

# **DRA Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2018**

**Songhees Room, Victoria City Hall**

**Attending Board Members:** Paul Gandall (Chair), Ruth Annis, Ian Sutherland, Dianne Flood, Wendy Bowkett, Doug Boyd, Nicholas Harrington, Breanna Merrigan

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

**City Staff:** Mike Hill

**Regrets:** Megan Clarke, Robert Florida

## **1. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

## **2. Approval of Agenda**

- The agenda was approved with no changes. The inclusion of a territory acknowledgement was suggested and will be discussed at the June meeting.

## **3. Minutes Recorder**

- Breanna agreed to be Minutes Recorder for the meeting.

## **4. Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2018 Board Meeting**

- The minutes were approved with no changes.

## **5. Councillor's Report: Charlayne Thornton-Joe**

- City Councillor Charlayne provided an overview of Council activity related to downtown. Updates included:

- The results of the public comment is underway for the Ship Point Master Plan. The DRA requested additional information regarding timeline and budget for the project as available.
- There is a recent focus on homelessness.
  - The results of the Point-in-Time Count results are expected be released next month.
  - The federal government has committed \$30 million to augment the CRD's efforts to provide housing for those experiencing chronic homeless.
  - Island Health has announced a therapeutic community in View Royal.
  - A number of Johnson Street Community improvement are underway (e.g. roof

access, screening on windows).

- Due to more congregation on Pandora Street, the City has seen an increase in complaints.
- There has been an increase in instances of graffiti downtown, particularly tagging. The City exploring options relating to graffiti prevention and removal (e.g. charging parents for children's graffiti activities, the installation of murals). **Action:** Mike will circulate the anti-graffiti strategy to the DRA.
- Since last month, there has been once request for a cannabis dispensary on Government Street. The request was denied.
- The Fort Street bike lane will be opening on May 27, 2018 at 11:00 am.
- Two buildings were considered at the Heritage Advisory Panel meeting last week.

## 6. Committee Reports

### *Land Use Committee: Ian*

- Transferring Density – Pacific Mazda Site – Jawl Residential Fire Hall
  - A meeting held with Jawl on on May 15, 2018. It has been suggestion to transfer unused density to the site, which the CALUC does not support.
- Zoning Bylaw/Old Town Design Guidelines
  - CALUC meeting held on May 16, 2018. CALUC hopes to clarify the design guidelines.
- CALUC Meeting: Abstract Developments – 1010 Fort Street 10 Storey Tower
  - There was a recent CALUC meeting. The developed has amended the application to have no parking, where 45 spaces would normally be required).
  - Issues are arising relating to disclosure of conditions (10 affordable units) relating to another development at 1201 Fort Street.
- CALUC for 910 Government - Land Use Contract
  - A meeting was held this month. As the provincial government is going to cancel all land use contracts, a number of building owners may apply for rezoning.
  - CALUC is leaning towards recommending legal non-conformity until the buildings are removed/destroyed. The CALUC will submit a letter to Council on this issue.
- CALUC for 1208 Wharf St – Bike Rental Use
  - There were no attendees at the meeting.
- Pre-CALUC for McCall's Funeral Home
  - There has been a proposal for a 12-story tower. There have been calls to preserve the chapel. The current allowable use is for undertaking.
- Ship Point Working Group
  - CALUC suggested that the grand staircase should initiate at the Homecoming Plaza.
- Proposed Policy Change
  - CALUC policy states that it does not comment on proposed developments that fall outside of the boundary of downtown but affect downtown residents. The CALUC

proposes to comment on such developments at the invitation of the CALUC responsible for the development. **Action:** Wendy will circulate draft wording to amend the policy.

- There has been discussion regarding rationalizing the boundaries for the community associations. It was suggested that VCAN would be the appropriate body to take this on. **Action:** Paul will bring this forward to VCAN.

#### *Community Development Committee: Wendy*

- DRA/DVBA Survey
  - The survey has been completed. The results of the survey will be used inform the election event.
- Get Downtown Events
  - The date of the May event is to be determined. The most recent event at Veneto turned a profit. **Action:** Wendy and Doug to discuss Paypal issues relating to invoices for the event.
- Car Free Day
  - The DRA will have a presence at the event on June 17, 2018. The DRA will offer hourly and overall prizes. **Action:** Wendy will create and circulate a volunteer schedule. **Action:** Wendy will put a notice on the website asking members to volunteer.
- Eats and Beats
  - The event will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 in Commercial Alley with Lucky Bar as a partner. Permitting and insurance are outstanding items.
- Wicked Victoria
  - Nicholas will be taking on the organization of this event. **Motion:** Paul moved to release \$250 for Wicked Victoria. Seconded by Nicholas. Carried.
- Event for Municipal Election
  - The format of the event will be similar to last year. Wendy is seeking a moderator for the event.

#### *Governance Committee: Wendy*

- No updates this month.

#### *Urban Livability Committee: Nicholas*

- Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG)
  - Nicholas is continuing to explore options relating to DRA and City branding on the YSCG fence. **Action:** Nicholas will provide a photograph of the garden to assist the DRA in visualizing the changes.
  - Comosun students have completed the planter boxes funded by the 2017 My Great Neighbourhood Grant. 20 new boxes have been installed. The apiary has also been installed.
- Help Us Improve Centennial Square Group
  - The DRA was contacted by the group who is working on ways to improve Centennial Square. **Action:** Nicholas will circulate the information about the upcoming meeting of

the group.

## 7. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

### *Membership Committee: Dianne*

- Membership Email
  - The group discussed providing an email message to new members and to recruit volunteers. Dianne is still waiting for the website to be updated with the new board members and previous minutes. **Action:** Nicholas to connect with Erica about website updates. **Action:** Dianne to circulate email once the website has been updated.
- Call for Volunteers for Postering
  - Dianne would like to have a group assist with putting up posters for upcoming events. **Action:** Dianne to send an email about potential dates for postering.

## 8. External Meeting Reports

- Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN)
  - Please refer to circulated file VCAN Meeting Minutes.
- Pandora Community Group.
  - Please refer to circulated file Pandora Community Group Minutes. **Action:** Nicholas to connect with Paul, Mike, and Charlayne for DRA business cards.
- Downtown Service Providers
  - The DRA is looking for a representative to attend this committee on Tuesday mornings.

## 9. Business Arising from Minutes

- Officer Position: Secretary
  - Breanna agreed to take on the Secretary role.
- Internet Service Provider Billing
  - The provider is no longer billing for the service. **Action:** Nicholas will secure a refund or credit from the provider.
- Truth and Reconciliation Project
  - This item will be brought forward to the next meeting.
- Website Update
  - The DRA discussed updating various aspects of the website (e.g. slider photos, neighbourhood map, meeting minutes, updated board meeting names). **Action:** Doug to ask his neighbour to take photos for the website photo slider. **Action:** Breanna to connect with Nicholas about updating the Wordpress site.
- My Great Neighbourhood Grant 2018
  - No updates this month.

## 10. New Business

- Ship Point Presentation
  - The DRA is supportive of having a presentation about the Ship Point Master Plan at a future DRA meeting.
- Ad Hoc Budget Committee

- Doug, Nicholas, and Mike have offered to participate in the ad hoc budget committee. The group is planning to hold a meeting in the first week of June.

11. **City Liaison Report: Mike Hill**

- Refer to circulated file Downtown May 2018 Update.pdf

12. **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Neighbourhood Webpages

The City has refreshed its [neighbourhood webpages](#). Please take a look at the information and let us know if there is something you would like to see included or amended. We will begin posting the monthly updates in the near future.

### Neighbour Day

On May 3, the Neighbourhood Team visited four neighbourhood villages. The team asked people whether they were aware of Neighbour Day on Sunday, May 4 and encouraged them to acknowledge their neighbours in some way. Packets of local pollinator flower seeds were handed out for people to share with their neighbours. Almost all of the 53 people interviewed responded that they knew the names of their neighbours, regularly greeted them and helped or received help from them from time to time. It was an amazingly positive response from Victoria's residents!



### Strategic Plan Grants

[Recommendations](#) from the External Grant Review committee were approved by Council on [May 10](#). A number of organizations active in the downtown received support for their applications (e.g. DVBA, Our Place Society, Victoria Conservatory of Music).

### Amalgamation

At their Committee of the Whole meeting on [April 26](#), Council approved a [report and recommendation](#) "that Saanich and Victoria hold a joint Committee of the Whole meeting to determine which question both local governments will place on the October 20, 2018 municipal election ballot in order to receive elector assent to explore the costs and benefits of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria."

### BYO Bag Victoria Video Contest

Love making videos? Want to help reduce plastic bag litter and waste in your community? Create a video to encourage the use of reusable bags in our community and win up to \$1,000! There is one Youth category and one All Ages category, plus a People's Choice Award. Submit your video by May 30, 2018. Learn more at [victoria.ca/reusablebags](http://victoria.ca/reusablebags).

**FORT STREET BIKE  
LANES OPENING  
MAY 27. WATCH  
FOR OPENING  
EVENT DETAILS  
COMING SOON**

### 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:

- Incorporate the market rental building inventory into City systems such as VicMap for public access



May 2018 Update

## Downtown

- 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 organisations that provide information, education and support to tenants on residential tenancy matters to the 2019 financial planning process.

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets May [3](#), [10](#), [17](#) and 24 at 9am. Council meets May [3](#), [10](#) and 24 beginning at 6:30pm. To view a webcast in process along with the related agenda, click to view the HTML version of the agenda.