

**DRA Board Meeting Minutes March 19,
2019 Victoria City Hall
7:30 p.m.**

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

Regrets: Ruth Annis, Doug Boyd

City Council Liaison: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill

Approval of Agenda:

This being the first meeting of the new Board after the AGM, no agenda had been prepared or presented.

Approval of February 19, 2019 Board Minutes:

Deferred to the April, 2019 Board meeting.

Resignation of Out-going 2018 Executive:

As required by the DRA by-laws, the out-going 2018 Executive resigned. For the purposes of the election of the new 2019 Executive, Paul continued as chair.

Election of New 2019 Executive:

The following new 2019 Executive was elected:

- President: Paul Gandall
- Vice President: Nicholas Harrington
- Treasurer: Doug Boyd
- Secretary: Vacant

The option of hiring someone to take meeting minutes was discussed but no conclusion was reached.

Appointment of Committee Chairs and External Liaisons:

The following Committee Chairs were appointed:

- Land Use: Ian Sutherland
- Urban Ecology: Nicholas Harrington
- Urban Livability: Paul Gandall
- Governance: Dianne Flood
- Communications/Membership: Doug Boyd/Dianne Flood
- Community Development: Vacant

Responsibility for the Yates Street Garden was transferred to the Urban Ecology Committee.

The following Liaisons to External Entities were appointed:

- VCAN: Paul Gandall, Ian Sutherland
- 900 Pandora Block: Dianne Flood
- LNAC: Paul Gandall, Ian Sutherland

Date of Board Meetings:

The Board agreed that the monthly Board meetings would be held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall.

Councillor Liasion Report

Councillor Thornton-Joe reviewed developments on the Police budget, which was postponed again for decision, with the Police Chief being asked to re-visit various items.

She reported that the Herald Street Brewery and Lounge application was expanded to 178 occupants and a 2:00 a.m. closing. She was concerned about noise concerns in the neighbourhood with all the anticipated new residents. Committee of the Whole had approved it but Council postponed it. In response to concerns about the City staff input into the approval process, Mike Hill offered to make a presentation at the next Board meeting on the process.

Councillor Thornton-Joe reported from the 900 Pandora Block that the Our Place storage bins were a success. A problem with enforcement of persons sleeping in various places is that if not in a tent, then it's hard to require them to move on. The large Sequoia at Centennial Square is being fenced off, to prevent people sleeping under it.

Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

Date of next Board meeting: April 9, 2019.



March 2019 Update

Downtown

In Your Neighbourhood

Bicycle Master Plan Implementation

On February 21, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) providing an overview of the Bicycle Master Plan Program and presenting options to increase the probability of completing the remaining All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network by the end of 2022. It is believed that completion of the network would otherwise take until 2023 or 2024. Council approved streamlined project processes and activities to be achieved through a condensed engagement process, bundled procurement, and reduced design timelines. Additional temporary staff positions were also approved.

Invitations to provide input have been sent out to affected neighbourhoods, including **Downtown Residents Association** with regards to the Vancouver Street project (protected bike lanes from Pandora Avenue to Meares Street)

- Open House & Design Workshops: **Saturday April 6, 2019** between 10am – 1pm at Victoria City Hall
- On-street information stations: **Sunday April 7, 2019** (3 locations; see attached)
- Open House & Design Workshops: **Monday April 8, 2019** between 11am – 1pm and again from 3pm – 5pm at Victoria City Hall

During the month of April, City staff are also able to discuss design concepts at one of your scheduled upcoming meetings or on a walking tour with your members. If you would like to schedule either of these, or have further questions, please contact Alannah Rodgers at arodgers@victoria.ca. Find more information on the City's [website](#).

Cherry Blossoms Special

Council has formally recognized the historic importance and symbolic significance of [cherry blossom trees](#). Staff has been directed to include the historic importance and symbolic significance of cherry blossom trees when considering what trees to plant and to report back with options for maintaining an ongoing presence of cherry trees as part of a regular update on the implementation of the City's Urban Forest Master Plan.

Grants

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

Policing

Council considered the [latest amendments](#) to the police budget on March 21 and referred the motion below to their April 4 Committee of the Whole meeting:

That Council requests that VicPD examine the following measures, as part of 2020 budget process, in order to fund the Employer Health Tax and the decision of the Director of Police Services to mandate the hiring of 6 new officers:

- Consolidation of exempt management positions.
- Discussions with City of Victoria and Township of Esquimalt staff to identify potential efficiencies and cost savings to VicPD through the potential transfer of delivery of some functions from VicPD civilian employees to direct City of Victoria delivery of services, with cost recovery from the Township of Esquimalt

Regional Police Department

On March 21, Council also resolved to submit to the province that the Province of British Columbia establish a Regional Police Department for the Capital Region, governed by a reconstituted Police Board, with funding allocated according to established funding formula among CRD member local governments.

Liquor Licences

Refuge Tap Room

In response to a [staff report](#) regarding a request for changes in hours for Refuge Tap Room (832 Fort Street), Council approved staff recommendations for hours from 11:00 am to 12:00 am Sunday through Thursdays and 11:00 am to 1:00 am Fridays and Saturdays, as well as an occupancy increase from 24 to 66 persons. Outdoor patio areas are to have hours not later than 10:00 pm on any day.

Herald Street Brew Works

Council also approved a [staff report](#) recommending approval of a lounge endorsement for a brewery (i.e. pub) for Herald Street Brew Works (506 Herald Street), however, with modifications to the closing time from a requested closing time of 2am daily to 12am Sunday to Thursdays and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. Council also resolved that staff communicate to the owners of the establishment that they take into consideration the neighbours as they plan for their live music events on an occasional basis.

Neighbourhood Summit

Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jocelyn Jenkyns attended a Victoria Community Association Network meeting on March 20, where ideas for a Neighbourhood Summit were discussed. To *“facilitate an annual Neighbourhoods Summit to consider emerging best practices in neighbourhood placemaking, planning and engagement”* is a 2019 action in the new [Strategic Plan](#). Mayor Helps indicated that her new Chief of Strategic Operations would be leading the initiative. VCAN attendees endorsed establishing a working group to continue to develop ideas for the Summit with the City.

Citizens Assembly

Councillor Isitt, Councillor Young and Councillor Loveday are members of the [Citizen’s Assembly Council Committee](#). The Committee has been working with Victoria Council and with the joint (Saanich) council committee to develop terms of reference for a Citizens Assembly and related processes such as a technical assessment. The



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Committee is a recommending body to Council and has no decision-making authority. A [draft terms of reference](#) has been presented to Council and will be discussed at their April 4 meeting.

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.