

VICTORIA DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Victoria City Hall
March 19, 2019
6:00 p.m.

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

DRA members present: Mathew Yee, Chris Travis, Janet Strauss, Dennis Guevin, Pam Madoff, Kim Cameron

Guests: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe City (Council Liaison), Mike Hill (City Staff), David Maxwell (Fernwood LUC), Christine Glead (YMCA), Alan Rycroft (Cool-Aid)

Guest Speaker: Jeff Bray, Executive Director, Victoria Downtown Business Association

Paul Gandall thanked everyone for attending and gave a brief introduction to the guest speaker.

Presentation by Jeff Bray: "Downtown Victoria: An Evolving Neighbourhood"
Jeff Bray made an interesting presentation, highlighting the resurgence of people who want to live downtown and the various reasons why, including its diversity and energy. He referred to the high number of locally-owned, independent downtown businesses and the impact of the continuing growth and the low unemployment rates on those. He was excited to tell about the number of positive national and international media reports on downtown Victoria and the high number of DBA website hits, both of which showed a strong interest in the Downtown.

Jeff described the DBA's Marketing, Culture and Events, and Clean Team programs and the positive impacts these programs are having on the Downtown. Among the DBA's activities in 2018 highlighted were YYJ Carfree Day, the Capital City Comic Con, Downtown Buskers, and the Pumpkin Pursuit. And Jeff welcomed the DRA's members to participate in the DBA's exciting new social media project: "*Your Place to Be*" Storytelling Project.

Jeff entertained a number of questions from the floor about past DBA projects and its future plans. Paul thanked Jeff for his presentation and willingness to work collaboratively with the DRA.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum – Paul Gandall
2. Approval of Agenda – Moved: Doug Boyd, Seconded: Dianne Flood to approve the agenda as presented. As there were no objections, the agenda was approved as presented.
3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM – Moved: Wendy Bowkett, Seconded: Dianne Flood to approve the Minutes as circulated. As there were no objections, the Minutes were approved as circulated.
4. Report from the Chair – Paul Gandall gave a brief overview of the DRA’s work in 2018.
5. Report from the Treasurer - Doug Boyd presented the Treasurer’s Report of the 2018 Financial Statements and proposed budget for 2019. Moved by Dianne Flood, seconded by Ian Sutherland, to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Questions were invited from the floor. No questions being asked, was approved as presented.
6. Committee Reports: These were all posted on the DRA website for review by the membership prior to the Meeting. The Committee chairs were presented and questions of the committee chairs were invited from the floor. No questions being asked, moved by Wendy Bowkett, seconded by Dianne Flood, the Committee Reports were approved as presented.
7. Nominations for Board members:

Nominations for new Board members: Mathew Yee indicated he was prepared to stand for election as a Board member.

No other members were prepared to put their names forward.

Nicholas Harrington moved that the membership accept the nomination of Mathew Yee, seconded by Doug Boyd. As there was much support and no objections, the nomination of Mathew Yee was approved.

Election:

Wendy Bowkett moved that Mathew Yee be elected to serve a three year term, expiring in 2022, on the Board of Directors of the Victoria Downtown Residents’ Association. Ian Sutherland seconded. As there was much support and no objections, the election of Mathew Yee to the Board of Directors was approved.

Retiring Board Members: Both Wendy Bowkett and Robert Florida's terms on the Board expired. They both indicated that while they wished to remain active members, they each declined to have their name stand for a further term on the Board. On behalf of the Board, Paul thanked them both for their hard work and dedication.

8. Other business and questions from the Floor: None
9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.