

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2019

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

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present: Paul Gandall (chair), Ruth Annis, Suzanne Dubé, Dianne Flood, Ian Sutherland, Sandra Severs

City Council Liaison: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill

Guests: Allison Boston

Regrets: Doug Boyd, Nicholas Harrington, Mathew Yee, Renée Layberry (DRA member)

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Paul Gandall called the meeting to order and the agenda, as circulated, was approved with the addition of a presentation by Allison Boston under New Business.

Questions on Downtown Update: Mike Hill

Report attached to minutes.

October 15th is the deadline for the next **Great Neighbourhood grant** cycle. Dianne requested that if any of the grant applications were focused on the Downtown/Harris Green area, the DRA be notified so that the Communications/Membership Committee (CMC) might be able to make contact with grant recipients and discuss opportunities for engagement.

The Downtown Alcohol /Hospitality Policy will be reviewed by senior staff and the consultants before going forward for further workshopping. Senior staff want to make sure that the proposal is well crafted before it goes before Council.

Councillor's Report: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Tree preservation policy – Ruth asked what was planned in light of Mayor Helps commitment in New York to plant 5,000 trees. She stressed the need for Council and staff to work on creating more green space in the Downtown and especially on Douglas Street.

Action: The Urban Livability Committee (ULC) will include the issue of urban greening in its work plan and provide input to the City for consideration in the 2020 budget discussions.

Action: Charlayne will report back to the DRA on the follow up to Councillor Loveday's motion on community amenities.

A liquor license has been approved for **The Union Club**. The hours of operation have been reduced for **The Leopold** proposal but there are still concerns being expressed. Letters from the DRA and neighbours would be helpful in the decision-making process.

The Heritage Advisory Committee has been involved in review of the proposal for the property at Yates and Government when Fields Shoe Store used to be. The future of the Wellburn building is also being reviewed by the Heritage Advisory Committee.

On October 17th the Committee of the Whole will be discussing the **equity lens** being used for projects like the redevelopment of Crystal Pool.

A meeting has been called by Island Health and BC Housing for October 22nd to discuss issues related to **Pandora and Johnson Streets**. Charlayne and Sandra will attend.

Graffiti- DRA members are encouraged to use the “Connect Victoria” app to report incidents of graffiti.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Fortune-telling Booth- A working group has been struck and will be meeting October 9th with membership from Fan Tan Alley merchants, Chinatown non-profits and others interested in the project. The group will consider putting in an application for the Great Neighbourhood Grant to move the project forward.

The Village Restaurant- The event is being positioned as a volunteer appreciation event for board and committee volunteers.

Action: Charlayne will work with Suzanne to book a time.

Vancouver Street Bike Lane concern -Paul has communicated with the letter-writer.

Mailbox -Doug was not present at the Board meeting.

Action: The discussion is deferred to November.

Urban Ecology/Urban Agriculture Committee (UEC) – Nicholas was not present at the Board meeting.

Action: The discussion is deferred to November.

Communications/Membership Committee (CMC) -Doug was not present at the Board meeting.

Action: The discussion is deferred to November.

Governance Committee (GC)

Action: Ruth and Dianne will meet to review the Communications Policy for presentation to the November Board meeting.

New Business

Presentation- Allison Boston presented her idea for a Great Neighbourhood grant which involved used Augusto Boal’s “Theatre of the Oppressed” methodology to engage renters, landlords and strata councils in a discussion about the challenges faced by renters in Victoria. The board provided feedback to Allison.

Action: The Board will provide space in the newsletter and exposure through the DRA’s social media’s feed to advertise the proposed workshops if Allison is successful in her grant proposal.

Action: Paul will circulate the proposal by email for Board members to provide additional feedback to Allison.

Motion: To appoint Sandra Severs as Chair of the Urban Livability Committee (ULC)

Moved: Paul Gandall

Seconded: Dianne Flood

CARRIED

Charlayne agreed to join the Urban Livability Committee.

Questions on Standing Committee Reports

1) Land Use Planning (LUC)

Report and letters are attached to the minutes.

Three applications are coming forward – Northern Junk, Duck and the Firehall. There is concern in the Land Use Planning Committee that the agreed upon requirements of the OCP are not being respected and that there will be a “canyonizing” impact on neighbourhoods like Harris Green as massive towers are built without sufficient attention to the effects on the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

Action: Ian will create a summary document comparing OCP requirements in Vancouver and Victoria for circulation to the Board. A copy will be sent to Charlayne.

Action: Ian will send a copy of Vancouver’s OCP to Charlayne and Paul.

2) Urban Livability Committee (ULC)

Report attached to the minutes.

Sandra outlined a grant proposal being prepared for the Great Neighbourhood Grant cycle. The grant would focus on decreasing fear and building capacity for residents and business owners to engage respectfully with folk who are street entrenched.

Action: Sandra will circulate the grant proposal for board approval.

3) Urban Ecology/Urban Agriculture Committee (UEC)

No report was presented.

4) Communications/Membership Committee (CMC)

Action: Doug will update the address of the Board meetings on the website.

Action: Mike and Paul will check with The Dock to see if members of the DRA can have swipe cards for access to The Dock.

Action: Sandra will create a list of Board member cell phone numbers.

Action: Sandra will add a discussion about meeting space to the next Board agenda.

In a discussion about the planning of the AGM, the Board discussed possible speakers for the event. Ruth suggested that the AGM be used as an opportunity to discuss the greening of downtown core. The city needs someone to “cast the dream.” The AGM is tentatively scheduled for the end of February.

Action: Board members will think about possible names for speakers and contact Dianne if they have ideas.

Truth and Reconciliation Committee -The afternoon of November 17th has been confirmed for the showing of two films at the Vic Theatre.

Action: Board members are asked to advertise the event and offer their volunteer time to Dianne in support.

5)Community Development Committee (CDC)

Report attached to the minutes.

Suzanne has met with Volunteer Victoria and has contracted with them to design an event for volunteer training.

Money which was going to be spend on banners is now going to be used to update the website and create a landing page to support the Community Development Committee. Suzanne will be phoning people on the membership list to assess willingness for engagement with the work of the DRA.

External Meeting Reports

1) Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Ian/Paul/Suzanne

A successor for Paul in the role of vice-president has been named.

2) 900 Block Pandora GNA/Downtown Service Providers (DSP)

Sandra had a tour of The Harbour, Victoria's Safe Consumption Site on Pandora Street.

3) Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC)

The Women's Walking Tour occurred at the end of the September. Among the key learnings was that women pay attention to spaces that are poorly lit and/or have a low density of people on them. Washroom locations and sight lines are also sources of concern. The Board discussed whether or not it would be helpful for the city to create a space audit for bars and restaurants in the "hospitality district" as a way of indicating an ongoing concern for the safety of those who identify as women. It was noted that parking lots are also a source of concern. Ruth pointed out that security fears are also present in older people of all genders.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Board meeting – November 12, 2019

Email approval of the minutes of the Board meeting sent on September 16, 2019.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting as circulated by email.

Moved: Doug Boyd

Seconded: Sandra Severs

CARRIED



In Your Neighbourhood

Great Neighbourhood Grants – Last Call!

The autumn application intake for neighbourhood grants will close on **October 15, 2019**. There is still time to prepare an application for a project – even if it's a smaller project that can be easily accomplished (e.g. poetry reading on a street corner!) Find more information [on line](#) or contact Neighbourhood staff at neighbourhoods@victoria.ca to discuss.

Artwork Relocation

On October the “Commerce Canoe” art piece in Bastion Square will be removed in preparation for installation at its new location on the large median on the east approach to the Johnson Street bridge. Initial preparation will begin on October 7 and there will be some minor impacts to accessibility within the square. The Commerce Canoe was created by Illarion Gallant in 2008 with funding from proceeds of the Bastion Square Public Market. The Bastion Square Revitalization Association will be funding the carving and installation of a totem pole over the summer of 2020 as a centerpiece for the square. For more info, contact the City's Business Ambassador at 250-361-0629

Local Area Planning – Lessons Learned

On October 3, Council received a [staff report](#) discussing lessons learned through recent local area plan experiences. These include observations relating to the plans' relationships with City-wide objectives, public engagement, process and timelines.

Tree Preservation Bylaw Update

Council recently reviewed a [staff report](#) and approved amendments to the Tree Preservation Bylaw. Amendments include providing an opportunity for public comment as part of the review process, as well as other minor refinements to the bylaw.

Horse Drawn Carriages

On [September 12](#), Council received a presentation from the SPCA regarding horse drawn carriages. That Council receive the presentation from the SPCA for information. At their following Council meeting, Council requested that the BC SPCA provide them with advice on the following possible amendments to regulations respecting horse-drawn carriage operations:

Specifying that use of the municipal rights of way and parking stands for commercial horse-drawn carriage operations be limited to:

1. Vehicles pulled by one horse;
2. A geographic area bounded by Humboldt Street to the north, Cook Street to the east, Dallas Road to the south, and Victoria Harbour to the west.



3. Working conditions limited to an air temperature not exceeding 28 degrees Celsius measured in the City of Victoria and good air quality consistent with Vancouver Island Health Authority advisories.

Community Votes for Five Projects

Nearly \$55,000 is being awarded to five community-led youth projects in the City of Victoria's 2019 Participatory Budgeting program. A total of 16 projects focused on this year's theme – youth - went out for public voting and nearly 5,000 residents cast their ballots.

The recipients were:

- **What We Need: Prevention of Youth Homelessness** – \$27,520
This program will equip at-risk youth with resources to find housing, employment and stability through fostering independence, belonging and empowerment
- **Pollinator Partnership Canada** – \$18,000
This program will empower youth to take the lead in pollinator conservation in Victoria
- **Unquiet Minds II** – \$6,450
This community-based event will celebrate and highlight youth in their efforts to cultivate creativity towards an ongoing and theatrical discussion of mental health
- **Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program for Young Parents** – \$2,400
This parenting program will provide resources to parents who are young, single, socially or geographically isolated, or who have low income or limited formal education
- **Quadra Village Has Talent** – \$500
This program will provide an opportunity for youth to explore their passions and interests and to create a space where youth can showcase their skills and talents to the rest of their community

Read more about the winning projects and the [2019 Participatory Budgeting](#).

Chat with Kathryn Calder

Youth are invited to meet Kathryn Calder, hear her perform and directly share their ideas for supporting the development of young artists and musicians in Victoria. Kathryn is a Victoria-based songwriter/recording artist (and member of the New Pornographers), who was recently announced as the City's Artist in Residence. The event is on Wednesday October 16, 2019 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. at the Victoria High School Music Room, 1250 Grant Street.

952 Johnson at Vancouver

On September 19, Council held a [public hearing](#) and authorized a Development Permit for a mixed-use building with commercial at grade and residential units above, with an increase in density. The existing chapel was retained for future commercial use. Council did not approve a request to increase the building height to 49.8m



October 2019 Update Downtown



910 Government Street at Broughton

On September 19, Council declined a rezoning application No. 00662 for the property located at 910 Government Street and 525 Broughton Street, consistent with [staff recommendations](#). The proposed development was considered to propose density, height and floor space areas in excess of maximums stipulated in the Official Community Plan.

Indigenous Poetry Night

City of Victoria Poet Laureate John Barton invites you to attend Local Indigenous Perspectives, a celebration of Indigenous writers reading on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People. This will include readings by Danielle Geller, Kim Senklip Harvey, Philip Kevin Paul, and Troy Sebastian. The free event will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Greater Victoria Public Library's Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street. For more information, visit victoria.ca/poetlaureate.

Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues

Join us for the Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues, a six-part series of conversations to enable the community to explore together what Reconciliation could look like on Lekwungen Territory. Dialogue #1 - Lekwungen Knowledge and the Land can now be viewed online. Dialogue #2 - The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the City will take place on November 18. Learn more and register to attend some or all of these free events at victoria.ca/ReconciliationDialogues.

Official Community Plan Review

On September 19, Council received a [staff report](#) outlining progress towards OCP goals achieved in 2018. Council directed staff to communicate the findings to the public, update the housing demand forecast via a vis OCP capacity assessment, and report back with recommendations for use of the Downtown Heritage Seismic Upgrade Reserve Fund.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on October [3](#), 10, 17 and 24 at 9am. Council meets on October [3](#), 10 and 24 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#).

**2019 OCTOBER DRA Board Meeting
Land Use Committee**

LUC: Current

1. CALUC for 1124 Vancouver St was held 28 Aug. See attached public meeting notice. Letter to be sent.
2. Starlight Investments - entire 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). Pre-CALUC meeting held 1 Oct to review early concepts and massing. Members were pleased that Starlight committed to maintain the 5.5:1 density proscribed by the OCP.
3. DRA LUC Meeting – with planning staff to discuss aspects of DCAP that might be considered for revision or refinement.
4. Blanshard Block – We have been approached by a representative with a meeting request to introduce the site and development of the conceptual plans for the project. The site is the western block of Blanshard Street between Fort Street and View Street. The team comprises the owner/applicant, David Fullbrook and D'Ambrosio architecture + urbanism.

LUC: Ongoing

1. CALUC: 1010 Fort St – Abstract Developments – The CALUC was held. Letter was sent. See attached.
2. CALUC: Northern Junk – Reliance Properties – Letter was sent. See attached.
3. LUC Meeting: 1150 Cook St (Pluto's) – Dan Robbins & Fraser McColl – DP only so no CALUC meeting required. Dominant response was that it's an attractive project but it's over the 10-storey height limit that defines the density for the R-48 zone and the proposed density is significantly above the OCP Maximums. Letter to be sent.
4. Development Permit with Variance – Herald St Brew Works – 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. Letter to be sent.
5. CALUC: Duck Block – UVic Properties/Chard – Concept changed from residential to hotel project. Project still includes an OCP amendment for a very significant increase in density. Letter was sent. See attached.
6. Pacific Mazda site/Firehall – Jawl Residential – Rumored to be going to Public Hearing in Oct.
7. Centennial Square Refurbishment – No response from Bridget Frewer since 12 Nov.
8. 983 Pandora/Seventh Adventist Church: Townline - Rental Tower – Rezoning
9. Ship Point

ULC Meeting Minutes October 1st 2019 @ 7:00pm

Issues:

Active:

- 1) Addiction/Mental Health/Homelessness
 - a. Interactions Workshop
 - i. Contact city staff liaison
 - ii. Contact possible partners
 - iii. Contact possible presenters
 - iv. Funding
 - v. Event planning
 - b. Identification of key decisions makers and stakeholders
- 2) Noise Issues
 - a. Internal education
 - b. Letter to the city
 - c. Preparation for city by law process 2020
- 3) Urban Green Space
 - a. No action planned at this time
- 4) Transit Issues
 - a. Respond to Go Victoria presentation

Inactive:

- 5) Culture and Arts Promotion
- 6) Urban Cleanliness
- 7) Late Night Economy

Committee Structure:

- 1) Change of Chair
- 2) Recruitment

Communications and Membership Committee Report – October, 2019

Update on Committee activities:

- Newsletter:
 - The September newsletter has been issued. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that as of September 20, 52% of addressees opened the newsletter, which, according to Mail Chimp, is a high number for a non-profit.
 - Please send any items for the October newsletter to Doug, as soon as possible.
 - The newsletter will feature a Board or committee member each month, so if you have anyone you would like to be featured, please let Doug know.
- Doug has been working with Renee on social media.
- Plans are underway for a December seasonal function, in lieu of the regular Board meeting. It will be at the Lido, Tuesday, December 17. Costs are expected to be lower than last year. Details will be presented in the November committee report and whether and how much of a reduction in price might be offered to committee members will be discussed at the November Board meeting. Board members are asked to provide any comments they might have on that topic, in advance of the November meeting, to the Committee co-chairs.
- Initial preparations are underway for the 2020 AGM.
- Dianne has reached out to VicPD Blockwatch, to explore possible joint efforts to access rental and condo buildings, so we can post materials and grow our membership. An option for a joint event with Blockwatch as a lead in to our 2020 AGM is described in the attached addendum. The date will need to be set in November, so if Board members have any suggestions or comments, please send them to the Committee co-chairs in advance of the November Board meeting.
- Dianne has also reached out to VicPD Volunteer Services to explore opportunities for joint efforts to support members' issues such as speeding and other traffic, noise and safety issues.
- The Chinatown Walk is postponed until Spring 2020, to date to be agreed upon with Charlayne.
- The proposal for a Great Neighbourhood Grant for a mural or street banners is on hold, and will be referred to the CDC.

Addendum to the October CMC report
Proposal for an Open House/Public Event
(To be held in conjunction with the 2020 DRA AGM)

Objectives: To engage with and grow the DRA membership
To inform DRA members about and encourage participation in the
VicPD Block Watch program
To inform DRA members about other civic resources for safer
communities

Possible title: “Building a Safer/ Connected Community” (Other suggestions?)

Date/Timing: Early February, 2020, on a Tuesday or Thursday Evening
Between 7 and 9 (or 6:30 – 8:30)
Immediately prior to the DRA AGM

Format: Brief presentations followed by a Panel discussion

Participants: DRA president or other Board member
VicPD Blockwatch Coordinator
VicPD Community Resource Officer
City of Victoria By-law officer
City councilor?
Mental health worker?
Other?

Possible locations: City hall? Hermanns? Library?Church hall?
Accessibility is a firm requirement.

Responsibilities:

DRA	VicPD	Joint
- arrange DRA panelist and moderator	- arrange VicPD and other city speakers for panel	- arrange other speakers
-arrange and pay for hall		
- arrange publicity	- supply logos and support and approve publicity material	

Community Development Committee (CDC) Work Plan

October 2019

Chair: Suzanne Dubé

CDC Members: Renee Layberry, Pat Chapman, Fred Shean, Denise Nicholl, Rosamond Neville, Dale Dearing

Ex officio: Doug Boyd and Dianne Flood, Co-Chairs Communications and Membership (CMC)

Activities Since Last Meeting:

We have ordered a tricycle from Fairfield Bicycle Shop which is on back order but we hope to have it in hand before December DVBA light maze event in December. The CDC revisited the decision to purchase a bike and trailer because of concerns that the bike and trailer would not be stable enough. The budget for the trike and accessories is still \$2000.

The member recruitment post card design and content in draft. We are waiting for some new photos which Denise and Renee will be taking. I will circulate the final draft to the board for comments/ approval before we print 1000 copies to be used by volunteers working with the engagement tricycle. Budget for this is \$400.

We are still considering how best to spend the balance of the grant since a pop-up vinyl banner with stand would blow over very easily in most outdoor events and venues. We are exploring sandwich board and silk sail banner as alternatives to the vinyl banner idea.

Denise, Fred and Renee are working on the content of a new CDC landing page but we haven't made too much progress on this project since Fred has been out of town for several weeks.

We have posted volunteer recruitment notices with Volunteer Victoria website and their Times Colonist weekly section. We hope to see results from this outreach soon. Suzanne is still planning to be proactive and call current DRA members to recruit a small crew to work with the Trike.

Dale Dearing (new CDC member) and Suzanne are meeting with Volunteer Victoria on Friday October 4th to discuss who they might be able to support the CDC to design and deliver a volunteer training session with orientation guide for new volunteers going forward. Budget for this is \$1000

So, the project is moving forward slowly and we are fairly confident that everything will be ready for the maiden run of the Trike Team at the DVBA light maze event in December.

Suzanne sent an email to Charlayne Thorton-Joe asking about dates for the board and volunteer appreciation breakfast at Villages and has not heard received a reply. If we can set a date at the board meeting, then the Chairs of each committee can send the invitation to their respective volunteers. Suzanne is willing to write a short piece to send out.

Community Development Committee Members

October Report - Truth and Reconciliation

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

The Downtown Residents Association support for this screening will offer Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members the opportunity to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope.

Sponsors

Downtown Residents Association, Victoria Film Festival, Alliance of Aboriginal Media Professionals

Documentaries to be Screened

Our Voices, Our Stories (2016, 39 minutes), directed by Barb Cranmer and produced on the occasion of the St. Michael's residential school demolition in 'Yalis (Alert Bay). (The American Museum of Natural History's Margaret Mead Film Festival is presenting a tribute to Barb Cranmer on October 18, 2019)

All Our Relations (2019, 22 minutes) - World premiere of Barbara Todd Hager's new APTN documentary series on Indigenous history and genealogy featuring a 22 minute episode about Barb Cranmer and her family.

Venue

Vic Theatre, 808 Douglas Street

Date

Sunday, November 17 (almost confirmed)

Time

Introduction by Barbara Todd Hager and Welcome by Songhees and Esquimalt Elders 2:00
Film Screening - 2:15- 3:15 p.m.

Q&A - director Barbara Todd Hager, a member of Barb Cranmer's family, and Alex Nelson, a survivor of St. Michael's residential school - 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Reception - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. to be catered by Songhees Centre Kitchen

Sponsors Responsibilities

Downtown Residents Association – Publicity, ticket sales, volunteers as described below

Victoria Film Festival - use of theatre, promotional support, concessions staff, film presentation

Alliance of Aboriginal Media Professionals - \$1,000 grant to cover travel and accommodations expenses for Cranmer family, publicity support.

Tickets

To be sold through Event Brite at \$5/10/15, to be arranged by DRA. Some tickets will be distributed to Elders, and others through the Native Friendship Centre.

Proceeds from donations

Proceeds from tickets sales or donations will go to the aboriginal program at Vic High.

Publicity

Press releases, posters (including posting)

DRA Volunteers

Publicity- press releases, arranging posters and distribution (Dianne)

Ticket Sales – to be set up using Event Brite (Doug)

Day of – greeters, ticket takers (to be provided Orange T-shirts, if possible) (Board members?)

Background

Kwakwaka'wakw filmmaker Barb Cranmer was one of the most prolific and acclaimed Indigenous documentary filmmakers of her generation. Her films have been screened at festivals throughout the world, including the prestigious Sundance Festival, the Victoria Film Festival the celebrated American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco where they won numerous awards. Collaborating with members of her family and the community, Barb directed several films about cultural renewal and contemporary Kwakwaka'wakw life.

Her most recent film, *Our Voices, Our Stories* (2016), documented the demolition of the St. Michael's residential school in 'Yalis (Alert Bay). An estimated 9,200 children passed through the doors of St. Michael's Indian Residential School in Alert Bay, British Columbia between 1929 and 1975. Numbers replaced their names, their Aboriginal languages were forbidden, family ties broken, and histories denied. Scores of children died at the school, many were abused and many never returned to their families. Those who did return home often suffered in silence the abuses they received at the school. In 2015, the 'Namgis Nation voted to tear down the building, and with it the history of residential school suffering and pain in their community.

Victoria resident and award winning director Barbara Todd Hager (*1491, Truth, Dance & Reconciliation, Motown High*) volunteered as a camera operator on Barb Cranmer's documentary, and she and Barb had discussed taking their two films on residential school on the road to screen in communities throughout BC. Barb's illness and passing in 2019 prevented this from coming to fruition.