late Night Program.
- That Council direct staff to report back with implications of and options for mandating sexualized violence prevention training for bar and nightclub staff as part of either the liquor license or business license approval process.
- That Council request that liquor license applicants submit a sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention plan alongside their liquor license application.

Community Wellness Peer-Informed Task Force

On June 27, Council approved a resolution to direct the City Manager to partner with the University of Victoria to undertake a review of comparable jurisdictions' efforts to take meaningful action on a municipal mental wellness and addictions strategy, and that such a review delivers a roadmap for the City to base a local strategy.



July 2019 Update Downtown

Chuck's Burgers

Council approved a [staff report](#) supporting the application of Chuck's Burger Bar located at 538 Yates Street (100 seats) to have hours of operation from 9:00 am to 12:00 am Sunday through Thursday and 9:00 am to 1:00 am Friday and Saturday, with the hours of the patio being until 12 am 7 days a week.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on July [4](#), 11, 18 and 25 at 9am. Council meets on June 11 and 25 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#).