



**DRA Board Meeting Minutes
January 15th 2019
Victoria City Hall
5.30 p.m.**

Board members present: Paul Gandall (chair), Wendy Bowkett, Doug Boyd, Ruth Annis, Marv Gandall, Dianne Flood, Robert Florida, Ian Sutherland, Nick Harrington

City Staff: Mike Hill

City Council: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of November 20th, 2018 Board Minutes:

Wendy moved, Paul seconded, and carried that the the Board Minutes of November 20th, 2018 be approved as amended.

Councillor Liasion Report

Councillor Thornton-Joe reviewed developments at City Council, Committee of the Whole, and the Downtown/Harris Green neighbourhood during November and December. She also discussed the upcoming public consultations on the City's draft 2019 budget and strategic plan on January 16th and 19th respectively.

City Liaison Report

Mike Hill reported that city staff had been directed to explore options to create more child-friendly and dog-friendly spaces downtown. He noted that the draft strategic plan made reference to creating a home base and meeting place for the Downtown Residents Association. Other matters in the draft plan of particular interest to the DRA relate to proposed reviews of neighbourhood boundaries, the restructuring and strengthening of the CALUC's, and the promotion of traffic calming measures. Mike also reported, among other things, on the Centennial Square, Ship Point, and Waterfront Pathway redevelopments, the Great Neighbourhood and Strategic Plan grants programs, and upcoming public events sponsored by the city.

A. Standing Committee Reports

Land Use Committee

Ian reported.

a) Interim Inclusive Housing and Density Bonus Policy - Ian will be attending the stakeholder meeting on January 24th. He said the existing policy completely failed to capture the uplift in land value from added density granted to developers which ranged from \$5-12sf in Victoria compared to \$60-140sf in other BC jurisdictions. Ian also criticized the Council decision to divert the very limited revenue raised through CAC's from community amenities into affordable housing funds.

b) Pacific Mazda/Firehall site - A meeting with the applicant, Jawl Residential, and Mayor Helps took place on January 8th.

c) Old Town Design Guideline - A draft has been presented to the public.

d) Centennial Square Refurbishment - There has been no response from Bridget Frewer since November 12th.

Community Development Committee

Wendy reported.

a) Christmas Cocktails – The event was held on Tuesday December 18th at Zambri's.

b) Committee business - A CDC planning meeting was held on January 8th. A new CDC chair will be needed after the AGM.

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

Governance Committee

Wendy reported.

a) Self-governance policies - The policies were reviewed, amended, and approved by email.

B. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Nil report.

Communications Committee

Nil report

Budget Committee

Nil report

C. External Committee Reports

Victoria Community Association Network

Paul reported that VCAN is currently considering issues related to it's own governance structure/terms of reference and indicated that he would keep the board apprised of developments.

900 Block Pandora Good Neighbours Association

Nil report.

Late Night Action Committee

Paul reported that the DRA's Late Night Bus Service letter was picked up by a number of media outlets and the initiative that the letter was supporting was subsequently adopted by BC Transit for roll out next fall.

D. Business Arising from Minutes

2019 DRA AGM

Marv reported.

a) AGM package - The AGM package is ready to be sent to members. It consists of the Agenda, Treasurer's Report, 2018 minutes, committee reports, and board biographies. The covering letter would invite members to stand for election to the new board.

b) AGM format - Alloted times are approximate: setup at the VEC (30 minutes); Welcoming remarks, approval of the agenda and 2018 minutes (10 minutes); President's Report (10 minutes); Treasurer's Report and Budget (10 minutes); Questions/comments on written committee reports (10 minutes); Election to board (10 minutes).

c) Panel discussion - The panel discussion on "Which way Victoria? The housing crisis and the debate over city policy" will begin at 7 following a 20 minute break after the AGM. Panelists are Ben Isitt, Kathy Hogan, and Ian Sutherland. Paul will introduce the panel and format and moderate following the sudden withdrawal of Maurine Karagianis for family-related reasons.

Prepared questions will be emailed to the panelists immediately following the board meeting. There will be five rounds of questions. Panelists will have 9 minutes each to respond. An additional round will allow the panelists 3 minutes each for summing up and/or rebuttal.

The questions ask the panelists to address the city's interim housing policy; the relationship, if any, between homelessness, affordable housing, and downtown liveability; the role of the neighbourhood associations; amenity contributions and land banking; and best practices in other jurisdictions.

There will be approximately a half hour for questions and comments from the floor between 8-8.30.

d) Promotion of event - The event will be publicized through emails to members, neighbourhood associations, business organizations, housing groups, and others with an interest in the issue; via social media, chiefly the DRA website; by posting by Metropol on downtown utility poles; distribution of flyers at other events such as the upcoming Strategic Plan engagement with the community, and through a release to the media closer to the event.

e) Event night arrangements and volunteers - Dianne and Doug volunteered to staff the registration table. Wendy volunteered to act as timekeeper for panelists' response to questions. Board members present will assist in the takedown between 8.30-9.

Noise issues

Marv reported on new technologies being introduced to monitor and control traffic noise in other cities. He agreed to provide relevant material to Charlayne who expressed an interest in the issue.

Agenda and Board Meeting Materials

Paul proposed, and it was agreed, that responsibility for the preparation of the board meeting agenda and related documentation revert to the President.

E. New Business

Treasurer's Report to the 2019 AGM

Doug provided the board with his written report. Robert moved, seconded by Wendy, and carried that the report be approved for distribution and discussion at the AGM.

Proposed Amendment to Constitution and Bylaws

Doug proposed that the Secretary's role in Section 8.7 be amended by adding subsection i.d) Posting the minutes of Board meetings and the AGM on the DRA website and in the DRA Dropbox folder, once approved. It was noted that the proposed constitutional amendment would require the approval of the membership at the AGM.

Adjournment: 8.30 pm.

Date of next meeting: February 19th, 2019.

Marv G.
Secretary