

**DRAFT**  
**DRA Board Meetings Minutes**  
**May 12, 2019**

**Location: Esquimalt Nation Meeting Room @Victoria City Hall**  
**Time: 5 p.m.**

**Present:** Paul Gandall (chair), Doug Boyd, Dianne Flood, Nicholas Harrington, Ian Sutherland, Sandra Severs, Matthew Yee

**DRA Members:** Wendy Bowkett, Suzanne Dube

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

**City Staff:** Mike Hill

**Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

Paul Gandall called the meeting to order and the agenda, as circulated, was approved.

**Approval of the April 9, 2019 Minutes**

The minutes were approved with one correction. Ruth Annis was not present at the April meeting.

**Action: Dianne will make the correction to the minutes.**

**Councillor's Report**

Postponed until later in the meeting.

**Questions on Downtown Update:**

Report attached to minutes.

The 2020 Neighbourhood Budget consultation will take place on June 26, 2019.

**Action: Mike will provide information to the DRA about the upcoming process.**

**Action: Paul or Doug (if possible) will attend on behalf of the DRA**

**Business Arising from Minutes**

**1) Discussion of the MGNG 2018 deliverable**

Assistance in implementing grant requested.

**2) Truth and Reconciliation Grant**

Dianne reported that a committee had met to discuss the grant. Education was identified as an important part of the process of reconciliation. Interest in working with other neighbourhood associations was expressed.

**Action: Doug will circulate email to VCAN to see if there is interest in joint projects re. reconciliation and send report to Dianne.**

**3) DRA February 2019 Meeting Minutes**

There were no minutes recorded for this meeting. The Board decided to retroactively approve the creation of the **Communications and Membership Committee**.

**Moved: Paul Gandall**

**Seconded: Ruth Annis**

**CARRIED.**

**4) North Park NA Proposal for Greater Integration**

North Park NA has expressed enthusiasm to the proposal of a shared July meeting

**Action: Paul will circulate an email to board, following contact with NPNA, to establish a common meeting time in July.**

## **New Business**

**1) Election of Secretary**

**Motion:** That Sandra Severs be appointed Secretary of the DRA.

**Moved: Paul Gandall**

**Seconded: Dianne Flood.**

**CARRIED.**

**Action: Dianne will send Sandra the draft copy of the 2019 AGM.**

**2) Crystal Pool**

Neighbourhood consultations re. the relocation of Crystal Pool - The issue of access for lower income individuals and family has been raised and concern expressed about whether moving the pool away from its current location (or in the vicinity) will discourage those in this demographic who currently use the facility. A resolution re. equity and use of city properties will come before Council.

**Action: Mike will circulate report on equity when it comes available.**

## **Councillor's Report**

Redevelopment projects proposed for both Pandora and Johnston Streets are raising concerns in the residential community about gentrification, affordability, bonus density and perceived lack of consultation.

The fire at the Plaza Hotel has raised questions at City Hall about what else can be done to secure unoccupied buildings.

Two topics of conversation at City Hall – The future of horse-drawn carriages and access to toilets for both those without housing and those frequenting bars downtown.

BC Housing has closed a number of shelters and the effects of this decision is being observed in and increase in street activity. The storage facility at Our Place is full and there is interest in creating a second location.

Consultation with Government Street merchants about turning Government Street into a pedestrian mall has raised concerns about the need for further public consultation. Questions of intended goals and impact on traffic flow need to be addressed in order to protect business interests.

Artist and Public Spaces Committee will have a number of important and exciting announcements in the next couple of weeks.

Paul asked about cleanliness of the streets in the Downtown. Charlayne shared that the City had purchased a vehicle able to clean the sidewalks.

Ian asked about rumours of the removal of the canoe in Bastion Square.

**Action: Charlayne will provide Ian with a contact to follow up.**

Paul asked about Council response to the VCAN letter endorsed by resident associations in Victoria requesting the City abide by the agreed upon guidelines for land use development outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP)

**Action: Charlayne will provide the DRA with feedback about Council's response.**

Thanks to City staff for organizing and leading the bike walk conversation.

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

#### **1) Land Use Planning (LUC)**

Report attached to the minutes.

Ian reported on his response to the Inclusive Housing policy. At the present time, the policy suggestion is that non-market housing units (10%) be included in buildings of greater than 60 units. In proposed developments where there are less than 60 units, the policy suggestion is that there be a cash payout, part of which would go to community amenities. Ian argues that there should always be a cash payout. That money can be leveraged with provincial and federal money to provide more units than currently proposed.

The report has gone back to staff for further revision.

**Action: Ian will send out information about decisions made for liquor licenses.**

#### **2) Urban Livability Committee (ULC) -No report**

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

Nicholas reported that the Yates Street Community Garden has received a \$10,000 City grant.

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

Mike reported that the response to the lead up to Neighbourhood Day was very positive with 150 people approached at Market on Yates in a 1 1/2 time period.

An "engagement toolkit" has been produced providing suggestions for community engagement.

Carfree YYJ Day is coming up

**Action: Matt agreed to take on the task of organizing a table.**

Thanks to Doug for the recent newsletter which had a 47% open rate.

**Action: Doug will provide Charlayne with business cards advertising the DRA.**

- 5) **Community Development Committee (CDC)**– No report  
**Action: Suzanne is considering position of chair of this committee and will let Dianne know her decision.**
  
- 6) **Governance Committee (GC)**  
Dianne and Paul have met to review the External Communications policy.  
**Action: Committee will provide a draft for the consideration of the Board.**

#### **Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

- 1) **Budget Committee (CBC)**  
Doug reported that a planning process is being developed.

#### **External Meeting Reports**

- 1) **Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN)**  
Report attached to the minutes.
  
- 2) **900 Block Pandora GNA** -No report
  
- 3) **Late Night Action Committee (LNAC)**  
**Action: Paul will send information to Board about late-night bus routes as it is provided.**
  
- 4) **Downtown Service Providers (DSP)**  
**Action: Matt will consider assuming responsibility for attendance at this community meeting**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**

**Next Board meeting – June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**



# May 2019 Update Downtown

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Expanding Public Transit Ridership

On April 28, Council approved a [Council member motion](#) requesting endorsement of a resolution regarding climate action through a major expansion of public transit ridership. Council's resolutions included:

- Embracing determined climate leadership through a major expansion of public transit ridership in the Capital Region, focused on the phasing out of user fees and a substantial improvement in service levels and fleet electrification.
- Beginning to implement this climate-action policy with a pilot programme in the 2020 budget by eliminating user fees for people 18 years of age and younger, replacing revenues currently generated through fares with adjustments to provincial transfers and the property tax requisition.

### New Sites for Crystal Pool

On May 23, Council will provide direction on [new proposed sites](#) for the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project. Late last year Council directed staff to work with the operators of the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre on the potential for the new community recreation facility next to the arena, however, the parties were unable to find a mutually acceptable arrangement. As a result, the City is now considering two other potential locations.

One location, at 940 Caledonia St, is currently serving as a public parking lot across from Royal Athletic Park and has been previously considered by Council. A second location, recently identified through discussions with representatives of School District 61, is the western portion of the large field next to Central Middle School.

### Late Night Program

On May 16, Council will receive a [staff report](#) providing an update on the City's program to support a safe and vibrant late night economy. The program was initiated with the Mayor's Late Night Strategy in 2009. Amongst other initiatives, a municipal alcohol policy will be developed in 2019.

### Ending Horse Carriages

Proposed [resolutions](#) will be presented to Council by Councillor Isitt regarding an amendment to the Strategic Plan to end horse carriages on City streets by 2023 and to encourage the industry to work with the City to develop "e-carriages" opportunities.

### Childminding at Council Meetings

As of Thursday, May 9, the City will offer childminding services during Council meetings. Drop off your children, ages 6 months and older, for two hours of child care so you can attend Council meetings! Program leaders will provide a safe and fun environment for children to play games, interact with one another and build crafts.



## May 2019 Update Downtown

### Affordable Housing Workshop

Council participate in an affordable housing workshop at their committee meeting on May 16. They will have an opportunity to learn directly from key stakeholders about new provincial and federal affordable housing programs, up-to-date market context for the development of affordable housing, and opportunities for partnership to advance a shared objective of increasing affordability in the City of Victoria.

Presentations will be made by:

- BC Housing Management Commission (provincial funding and programs)
- Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (federal funding and programs)
- G. P. Rollo and Associates (current market conditions)

### Cannabis Retail Business Regulation

On May 9, Council will receive a [staff report](#) recommending bringing forward the Storefront Cannabis Retailer Regulation Bylaw 19-053 for first and second readings to the May 9, 2019 Council meeting.

### 2020 Neighbourhood Budget Consultation

The Neighbourhood Team will again be organizing a budget consultation with the Neighbourhood Associations this Spring. Last year, neighbourhood input provided useful input into transportation issues in the community. We are currently developing an approach for this year that will provide improvements for a meaningful and effective process. A joint session for all neighbourhoods will be held at City Hall on the evening of June 26. More information will be coming over the next few weeks.

### 926/932 Pandora Avenue

Following a public hearing on April 25, Council voted to refer this [development application](#) back to staff and the applicant to do further engagement with the neighbourhood. This application would allow for an 11-storey, mixed-use building consisting of approximately 150 residential units with ground-floor commercial use fronting Pandora Avenue, and 5 townhouse units fronting Mason Street.

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on May [2](#), [9](#), [16](#) and 23 at 9am. Council meets on May [2](#), [9](#) and 23 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#).