

# **DRA Board Meeting Minutes February 11, 2020**

**Location: Crystal Gardens, 713 Douglas Street**

**Time: 5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Paul Gandall (chair), Doug Boyd, Dale Dearing, Dianne Flood, Ruth Annis, Nicholas Harrington, Mathew Yee, Sandra Severs

**City Council Liaison:** Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

**City Staff:** Mike Hill

**Regrets:** Ian Sutherland

## **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

Paul Gandall called the meeting to order and the agenda, with the addition of a discussion on the AGM, was approved.

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

The Budget process continues with the final reading scheduled for March. Charlayne has been successful in arguing for increased public washrooms as well as an additional bylaw officer.

Given that the staffing request made by the NPNA/DRA /Hillside-Quadra neighbourhoods was not successful, the Board wondered if there was a way for the neighbourhood to utilize the resources of the 5FTE who are being hired/have been hired to work on the issue of Equity and Inclusion.

**Action: Charlayne will provide further information when the details of the work have been clarified.**

Duck Building is going to public hearing.

The DVBA is reporting an increase in crime on Lower Johnson Street. Police are responding with an increased presence in the area. The number of needles picked up and graffiti tags observed has increased as well. Criminal activity for theft from small business seems to be organized and is more aggressive than in the past. This also appears true for theft from residences in the downtown.

Great Neighbourhood Grants application process is opening up soon with the closing date for applications to be received being April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Questions on Downtown Update: Mike Hill**

Report attached to minutes.

Comments about the **Accessibility framework** are still welcome if offered soon.

**Crystal Pool** – Other properties have been identified as possible sites for the new pool.

Negotiations are currently underway so only limited information can be shared at this point.

### **Business arising from Minutes (Updates)**

1)The Local Champions training project is full.

**Action: Mike will check if there are people, among those who have signed up, who are residents of Downtown-Harris Green who could be approached to join the DRA.**

**Update: Mike will send to Dianne/Doug.**

2)Work is being done on the City of Victoria website with better links to neighbourhoods being planned.

**Action: The CEC will work with Mike to write a descriptive blurb about our neighbourhood.**

**Update: Blurb not yet completed.**

3)Discussion of the NPNA/DRA/Hillside Quadra proposed staffing budget request

The draft letter was revised with input from the DRA and sent to Council for consideration this Friday.

**Action: Paul will send a copy of the updated letter to Board members**

**Action: Dianne and Dale will attend Friday's Council meeting to respond, if needed, to questions.**

**Update: The updated letter sent to Council and Dale and Dianne attended the Council meeting on behalf of the DRA. The request for funding was not considered in this year's budget.**

4) **Action: Charlayne will approach the Director of Planning to set up a meeting.**

**Update: A meeting between the Director of Planning and Ian, Wendy, Charlayne and Andrea Hudson took place.**

5) Dale reported that drafts of the handbook and policies/procedures manual are underway.

**Action: Board members will review and send feedback.**

**Update: Dale will resend drafts of the handbook and policies/procedures manual for comment.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Report attached.

**Motion: That the Treasurer's Report, with the addition of a clarifying sentence about the disbursement of funds for the TRC event, be approved.**

**Moved:** Doug Boyd

**Seconded:** Dianne Flood

**CARRIED**

**Yates Street Community Garden** - There is a desire for more detail in the financial reporting of the Garden. This will be included in next year's report to the AGM.

### **AGM**

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6 p.m. Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities will speak about the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

**Action: Committee Chairs are asked to send a brief report to Doug by Wednesday, February**

**19<sup>th</sup> in inclusion in the meeting package which will be posted on-line.**

**Action: Doug will send out a reminder of this request.**

The Board reviewed the terms of office of the Board members. The Board will request the membership make an amendment to the bylaws of the organization in order to revise the terms of office for those holding Board Executive positions.

**Action: Paul will draft the amendment.**

#### **Questions on Standing Committee Reports**

**1) Land Use Committee (LUC)**

Report attached. No questions on report.

**Action: Charlayne will approach the Director to set up a meeting.**

**2) Urban Livability Committee (ULC)**

Report attached. No questions on report.

**3) Urban Ecology/Urban Agriculture Committee (UEC)**

Nicholas reported that the Yates Street Community Garden has submitted their application for the Coordinator grant from the City

The annual meeting of the Garden members will take place Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at Cook Street Village Activity Centre, 2-4 p.m.

**4) Communications/Membership Committee (CMC)**

Report attached. No questions on report.

**5) Community Engagement Committee (CEC)**

Dale reported that the committee has not been active in January so there is no report.

#### **External Meeting Reports**

**1) Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Paul**

There was some opposition voiced about the letter to Council submitted by the NPNA/DRA/Hillside Quadra requesting staff funding.

VCAN is re-examining the issue of insurance re. the coverage of neighbourhood association volunteers.

Next meeting of VCAN is March 15<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

**Action: Mike will check on work currently being done on this issue and will report back.**

**2) Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC)**

There is some indication from a walk-about that intoxication levels have increased in the entertainment district as a result of staff changes at City Hall. Further monitoring of business practices is being enforced to ensure compliance with bylaws.

A "good neighbour" policy has been drafted with CANOE which may serve as a model for other restaurants.

#### **New Business**

##### **Truth and Reconciliation Committee**

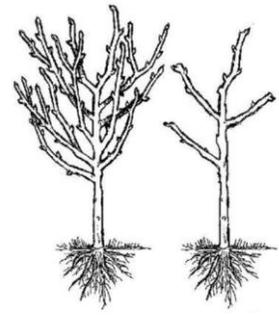
Dianne reported that the subgroup continues to work on signage for the Yates Street Community Garden. The group is connecting with the Indigenous program at Vic High to solicit input for the wording of a sign to be placed in the garden acknowledging the stewardship of the land by Lekwungen speaking people.

The Board agreed that a land acknowledgement should be added to the agenda of the AGM in light of the DRA's efforts toward reconciliation.

**Action: Mike/Charlayne will send Paul the wording currently used at City Hall functions.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**Next Board meeting – AGM on March 11, 2020, 6 p.m. City Hall**



## In Your Neighbourhood

### Crystal Pool

On January 9th, Council considered a [staff report](#) and opted to pursue the facility design already developed for the pool at either the current site or at 940 Caledonia (Royal Athletic Park parking lot). Staff were asked to consolidate descriptions of all sites contemplated to date for Council's consideration and this was presented to Council in a [report](#) at their February 6 meeting. Due to new site information, Council deferred their consideration of the matter until further information is prepared.

A community meeting is to be held once the sites have been evaluated and one has been selected. The results will then be reported to Council in order to confirm next steps to secure funding for the project

### Water Main Flushing

Water Main Flushing is intended to clean water distribution pipes of sediments that build up over time and improve water quality. This work will begin Monday, February 3 during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and occasional evenings to avoid impacting businesses and traffic flow. As a result of the flushing process, you may temporarily experience low water pressure and discoloured water during or after flushing. If you experience discoloured water, please run the cold water tap in your bathtub or laundry tub to avoid clogging screens in faucets.

### Municipal By-Election is Saturday, April 4

In April 2020 voters in the municipal by-election in Victoria will elect one Councillor. The nomination period is open from Tuesday February 18 – Friday February 28, 2020. Qualifications for office are available [here](#). More information for voters can be found on our [website](#).

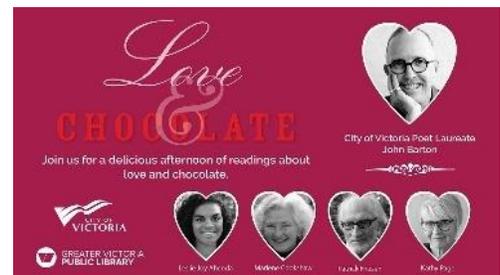


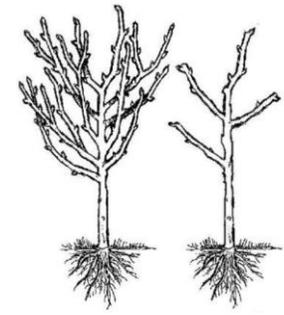
### Youth Poet Laureate

Neko Smart was formally appointed to her one-year term as [Youth Poet Laureate](#) on January 9, 2020 by Council. Neko is a graduate of Victoria High School and the founder and co-coach of the Victoria High Slam Poetry Team. She is Victoria's eighth Youth Poet Laureate.

### Love and Chocolate

Join Victoria's Poet Laureate John Barton and other local writers for a delicious afternoon of [readings about love and chocolate](#) at the Greater Victoria Public Library. February 15, 2 - 3:30 p.m. This is a free event, however, [registration](#) is required.





## Parks and Open Spaces Plan Achievements

At the January 30 meeting, Council received a staff report outlining progress on work relating to the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan. The report requests and exemption from the directive for naturalization of plantings for several sites including the northwest gateway corner of Topaz Park and planters along Government Street.

## Accessibility Framework

The City of Victoria is striving to make our community as inclusive as possible and is collecting important feedback from residents about accessibility in Victoria. The Accessibility Framework will outline a city-wide program to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities. You can watch a video-recorded presentation and look at documents [here](#). Comments can be submitted before end of day on February 9 via:

- Email – [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca)
- Phone – 250.361.0378
- In person at City Hall Engineering Department – 1 Centennial Square

## Equity Lens

Council was presented with a staff report outlining options for advancing an equity lens for the City at its January 16 committee meeting. The report provided options for resourcing the development of an equity framework based on Council feedback provided at their October workshop on the topic and community input. In order to make progress relatively quickly, Council Committee of the Whole supported staff recommendations to allot \$75K in contracted services and to establish positions for:

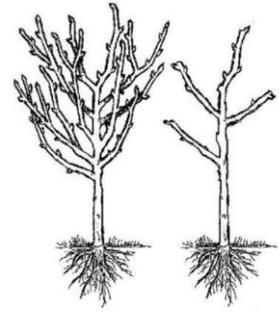
- Equity and Inclusion Coordinator - 1 FTE – \$107,900 (ongoing)
- Accessibility and Inclusion Recreation Role - 1 FTE – \$52,000 (ongoing)
- Accessibility Coordinator – 1 FTE – \$107,900 (ongoing)
- Social Planner – 1 FTE - \$125,111 (ongoing)
- That Council add another FTE to focus on Equity and Inclusion \$108,000

The recommendations are to be ratified at an upcoming Council meeting.

## Town Hall - Seniors Action Plan

In the fall of 2019, Victoria City Council formed a Seniors Task Force comprised of community-minded individuals ages 65 and over. The purpose of the Task Force is to inform the development of the City's Seniors Action Plan. The committee is focusing on the question: "How can the City of Victoria promote healthy seniors and positive aging?" They are guided by eight topic areas identified by the [World Health Organization](#).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outdoor Spaces and Buildings</li><li>• Transportation</li><li>• Housing</li><li>• Respect and Social Inclusion</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Participation</li><li>• Communication and Information</li><li>• Civic Participation and Employment</li><li>• Community Support and Health Services</li></ul> |
|--|---|



You can watch the recent Town Hall meeting and draft recommendations on the [City website](#). A report will be going to Council in coming months.

### Trees in Cities Challenge

Victoria is the first city in Canada to join the [Trees in Cities Challenge](#). As part of this global campaign, the City of Victoria will work with the community to plant 5,000 trees on public and private land by the end of 2020. Residents and groups can join in the *Trees in Cities Challenge* in four easy steps: pledge to plant, learn about tree health, plant and record your trees and become a tree champion. You could plant a tree in your yard, volunteer at a neighbourhood tree planting day and/or attending free, monthly tree-care workshop offered by the City.

[Register](#) for the following upcoming free workshops:

- *For the Love of Trees – Walking Tour and Tree Planting*, in Centennial Square on Saturday, February 8 from 10am - noon
- *Tree Care and Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop in Fernwood Orchard* on Saturday, February 22 from 10am -1pm.

### City Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on February [6](#), 13, 20 and 27th at 9:00am. Council meets on February 13 and 27 beginning at 6:30pm.

You can also find out more about Council meetings by:

- Watching recordings of the meetings [here](#)
- Tuning into [bi-weekly videos](#) for what's coming up for discussion at City Council
- Reviewing the decisions made at Council on our [Council Highlights](#) page
- Finding out how Councillors voted on the City [Council Meeting Dashboard](#)

## **2020 FEB DRA Board Meeting Land Use Committee**

Note: Letters submitted to the City can be found on the DRA website.

### **LUC: Current**

1. Duck Block – UVic Properties/Chard – Rezoning, Development Permit and Heritage Alteration for 6-storey 139-unit hotel with ground floor commercial with FSR 4.0 (changed from 4.39). Applicant submitted new, bubbled plans that were posted to Development Tracker 5 Nov 2019. Note: Staff has relieved the applicant of the requirement for an OCP amendment for this application. New CALUC letter submitted 4 Feb. On 6 Feb, Acting Chair of Heritage Advisory Panel addressed Council at CotW and answered questions re heritage aspects and committee review process. Status: CotW voted to send this project to Public Hearing.
2. DRA LUC-initiated audit of CoV Community Amenity Fund: itemized list of monies collected and spent since the start of the fund, identifying the dates and related projects, in addition to proposed future expenses with amounts and identifying the related project. On 6 Feb, we asked Charlayne if she can provide the information and if not who we need to contact.
3. 1820 Government St – January Gin Joint & Eatery – New Application for a Food Primary Licence with a Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement having hours of business from 9:00 am to 12:00 am Sunday to Wednesday and 9:00 am to 1:00 am Thursday to Saturday with an occupant load of 67 people. Letter sent 4 Feb. No support for application as proposed.
4. LUC Liquor Policy completed based on long-standing LUC practices and approaches regarding Late Night Food Primary and Liquor Primary applications in our district. This work assists in clarifying and communicating DRA LUC priorities and concerns with the community, applicants and the City. Status: Finalized 4 Feb. Submitted to Mayor, Councilors, City staff, DRA website and promoted through DRA Social Media (SM).
5. 1700 Blanshard (Hudson Place Two) – Townline – Development Permit w Variance for a 23-storey 245-unit rental building w 6-storey podium w ground floor commercial. Variance for building massing setback at the upper storeys Blanshard and Fisgard Street and surface parking. Proposed FSR 7.47. Revised plans submitted 7 Nov 2019. Members of LUC met with Townline on Tues 4 Feb to discuss changes. Status: Committee of the Whole 23 Jan 2020. Letter to be sent.
6. 937 View St – Nelson Investments w de Hoog & Kierulf – Development Permit with Variance to build a 15-storey 253 rental units with parking for 15 vehicles and 172 bikes on R48 land and located in Fort St Heritage Corridor using pre-fabricated components. Proposed FSR 7.27. Applicant is not proposing to rezone away from R-48 zone. The applicant has submitted new plans. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans as of 13 Jan 2020. Letter sent 2 Feb 2020.
7. Blanshard Block/Montrose Winter Garden Hotel – David Fullbrook with D'Ambrosio – Site Specific Zone and OCP amendment for Core Business area density. Met with representatives who plan to develop NW corner of Blanshard and Fort. Project proposes unique tower design for modern low-staff hotel catering to tech industry/millennials. Density requested 6.16: 1 from 3.0:1 and requested height of 65.5 m from 43.0m. The

remainder of the block, The Montrose Building, will be designated heritage and maintained with residential and small CRUs (which are being renovated as vacancies arise). CALUC meeting held on Wed 29 Jan at 6:30 pm at the Christ Church Cathedral Chapter Room. City planner Miko Betanzo attended on behalf of the City. CALUC letter to be written and sent.

8. Meeting with new Director of Planning, Karen Hoese on Mon 27 Jan. In attendance: Andrea Hudson, Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Ian Sutherland and Wendy Bowkett. Discussed the following topics: upholding OCP and DCAP, loopholes and gaps that need to be addressed (inadequate tower separations and setbacks, etc), lack of amenities, heritage preservation, objectivity of staff reports, process failures/meeting fatigue with CALUC process. Karen proposed a community walking tour with LUC to discuss built examples, etc. and the committee will follow up with her in Spring 2020.
9. 1124 Vancouver – J. Gordon Enterprises – Second CALUC held 6 Nov 2019. Changes from previous iteration: increased density (3.39 FSR), 18 more rental units, bigger variance for parking. After two CALUC meetings, the DRA LUC will postpone any additional CALUC meetings for this project until after the applicant takes the proposal to the Advisory Design Panel meeting and revised plans are submitted to the City for consideration. Status: Application Review by City completed 2 Dec 2019 and now With Applicant. Two CALUC letters sent 23 Jan.
10. Executive House Hotel – On 23 Jan, LUC members met with Bert Hick from Rising Tide Consultants to discuss a Liquor Primary Application to redesign/redevelop space that is currently associated with another Liquor Primary under different operations. No added capacity (anticipated at this time), no change in hours, no outdoor seating involved.
11. 45 Bastion Square, Wind Cries Mary – Cottage Hospitality – Application for permanent change to a food primary license to adjust hours from 9:00 am to 12:00 am daily to 9:00 am to 2:00 am daily with no change to the existing occupant load. Letter sent 14 Jan.
12. List of Community Amenities needed for Downtown Harris Green. Results from 2014 Town Hall Meeting were substantiated by comments on SM in 2020 outreach. Many other challenges and issues were identified that are not related to amenities but have been noted. Will continue to collect and compile.
13. Conflict between OCP project to expand Government St Pedestrian Mall to Chatham vs bike lane project planned for Government St. A letter will be drafted and submitted to the City to respond to issue.
14. 900-block Yates (Market On Yates & Harris Green Village) between Quadra to Vancouver and Yates to View, as well as the eastern half of the 1000-block Yates (mid-block to Cook) - Starlight Investments. CALUC meeting took place on 3 Dec 2019 at Ambrosia Centre on Fisgard. Starlight has 4.9 acres over two sites. The project includes R-48 zoned property. Early plans and concepts are for between 1200 and 1500 rental residential units in five towers ranging in height from 15 to 25 storeys, 100,000 sqft of commercial space, and a 0.5 acre public area which may be partially green space and the rest hard surface over two levels. Starlight proposes that this will be a multi-phase and multi-year project, which will allow existing anchor tenants to remain in the complex. There were a broad range of concerns and comments from the community. This meeting was the longest CALUC to date (just over 2.5 hrs) but the plans brought to the public are still in their early stages and we anticipate that with further refinement and revisions, another

CALUC/public meeting will be required for this project. Status: Application Review by City since 30 Jan. CALUC letter to be sent.

15. 506 Herald (Herald St Brew Works) – Mike and Lee Spence – Development Permit with Variance: Applicant seeking a permit to construct a rooftop patio with an occupancy of 99 additional liquor primary seats; bringing total occupancy to 275 from the previously approved 178. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans since 30 Jan 2020. New letter to be sent if application proceeds.

#### **LUC: Ongoing and Active**

1. From CoV 2020 Strategic Plan: initiatives relevant to the DRA LUC
  - Objective: Good Governance and Civic Engagement:
    - #14 - Hold public hearing-only Council meetings.
  - Objective: Affordable Housing:
    - #11b - Incentivize and mandate the creation of family-appropriate two and three bedroom rental units (2019).
  - Objective: Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods:
    - #7 - Review the Noise Bylaw.
    - #10 - Resolve anomalies in neighbourhood boundaries.
    - #13 Create a “people-priority” Govt St with a complete transformation of the street between Humboldt and Yates to be completed by end of 2022. *(DRA Note: Bike lane project on Govt vs extension of pedestrian mall as outlined in OCP)*
2. 1150 Cook St (Pluto’s) – Dan Robbins & Fraser McColl – Development Permit with Variance. Dominant response was that it’s an attractive project but at 15 storeys, it’s over the 10-storey height limit that defines the density for the R-48 zone and the proposed density (8.98 FSR) is significantly above the OCP Maximums. Pluto’s has had lease extended to Mar 2021. Status: Application with Applicant since 26 Nov 2019. Letter to be sent.
3. 1620 Blanshard (Gateway Green) – Tri-Eagle & Jawl Residential – Temporary Use Permit to demolish the two-storey commercial building and provide 62 surface parking spaces. Letter submitted 10 Oct 2019. Status: Report Preparation by Planner since 14 Nov 2019.
4. Northern Junk – Reliance Properties – Rezoning for the redevelopment of existing heritage buildings and a residential with ground floor commercial, mixed use addition, concurrent Heritage Alteration with FSR 3.39. CALUC Letter submitted 10 Sept 2019. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans since 22 Oct 2019.
5. 1010 Fort St – Abstract Developments – Rezoning for the development of a 12-storey building with ground floor commercial and 55 residential above with 7 vehicle parking and 97 bike parking spots. Proposed FSR 5.37. Setbacks do not comply with DCAP. Letter sent 1 Oct 2019. Revised plans filed 9 Oct 2019. Advisory Design Panel reviewed application on 23 Oct 2019. Status: With Applicant since 23 Oct 2019. Next step: Committee of the Whole.

## **Urban Livability Committee Report – February 2020**

### **900 Block of Pandora Good Neighbour Committee**

- continued need for additional shelter space, washrooms, safe inhalation site, mental health and addictions treatment
- system over-capacity and stressed
- neighbourhood housed residents continue to express concern about the number of needles collected
- representative from SOLID – pushback from North Park residents about their presence near Logan’s Pub

### **Downtown Service Providers Committee**

- AVI – early discussions with SOLID about a safe inhalation site

**-Community Wellness Alliance Group** formed by the Mayor to address concerns about issues related to the 900 Block of Pandora

- At the January Community Wellness Alliance, the group’s Terms of Reference and Key Performance Indicators were finalized and endorsed, and the draft workplan was discussed. It was agreed that the workplan will be informed, in part, by the system barriers experienced by the individuals who are experiencing the most significant social and health challenges on Pandora and that the workplan will be finalized at the next meeting. A smaller, inter-agency group will reach out to the leads of the cross-sector teams in the downtown core who have also identified priority populations. Collectively, they will determine overlap in the populations and identify the actions that will result in the greatest positive impact in the next 18 months for the individuals, residents and business community on the 900 block of Pandora. These actions will form the basis of the workplan for the Alliance.

**-Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT)** is an alliance of unions, congregations, environmental, education and frontline service organizations representing 28 member organizations.

Action Campaign recommendations on housing and mental health and addictions care will be discussed March 5th, BCGEU Building (2994 Douglas), 7-9 pm: GVAT Strategy Hub Meeting

Founding Assembly – April 27<sup>th</sup>, Monday, April 27th, First Metropolitan United Church, 6:30-9:00 pm

**Community organizer Chet Phillips would like to meet with the Board of the DRA**

### **Other work –**

**NPNA –** Had coffee with Sarah Murphy, community engagement staff for North Park to talk about the work of that neighbourhood association

**Coalition to End Homelessness–** Have met with Janine Theobald,

Community Engagement Coordinator, to discuss preliminary plans for the non-violent crisis intervention workshop

**January 30<sup>th</sup> event at City Hall to respond to fears in the business community about social disorder** -Attended this event to hear concerns of the business community – Councillor Potts has gathered names of individuals who are interested in more information about the workshop

## **Communications and Membership Committee Report – February 2020**

Update on Committee activities:

- **Newsletter:**
  - The January newsletter was issued. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by only 36.5% of addressees, down from our average of 42.5% - not sure why.
  
- **AGM:**

The 2020 AGM is booked for March 11 at the City Hall Antechamber. Similar to last year we will have some light snacks, coffee and tea. We have considered 3 possible guest speakers:

  - New MP Laurel Collins - this will not work since Parliament is sitting in March
  - New Director of Planning. Mike advised that it is too soon as she is in process of moving and becoming oriented to her new position
  - Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, Thomas Soulliere, to discuss the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. He has confirmed that he will be able to attend.

We may need the input of the Board to suggest a suitable speaker. If so, we can brainstorm at the Board meeting.

This is the status of the terms of current Board members:

- \* Expiring at the 2020 AGM - Doug, Ian, Nicholas, Paul, Dale (who filled vacancy re Megan)
- \* Expiring at the 2021 AGM - Dianne, Ruth, Sandra (who filled vacancy re Breanna, initially filled by Marv)
- \* Expiring at the 2022 AGM - Mathew

All of those whose terms are expiring at this AGM, that were present at the Board meeting, confirmed that they intend to stand for re-election.

- **Social Media:**

Renée has advised that she will not be available to the DRA until at least April due to personal commitments. Wendy continues to do a great job with posting land-use related items.
  
- **Spam!**

We have been receiving strange membership registrations - indicating they are residents, but with addresses in Germany or Austria. We caution any Board member who receives any suspicious email sent to their DRA email address to promptly delete it and not reply to it or click on any link in the message.