



**DRA Board Meeting Minutes  
November 20th 2018  
Victoria City Hall  
5.30 p.m.**

**Board members present:** Paul Gandall (chair), Wendy Bowkett, Doug Boyd, Ruth Annis, Marv Gandall, Ian Sutherland, Nick Harrington (arr: 6.10)

**City Staff:** Mike Hill

**Regrets:** Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Dianne Flood, Robert Florida

**Approval of Agenda:**

Paul moved, Wendy seconded, and carried that the agenda be approved.

**Approval of October 16th, 2018 Board Minutes:**

Ian proposed amending item a under Land Use Committee to reflect that the board agreed to invite signatories to the open letter to form a DRA subcommittee. He also proposed amending item c under the committee report to exclude the reference to himself.

Wendy proposed amending item d under Community Development Committee to show meal tickets for board and committee members as \$43 and \$10 respectively.

Wendy also said the report on the Yates St Community Garden was under the Urban Livability Committee and not the Governance Committee.

Wendy moved, Paul seconded, and carried that the the Board Minutes of October 28th, 2018 be approved as amended.

**Councillor Liasion Report**

Nil report. Charlayne Thornton-Joe sent regrets. Paul noted that Charlayne had been appointed council liasion for a two year term, to be succeeded by councillor Sarah Potts during the following two years.

**City Liaison Report**

Mike Hill reported on several downtown issues, including the city approval process for cannabis stores; council's pending review of a new strategic plan and budget; the Crystal Pool development; the Great Neighbourhood Grants program, and public consultation on the Centennial Square redevelopment. Mike said his and other monthly neighbourhood updates will now be posted on the city website.

There was discussion of the approval process for cannabis stores. It was agreed that Ian would raise the rezoning issue at the next city-wide CALUC meeting. Mike offered to provide Ian with background material regarding the issue.

Mike agreed to Ruth's requested that the Humboldt neighbourhood committee be consulted about the grant application for the Humboldt Pocket Plaza. It was noted that the DRA's Yates St. Garden committee had reduced its grant application from \$5000 to \$3000.

Ian said there had been no response from city staff to his query concerning its offer to consult with the DRA about the Centennial Square redevelopment. Mike offered to follow up.

## **A. Standing Committee Reports**

### **Land Use Committee**

Ian reported.

a) Interim Inclusive Housing and Bonus Density Policy - There was discussion of the policy adopted by council on November 8th. Ian said the CALUC's had been promised consultation about the policy prior to its being adopted, not subsequently. The council has formed a new working group comprised of representatives of housing societies, neighbourhood associations, developers, and other interested parties to report back to it prior to final adoption of the policy at the end of the first quarter, 2019. Ian expressed the view that the policy, as currently presented, would result in the withdrawal of investment in the downtown core by developers.

b) Proximity rules for pot shops - Ian said there are suggestions on council to eliminate the proximity rule for pot shops, currently set at 400 metres. He expressed concern that illegal operators now operating within the existing zone boundaries would block legitimate operators applying to enter the market, and that the zoning proximity rules should be extended to take this into account.

### **Community Development Committee**

Wendy reported.

a) Christmas Cocktails – The event is being held on Tuesday December 18th at 6PM at Zambris. 50% of the tickets have been sold.

b) Get Downtown YYJ – The last event at The Flying Pig was a success.

c) VicMatters TRC – Wendy and Charlyane will meet before presenting ideas to the committee and the board.

d) Government St. pedestrian mall - Nick said he had not yet had the opportunity to consult with Stephanie Rathwell on the DRA's participation, but would follow up.

e) Amanda MacDonald - Wendy acknowledged Amanda's strong contributions to the work of the committee and the DRA. Amanda is moving out of the downtown core and will no longer be participating on the committee.

## **Governance Committee**

Wendy reported.

a) Policy book - There was extensive discussion about the changes proposed by the governance committee to the policy book. The proposed revisions were to policies 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Following discussion, Wendy agreed to incorporate the amendments in a new spreadsheet to be circulated by email to the board for final approval.

## **B. Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

### **Membership Committee**

Nil report.

### **Communications Committee**

Doug reported that he, Dianne, and Marv met on October 30th. They favour reviving the newsletter, perhaps in a simpler format than was previously used. Doug also said he would be circulating the Strata contacts list to the board in order to update it prior to adding it to the DRA email list used to inform contacts of upcoming events.

### **Budget Committee**

Nil report

## **C. External Committee Reports**

### **Victoria Community Association Network**

Paul reported that he chaired a meeting of the VCAN committee charged with developing the terms of reference for the organization and that the process was continuing.

### **900 Block Pandora Good Neighbours Association**

Nil report.

### **Late Night Action Committee**

Nil report.

## **D. Business Arising from Minutes**

### **Truth and Reconciliation grant**

Now that the municipal election was over, Wendy said she would consult with Charlayne and local indigenous organizations about how best to utilize the grant to the DRA.

#### **Excessive noise from vehicles**

Marv agreed to do further research on the issue.

#### **Public relations and outreach**

Nil report.

#### **2019 DRA AGM**

Paul said he would be meeting with Nick and Dianne about AGM preparations and would communicate any recommendations to the board by email prior to the January meeting.

### **E. New Business**

#### **Agenda and Board Meeting Materials**

It was agreed that the Secretary would be responsible for preparing the agenda in consultation with the President and would circulate it and other relevant material for the meeting to board members.

**Adjournment:** 8.20 pm.

**Date of next meeting:** January 15th, 2019.

Marv G.  
Secretary