

Minutes of DRA Board Meeting

June 19, 2018

Location: Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall

Time: 5:30pm

Attending Board Members: Paul Gandall (Chair), Ian Sutherland, Wendy Bowkett, Doug Boyd, Nicholas Harrington, Robert Florida

City Councillor Liaison: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill (Regrets)

Regrets: Ruth Annis, Breanna Merrigan, Dianne Flood

5:32 - Call to Order

5:30 - Round of Introductions (Not necessary)

5:35 - Approval of Agenda, with correction to the address below the logo.

5:35 - Appointment of Minutes Recorder: Robert Florida volunteered

5:35 – Minutes of May 15, 2018 Board Meeting Approved

Refer to file: "May 15 2018 Draft minutes.docx"

5:40 - Councillor's Report: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

There was not much new to report. Concerns about disorder on Pandora Street, bike lanes, graffiti and downtown parking continue. Later opening hours for liquor outlets are being requested by several establishments and there is a danger of problems arising for downtown residents. A project on Store Street got generally favorable reviews in the approval process.

6:00 - Standing Committee Reports

Land Use Committee (LUC): Ian

1. Zoning Bylaw 2018: the draft by-law was partially amended in response to some of DRA's concerns. DRA still finds several serious problems with the draft and will draw attention to them to City Council. Furthermore, we strongly object to the way that public engagement was managed by staff. There was no real

feedback to the public, and the City's guidelines were not followed. In general DRA feels that public engagement in the City's processes is not really engagement at all. It often seems to us to be mere window dressing in that the staff simply ignores most comments from the public that do not reflect from their plans. We will continue to express our concern on this to staff and Council.

2. Ship Point. The LUC finds the proposed plan very poor. Among several defects, we note that only 9% of the area will be green space, and most of that not appropriate for pedestrian use. DRA will address Council on this issue. Ian Sutherland and committee will draft our detailed response.
3. [812 Wharf St](#) – Milestone's: This request involves formalizing the size of the patio on city property that has been leased to Milestones. At first, the LUC did not think a CALUC should have been necessary as it seemed to be just a matter of regularizing past practice, which has generated no complaints in the last years. (Subsequent to the Board Meeting a CALUC was convened, and no members of the public appeared, as we had expected. On further investigation, the LUC thinks that more scrutiny is required as it could be that the restaurant has incrementally increased the patio size over the years without formal approval or paying higher fees. We are looking into the situation.)
4. Pacific Mazda site – Jawl Residential. DRA strongly feels that the request to transfer unused density to another adjacent site would set a very bad precedent. A letter will be sent on this very important issue.
5. Old Town Design Guidelines. The process continues and DRA LUC will participate.
6. 910 Government – Land use contract (secretary note...I do not have any thing on this, help please, REF)
7. Policy pieces. Working on them.

Community Development Committee (CDC): Wendy

1. Car Free Day - Sun 17 Jun. This went well: our volunteers who worked the table had a good time and we signed up 10 new resident and 11 non-resident members. However, we were understaffed, and if our involvement is to continue (and it really should), we need more help at the table in the future.
2. VicMatters: Livability Survey No report

3. Get Downtown - Thurs 31 May - Courtney Room. This event went very well. We sold about \$90 in tickets. Next event, Amanda may organize one, wait for details.

4. VicMatters: Election Events. No report

5. Eats&Beats - Wed 8 Aug—it has been confirmed that Lucky Bar will be the partner, and the venue will be Commercial Alley. We will be calling for volunteers etc. Wait for details.

Governance Committee (GC): Wendy

No report

Urban Livability Committee (ULC): Nicholas

It was agreed to go ahead with a banner for the garden. It should prominently display the DRA logo, the Garden Logo, and the City of Victoria Logo. Nicholas will manage this endeavour. On June 23 there was a pollinator event at the Garden.

6:30 - Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Membership Committee (MC): Dianne

No Report

6:35- External Meeting Reports

Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN): Paul/Doug

No Report

900 Block Pandora GNA: Paul

Paul confirmed aspects of Charlayne's report. There are real concerns about increased homeless population and activity as well as much more tagging on the block.

Late Night Action Committee: Paul/Ian

Vroom, vroom. The perennial problem of loud pipes on motorcycles is worse now that the weather has improved. There seems to be no appetite in the police or the city council to do anything serious to solve this. How many years have we been plagued?

Downtown Service Providers: No Current Representative:

Charlayne suggested that DRA does not really need to be on this group, but that our participation in the 900 block of Pandora GNA group is worthwhile.

6:40 - Business Arising from Minutes

- 1) **Internet Service Provider Billing** No Report
- 2) **Acknowledgement of Territorial Status** Deferred to next meeting
- 3) **Truth and Reconciliation Project** Deferred to next meeting
- 4) **Website Update** Nicholas, Erica, and Ian have seen to it that the website was updated. Thanks, team. Should more be done?
- 5) **My Great Neighborhood Grant 2018** No report.
- 6) **Yates Street Community Garden Branding and Website** See Urban Livability report above.
- 7) **Ad Hoc Budget Committee** Deferred to Mike Hill's return.

6:50 - New Business None

7:00 – City Liaison Report: Mike Hill

No report. Refer to file: “Downtown June 2018 Update.pdf”

Meeting adjourned at: 6:57 pm

Date of next Meeting: July 17, 2018

In Your Neighbourhood

Capital City Station Bus Depot and BC Transit Downtown Terminal Pilot Project Update

Council has recommended that upon Conclusion of the 18-month trial, to maintain the current configuration of Capital City Station for the next four years beyond the current term ending September 30, 2018, and continue to monitor and assess performance, as appropriate. They have also recommended maintaining the current BC Transit turnaround/layover configuration at Government/Superior, and continue to monitor and assess performance, as appropriate.

Process Improvements for Development Process

1. Council has directed staff to report back to Council with a proposed amendment to the CALUC process that requires an initial meeting between the developer, the community, and city staff. The meeting would be facilitated by a neutral, third party facilitator with experience in bringing together disparate and diverse points of view.
2. That staff report back to Council on the appropriate threshold for requiring such a meeting to ensure that this is not an added, unnecessary step for most developments. Criteria might include a rezoning that increases density a certain percentage over the existing zoning or changes to the OCP.
3. That staff report back to Council on the budget implications of this proposal and suggest potential funding mechanisms for the mailout costs to be covered by the city.
4. Engage with CALUCs on this proposal.

Affordable Housing Units Through Community Amenity Contribution Policy

Council has directed staff to ensure that the new CAC/Inclusionary Housing Policy is structured in such a way as to deliver, by 2026, at least 800 units of affordable housing that rent at between \$500 and \$875 per month and at least 450 units of affordable rental housing for families that rent at between \$875 and \$1375 per month.

Bike Lane Update

At their May 24 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council received a [report](#) recommending that Council approve

- Approve the 60% design for Wharf Street AAA cycle track, and direct staff to proceed to detailed design and construction tender.
- Approve the 60% design for Humboldt Street AAA cycle track, and direct staff to proceed to detailed design and construction tender.
- Direct staff to accelerate the Vancouver Street AAA cycle track project as a priority (between Park Avenue and Bay Street), in place of the 2016 Cook Street project, and engage with stakeholders on the design as outlined in this report.

Participatory Budgeting

On May 24, Council received a [report](#) recommending that Council direct staff to review and report back with information on the potential to engage a different organization from year to year to deliver the Participatory Budgeting Program for the City. This is proposed to focus on areas of youth, newcomers and neighbourhood spaces in each of the next three years.

Market Rental Study

At their Committee of the Whole [May 10](#) meeting, Council received a [Market Rental Revitalization Study](#), a report providing information and recommendations regarding the results of a Market Rental Revitalization Study that was designed to achieve four supporting actions outlined in the Victoria Housing Strategy under the action of "Protect Existing Rental Stock".

Council accepted the report and made several recommendations including:

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- Incorporate the market rental building inventory into City systems such as VicMap for public access
- Continue the Development Monitoring project to provide better tracking and upkeep of the rental building inventory
- Bring forward a bylaw to implement the Rental Property Standards of Maintenance elements
- Report back to Council with a Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw resourcing and implementation plan for budgetary approval
- Adopt the Tenant Assistance Policy
- Refer consideration of a grant program to provide support to organizations that provide information, education and support to tenants on residential tenancy matters to the 2019 financial planning process.

Fort Street Orientation Rides

Interested in trying out the new Fort Street protected bike lanes? Throughout the month of June and all this summer the City is partnering with the Bike to Work Society to provide orientation rides that will highlight the new features along Fort Street and help people get familiar with the new bike lanes.

Sign up for one of the rides this June listed below or check back soon for more dates!

Monday June 18th, 5-6pm

Thursday June 21, 12pm – 1pm

Tuesday June 26th, 5-6pm

Wednesday July 4th, 12-1pm

Sign up for an orientation ride here: <https://biketoworkvictoria.checkfront.com/reserve/>

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre Open House

Join us **Tuesday, June 19, 2018** at Crystal Garden for an Open House event for the [Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project](#). Over the past several months the project team has been refining the plans for the building, based on technical analysis and input received from residents. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the updated designs as we strive to produce a barrier-free, inclusive, high-quality recreation centre for the citizens of Victoria.

For your convenience, two sessions are offered: i) 3:00-5:00 p.m. and ii) 6:00-8:00 p.m. [RSVP here](#) to indicate which of the engagement sessions you plan to attend.

ConnectVictoria App

Download the ConnectVictoria app and stay in touch with your City. Search jobs, latest news, events and more from the app. Report potholes and other issues right from your phone. Available for both Android and iOS. [Learn more](#)

Vic-Alert

Vic-Alert, the City of Victoria's free emergency notification service, now has one phone number for voice call alerts: 778.400.4845. Save this Vic-Alert # in your cell phone's Favourites and bypass the Do Not Disturb function so that you can receive emergency voice call alerts at any time – even when you're asleep.

www.VictoriaReady.ca

Direction for the 2019 Financial Plan

Through the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, Council has provided direction for a maximum tax increase of inflation plus 1%. The Province of BC is introducing a new payroll tax in 2019 which will eventually replace Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums in 2020. The estimated impact of this tax and the MSP premiums to the City for 2019 is \$2.3 million. With this in mind, Council has asked staff to prepare a draft 2019

Financial Plan for Council's consideration that maintains existing services and service levels, and continues the in-progress initiatives within the Strategic Plan, with two options:

- One that keeps the tax increase to no more than inflation plus 1%, including police;
- A second option that keeps the tax increase to no more than inflation plus 1%, including police, plus an additional tax increase to accommodate the impact of the new health tax increase.

These options will be presented to Council in the late fall 2018.

[Read the Committee of the Whole Report](#)

Mayors' Joint Report on Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation

On January 22, the Mayors of Victoria and Saanich wrote to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, requesting a meeting to seek the Province's assistance to begin dialogue on establishing and funding a Citizens' Assembly to study amalgamation of the two municipalities. Following that meeting, Council last night unanimously passed a motion that Victoria and Saanich hold a joint Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss what question both local governments will place on the October 20, 2018 municipal election ballot to ask voters if they want the municipalities to explore amalgamation through a Citizens' Assembly and other studies. In its discussion of the motion, Council emphasized that this process is about gathering information, and does not presume any outcome. The date for the joint Committee meeting is still to be set. You can read more [here](#).

Summer Camps in the City

Check out the latest Active Living Guide for summer camps for ages 4-12. Playground camps, sailing, skateboarding, computer, horses, Hogwarts, camping, surfing, pirates, farming, soccer, swimming, claymation movie production, kayaking, martial arts and more. We have a whole summer of fun for different budgets and interests: Victoria.ca/recreation.

Bylaw for Animal Responsibility

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Council adopted the Animal Responsibility Bylaw. Council also directed staff to prepare an amendment to expand the definition for keeping female chickens to include other poultry or fowl. You can read more about the Animal Responsibility Bylaw [here](#).

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets June 21 and 28 at 9am. Council meets on the 28 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#).