

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

Location: ZOOM

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Paul Gandall (chair), Dale Dearing, Ian Sutherland, Doug Boyd, Dianne Flood, Ruth Annis, Mathew Yee, Nicholas Harrington, Sandra Severs

City Council Liaison: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

City Staff: Mike Hill

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

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

Councillor's Report- Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Charlayne noted that this was her last meeting as Council Liaison to the Downtown-Harris Green neighbourhood.

She acknowledged the hard work of the DRA, especially the Land Use Committee, and said that she would continue to be an advocate for the downtown.

The DVBA has released clean up numbers for 2020. Over 14,500 graffiti tags were removed last year. Just over 5,000 needles were picked up which is half the number of needles picked up in 2019.

Council of the Whole will meet on Thursday and will deal with the two applications for cannabis outlets in the downtown, one on Gordon Street and the other on Douglas Street.

The townhall meeting on the 2021 budget will take place tomorrow (Wednesday) night. Emails on the budget are largely focused on calls to defund the police.

Dine Around Victoria is starting soon. Residents are asked to support downtown restaurants.

Many businesses are struggling at the moment although not all are in this position. Some had good years in 2020. Concern about a sophisticated method of break ins targeting downtown businesses is being raised by the DVBA.

In response to a question about support for our budget application, Charlayne acknowledged the particular challenges the downtown faces with the massive amount of development and applications for development permits currently underway. The Downtown-Harris Green neighbourhood is in a unique position among neighbourhoods and requires additional financial support.

Paul thanked Charlayne for her work as the DRA Council Liaison.

Downtown Update – Mike Hill

Report attached.

When the decision about Council liaisons is made, Mike will let the DRA know which Councillor has been assigned to the DRA.

Strategic Grant applications- The application process is now open. There are two on-line workshops happening (January 13

th and January 20th) to give information about the process and requirements. Dianne will attend one of them on behalf of the DRA.

Increase in patio seating – Applications for additional seating from the Churchill and Swans have been received for consideration by staff and Council.

Neighbourhood Boundaries – Conversation about the boundaries of neighbourhoods will come forward for discussion in February. There is some talk about extending the southern boundary of the Downtown-Harris Green neighbourhood to include the south side of Fort Street as well as consideration of extending the boundary to include parts of Rock Bay.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None outstanding.

AGM Planning

The AGM is scheduled for February 9th via ZOOM. It was agreed that Dale would do a presentation of the new website during the AGM.

The Board agreed that a run through of the AGM agenda would take place on Wednesday, January 27th at 5:30 p.m. Paul will send the ZOOM coordinates.

Action: Because the financial statements and the budget need to be reviewed and approved by the Board, Matt will have both ready for presentation at the January 27th run through.

Action: Committee chairs to have reports to Doug for posting on the website by January 27th.

Dianne and Sandra agreed to allow their names to stand for re-election to the Board. Ruth indicated that she would not stand for re-election but would continue to represent the DRA to the Humboldt Valley Residents Association. Dianne encouraged Board members to seek out neighbours and others who might be willing to serve as Board members to the DRA.

Governance Committee

Dianne canvassed the Board to see if there was interest in setting aside a three-hour block of time to engage in a strategic planning process. There was general openness to this idea.

Action: A time will be set at the Board meeting after the AGM.

Questions on Standing Committee Reports

1) Land Use Committee (LUC) Ian (report attached)

The Board moved to an *in camera* session for discussion. Charlayne Thornton-Joe and Mike Hill left the meeting.

2) Urban Livability Committee (ULC) Sandra (report attached)

3) Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee (UEAC)

Nicholas reported that activity in the garden is minimal at the moment.

Action: Nicholas will send Matt a budget for the garden to be included in the 2021 DRA budget.

There is still money outstanding from the TRC event which has been designated for the garden.

Action: Nicholas and Dianne will follow up with Janet Strauss.

4) Communications/Membership Committee (CMC) Doug

Doug requested newsletter items by Friday. He reminded the Board that it is time to renew DRA memberships.

Motion: That DRA Board members not be required to pay the membership fee of \$10 in acknowledgement of the volunteer time committed to the work of the organization.

Moved: Paul Gandall **Seconded:** Nicholas Harrington. **CARRIED**

It was noted that donations are always welcome and Board members might choose to make a contribution to the organization at the time of renewing their membership.

5) Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Dale (report attached)

External Meeting Reports

1) Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Paul/Ian

Schisms in VCAN continue making movement forward on the issue of governance difficult. Paul is questioning whether joint action on specific issues is more effective to work together.

Action: Paul will connect Ian to Matt Dell.

2) Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC) Paul

A Liquor Policy has yet to be developed by City staff making it difficult for the Land Use Committee to comment properly on applications for liquor licenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, February 9th following the AGM.

In Your Neighbourhood

2021 Budget Input Wanted

The City of Victoria is seeking the community's feedback on its 2021 Draft Budget. You're invited to read the plan or Budget Summary and [complete an online survey](#). Plan to participate in the City's Virtual Budget Town Hall, an interactive event that will be webcast live on **Wednesday, January 13, 2021** at 6:30 p.m. Starting Monday, January 4, the community will be able to submit questions and comments on Twitter (#victownhall), through an online form or by telephone. You can then tune in to the live webcast for the answers.

Community Virtuals

The City is continuing with the [Community Virtuals](#) presentation series in 2021. The first will be "Engaging Your Neighbours" on Wednesday, January 20 from noon to 1:30pm. If you have a great idea to improve your neighbourhood, but are not sure how to get feedback and support from your neighbours, join this panel to get tips from City engagement staff and community groups who have recently engaged their neighbours in the process of applying for City funding.

New Councillor Elected

Stephen Andrew was elected as a new Victoria Councillor in December with 6,937 votes. The nearest other candidates were Stephanie Hardman with 3,783 and Roshan Vickery with 603 votes.

Council will consider the appointments of Councillors to neighbourhoods for the balance of their terms at their January 14 Committee meeting.

Neighbourhood Association Coordinators

On December 3, Council approved a motion relating to providing funding for neighbourhoods without community centres that will inform budget deliberations on January 15, 2021. Specifically:

1. That Council direct staff to report back on a potential funding source for \$20,000 for a part-time coordinator for the Downtown Residents Association, North Jubilee, South Jubilee, Rockland and North Park Neighbourhoods as a one-year pilot with a final report on the utility of the coordinator position to be provided at the end of the pilot.
2. Forward this motion to the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) for their feedback

Call To Be Calm

Artist in Residence, Kathryn Calder is inviting those in need of calm and joy in their day to call the new 1-877-2BE-

January 2021 Update

Downtown

CALM toll-free hotline. Individuals can experience the toll-free phone line by dialling up and choosing from

a rotating selection of soothing auditory experiences, including music from Canadian artists, nature, poetry, children's laughter, meditations and Indigenous stories and songs. Learn more about the 1-877-2BE-CALM project and how to submit a recording of your child's laughter at victoria.ca/becalm.

Do U Need A Bus Pass?

The annual Youth U-Pass is now available for 2021. Youth between the ages of 6-18 years of age living in the municipality of Victoria are invited to apply for a free BC Transit Youth U-PASS valid from February 1 to December 31, 2021. The U-PASS allows youth to travel for free to school, work, shopping and recreation on the Victoria Regional Transit System. Learn more at: victoria.ca/transit

Community Grants Available

The City is accepting applications for [Strategic Plan Grants](#) until January 31. In 2021, \$500,000 in funding is available for projects that are directed towards projects supporting the achievement of the City's Strategic Plan. There are online workshops on January 13 and 20 at 9am to learn more about the grant program. To sign up to participate, email grants@victoria.ca.

The Great Neighbourhood Grant program closed at the end of 2020 with over 50 grants awarded with a total of over \$184,000 in funding. The City will be accepting applications again in April after a review and report to Council.

Speed Reduction

Council has resolved to pursue a reduction in the City's default speed limit. After reviewing a [staff report](#) on January 7, Council directed staff to finalize any outstanding stakeholder engagement and, pending approval of resources through the 2021 Financial Planning process, prepare an application to participate in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program to reduce default speed limits on local roads without a continuous centre line in the City of Victoria from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr as per the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

Neighbourhood Boundaries

Council has resolved to allocate a portion of a Committee of the Whole meeting in February 2021 to have a discussion about reconciling issues in neighbourhood boundaries. Any input into their discussion should be considered and submitted prior to then. The specific date has not yet been confirmed.

City Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on January 7, 14, 21 and 28th at 9:00am with Council meetings following Committee meetings.

Governance Committee Report – January, 2021

1. AGM: The 2021 AGM will be held on Tuesday, February 9, using Zoom. The first meeting of the Board will be held immediately following, to elect the Executive for 2021. **Please plan to attend to ensure we get quorum.**

Some items need to be attended to, in advance:

- a notice must be sent to all members by no later than January 22, and should also be posted on our website. (Doug, as chair of the Communications Committee, can you do this?)
 - committee chairs are asked to file their reports in advance of the meeting, to be posted on our website, and to be available at the meeting to answer any questions on the reports, so **all Committee chairs need to get their reports in, ideally by January 22 and by no later than February 1.**
 - Board members whose terms are expiring (Ruth, Sandra and Dianne) are asked to confirm if they will stand for re-election.
 - Board members are asked to encourage other members to consider standing for nomination to the Board.
2. Strategic planning session: what is Board members' interest and availability to attend a strategic planning session in late February or March by Zoom, and whether we need/should have the session moderated/facilitated by a non-Board member.
 3. A letter has been sent to the Mayor and Council, requesting \$47,000 be allocated to the DRA in the 2021 budget (in addition to the base grant funding) in order to hire a part-time employee. Council will deliberate in the coming months and typically sets the budget (and tax rates) in May. The outcome of the request will be reported when known.
 4. An application for a strategic grant for a similar amount and purpose will be submitted by the end of January. An independent panel first considers all the applications in the context of the City's strategic plan, and makes recommendations to council at the end of April. With a high level of submissions (and competition) for these grants, typically not all applications are funded, nor is 100% funding granted. The outcome of the application will be reported when known.

2021 JAN Project List for Board Meeting

DRA Land Use Committee

08 JAN 2020

City of Victoria Development Tracker: <https://tender.victoria.ca/webapps/ourcity/prospero/search.aspx>

Blue font=new content

LUC: Current

1. 550 Pandora – Chinese Freemasons Housing Society & M’akola Devt Services with architect Alan Lowe - Rezoning with an OCP Amendment (OCP Amendment not listed on the Devt Tracker) for a 5-storey, 36-unit affordable-housing rental apartment building with 2 ground-floor commercial retail units. Proposed 3.62 FSR above 3.0 permitted with height of 16.17m above 15m permitted. Proposal includes 44 Class 1 bike spots required but not the 6 Class 2. Creation of affordable housing units will be funded by BC Housing but operated by Chinese Freemasons Housing Society. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 11 Sept 2020. Pre-CALUC meeting held on 15 Oct 2020. CALUC letter to be written and sent. [The 30-day opportunity for public comment opened on Devt Tracker on 07 Dec 2020. City notifications were not sent out in a timely manner to meet the deadline, so they sent out a revised notice and the deadline for public comment has been extended to 22 Jan 2021.](#)
2. [1140 Government Street - Application for a Structural Change to increase Occupant Load for The Churchill’s Liquor Primary Licence from 90 to 144 \(within the building\) with no changes in hours of operation \(11am-1am Mon-Sat and 11 am to 12 am Sun\). Application is going to Committee of the Whole on 14 Jan 2021 with staff recommendation to approve. No public notification was sent to the LUC on this application. Instead the item was discovered on the online agenda for CotW.](#)
3. 1150 Douglas, Bay Centre – Liquor Distribution Branch – Rezoning Application to permit the use of a Storefront Cannabis Retailer for commercial space along Fort St. DRA LUC letter sent 19 Oct 2020 supporting Staff recommendation to decline due to proximity rules. Status: Scheduled for Public Hearing 14 Jan 2021.
4. 901 Gordon St – Vikram Sachdeva in partnership with the Songhees Nation – Rezoning Application to permit the use of a Storefront Cannabis Retailer. Applicant notes that 901 Gordon Street is within 150 m from a school and 350 m from another Cannabis store. DRA LUC letter sent 19 Oct 2020 supporting Staff recommendation to decline due to proximity rules. Approved at CotW on 22 Oct 2020. Status: Scheduled for Public Hearing 14 Jan 2021.
5. 510 Pandora Ave – UVic /Swans Pub– Notice of application to Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch for a structural change to a liquor primary licence to increase the occupant load from 171 to 282 people with no adjustment to the existing hours of 9:00 am – 2:00 am daily. Response requested by City on or before 04 Jan 2020.
6. 1150 Cook St, Pluto’s – Dan Robbins & Fraser McColl – Development Permit with Variance. Dominant response was that it’s an attractive project but at 16 storeys (+1 from previous version), it’s over the 10-storey height limit that defines the density for the R-48 zone and the proposed density (now 7.78 not 8.98 FSR) is significantly above the OCP maximums. 129 units with 41 parking spots and 157 bike parking. Pluto’s has had lease extended to Mar 2021. Presented at ADP on 22 July 2020. Revised plans posted to Devt

Tracker 06 Nov 2020. Most recent LUC letter submitted 16 Sept 2020 based on previous plans. At Committee of the Whole on 26 Nov 2020 the project was referred back for staff review to address a number of items including a point-by-point response to the DRA concerns. Status: [Revised plans posted to Devt Tracker 30 Dec 2020. Will be reviewed by the LUC for responses to concerns raised about the project.](#)

7. 975 Pandora, Seventh Adventist Church – Townline – Rezoning and BP for 121 residential rental units ranging from studio to 5-bdrm (including pods) in 15-storey/44.65 m (prev 16) tower at 5.46 FSR (prev 5.497) with ground floor commercial. Vehicle parking at 118 (req 113) with bike storage at 240 (req 162). There are 125 (prev 119) storage lockers. No retention of church building. CALUC letter submitted Mar 2019 based on 2018 submission. Project went to Advisory Design Panel on 25 Nov 2020. Status: Second set of revised plans posted to the Devt Tracker. Staff Review completed and With Applicant 18 Dec 2020.
8. 1045 Yates St, Harris Chrysler (Phase 1) – Starlight – Development Permit w Variance. Previous Plan included: 6-storey podium w 17 & 19 storey towers w 6:1 FSR. Rental for 510 residential units (incl 6 townhomes). Parking stalls on site 460 (103 commercial/visitor and 357 residential) & 680 bike parking. Revised plans were posted 12 Nov 2020 and Under Staff Review. Status: Scheduled for City’s Advisory Design Panel on 16 Dec 2020 but meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
9. 1106 Blanshard St, Montrose Winter Garden Hotel – David Fullbrook with D’Ambrosio – Site Specific Zone and OCP amendment for Core Business area density. Plan to develop NW corner of Blanshard and Fort. Project proposes tower design for low staff (Airbnb) style hotel. Density requested 6.39:1 from 3.0:1 allowed and requested height of 65.93 m from 43.0m allowed. The remainder of the block, The Montrose Building, will be designated heritage and maintained with residential and small CRUs (which are being renovated as vacancies arise). CALUC meeting held on Wed 29 Jan at 6:30 pm at the Christ Church Cathedral Chapter Room. Zoom meeting with CALUC members took place on 12 Nov 2020 to present revised plans. Staff Review of Revised Plans as of 20 Nov 2020. Status: Scheduled for City’s Advisory Design Panel on 16 Dec 2020 but meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. CALUC letter is being drafted.
10. 749-767 Douglas, Apex Site – Telus w Aryze – Rezoning for new office building with an OCP amendment for density concurrent and DP w Variance for new office building. On 04 Aug 2020 LUC members met with applicant’s rep to review early plans and discuss options for process for a virtual CALUC-type meeting. Another meeting will be required to review revisions and discuss missing information. However, the applicant has not followed up with additional information. Project went to ADP on Wed 23 Sept and was approved with minor design changes recommended (eg. change signage above Empress, wood added to the soffits, etc). The 30-day window for public comment began 02 Oct but CALUC received public notice 2 weeks later. The City has subsequently provided the DRA LUC with public comments that were collected through the Development Tracker. Status: Revised plans submitted and under staff review 04 Dec 2020.
11. 611 Chatham St – Nicola Wealth Real Estate – Development Permit with Variances. LUC members met with David Fawley and Guadalupe Font of Denciti Devt Corp (applicant’s reps from Van) on 12 Aug 2020 to discuss the project. Applicant proposes 5-floor 274 (formerly 250) unit market rental residential with ground floor commercial on 1.5 acres

- over 9 lots facing Chatham, Herald and Government Sts. Variance for height requested from 15m to 17.34 m for Herald St and 15.81m for Chatham. Status: Application Review by City Complete and now With Applicant. 30-day notice period for comment ended 04 Nov 2020. LUC letter submitted to City on 30 Nov 2020.
12. 1244 Wharf St, Yates Block – Robert Fung & Cascadia Architects. Heritage Alteration with Variance application for exterior alterations (changes to existing windows and addition of new windows, changes to entrance door locations, building material changes, and an addition of a new rear balcony). Proposed renos include creation of 22 residential units on the upper two levels with related storage uses below Wharf St, reno of the existing commercial retail units at the Wharf St level, and the creation of new harbour facing commercial retail units at the lower two levels. Well received by Heritage Advisory Panel. Concurrent Rezoning file: REZ No.00739. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans as of 20 Nov 2020.
 13. 1205 Quadra – Starlight – Rezoning and OCP Amendment for two sites on the south side of Yates btwn Quadra & Cook: 1.35 hectare full 900-block Yates and the 0.63 hectare eastern half of the 1000-block Yates, 1045 Yates. FSR 6.0. Status: Revised plans posted and Under Staff Review as of 19 Nov 2020.
 14. 579-585 Johnson St – Hartwig Industries w Studio 531 architects – BP with Variance. Two different massing studies have been presented and both exceed the 15m maximum height permitted by the zone so applicant would seek a variance. Site meeting with CALUC took place on 10 Nov 2020. Project went to Heritage Advisory Panel 08 Dec 2020 to discuss two different massing proposals in addition to a Zoom meeting with City, Applicant and DRA reps on 02 Dec 2020 to review and discuss proposals. Many concerns were voiced regarding the approaches being offered and how they do/do not conform with Old Town guidelines and policies.
 15. 535 Yates – Five Star Permits – Development Variance Permit application to vary the sign bylaw. The Sign By-Law for Old Town prohibits signage about the sill of the second storey of buildings. The intent is to avoid a proliferation of signs on the facades of historic buildings. 30-day notice period for comment ended 04 Nov 2020. Letter submitted 23 Oct 2020. Declined unanimously at CotW 27 Nov 2020.
 16. 504 Herald, Herald St Brew Works – Mike and Lee Spence – Development Permit with Variance: Applicant seeking a permit to construct a rooftop patio with an occupancy of 99 additional liquor primary seats; bringing total occupancy to 277 from the previously approved 178. Anticipated use is not included in this application; only construction. Letter sent 20 May 2020. Status: Proceed to Council for Public Comment as of 21 May 2020. The Opportunity for Public Comment has been put on hold and will proceed with amendment request to Liquor License as of 16 Oct 2020.
 17. 1314 Wharf St, Northern Junk – Reliance Properties – Rezoning for the redevelopment of existing heritage buildings and a residential with ground floor commercial, mixed use addition, concurrent Heritage Alteration with FSR 3.39. CALUC Letter submitted 10 Sept 2019. Went to CotW on 11 June 2020. Council referred the application back to staff with the direction that the application adheres more to the heritage and old town guidelines. Revised Plans Posted 10 Aug 2020. Update Report on Rezoning Application & Heritage Alteration Permit w Variances went to Committee of the Whole 17 Sept 2020. Referred to Public Hearing Status: Will be scheduled for Public Hearing as of 01 Oct 2020.

18. 1244 Wharf St, McQuade's Building – Robert Fung & Cascadia Architects. Rezoning application to allow for hotel use. No additional storeys being requested. Heritage designated building. Will apply for TIP. Includes substantial rehabilitation of the site through the preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of exterior and extensive reno of interior. Letter submitted to City on 28 Sept 2020. Status: Approved at CotW on 01 Oct 2020 and will be scheduled for Public Hearing.
19. 937 View St – Nelson Investments w/ de Hoog & Kierulf – Development Permit with Variance to build a 18-storey (from 15-storey or 45m to 54m) 267 (from 253) market rental units with parking for 0 (from 15) vehicles and 307 (from 172) bikes on R48 land and located in Fort St Heritage Corridor using pre-fabricated components. Proposed FSR 7.95 (from 7.27). Several setback variances are sought which negatively effect livability. Applicant is not proposing to rezone away from R-48 zone. Key messages from City staff report regarding previous plan: “still have major concerns with the overall massing, form and character of the proposed building. Although the initial 2017 submission still had challenges, the design had a few more consistencies with the design guidelines. The applicant was provided with a copy of the staff review based on the February 2017 submission for ease of reference.
 - Increase separation distances on east and south property lines.
 - Reduce the impact of shading on the public realm.
 - Provide a radical redesign of the form and character of the building.
 Staff do not feel like the application sufficiently meets the design guidelines to warrant a review by the ADP. If the applicant chooses to move ahead without any significant changes, staff will take the application forward to COTW with a recommendation for refusal. However, staff commended the applicant in the submission of a market rental proposal that would contribute towards the City's housing targets. The proponent would prefer to move to ADP with a positive recommendation from Planning staff and is actively working towards support from all departments.” LUC Letter sent 2 Feb 2020 based on 2019 plan. Status: With Applicant as of 25 Sept 2020. New letter to be sent.
20. 504 Herald, Herald St Brew Works – Mike and Lee Spence – Change to Lounge Endorsement for a Manufacturing Licence for 99-seat patio with hours of operation of 9am to midnight Sun-Thurs and 9am to 1:00 am Fri and Sat. Status: City Notice seeks input by 14 Oct 2020. Fourth letter re this project submitted 25 Sept 2020.
21. DCAP Review – City Staff-led stakeholder engagement process. Ian has outlined many of the DRA LUC concerns regarding gaps and priorities. The process continued over Teams Meeting on 29 Sept 2020 where Staff presented Draft DCAP Design Guidelines and received initial feedback from the Technical Working Group.

LUC: Ongoing and Active

1. Develop a draft doc outlining guidelines for Heritage Corridors as referred to in the OCP, and as relevant to Fort St. Discussed at 12 Aug 2020 pre-CALUC meeting. A CALUC member is reviewing supporting docs.
2. 1010 Fort St – Abstract Developments – Rezoning for the development of a 13-storey building with ground floor commercial and 55 residential above with 7 vehicle parking and 97 bike parking spots. Proposed FSR 5.37. CALUC letter submitted 1 Oct 2019. Status:

Council on 2 July 2020. Referred back to staff to work with the applicant for possible 6-storey condo that complies with city requirements (heritage, planning, etc) with request from Council to pay the \$250k to affordable housing fund (a commitment made re Bellewood Park project) before 31 Dec 2020 deadline.

3. 1124 Vancouver – J. Gordon Enterprises – Second CALUC held 06 Nov 2019 but information presented was not complete. DRA LUC will postpone any additional CALUC meetings for this project until after the applicant gets approval by the Advisory Design Panel. CALUC letters submitted for both meetings. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans as of 14 May 2020. The DRA LUC has not been contacted regarding changes and new plans have not been posted to the Devt Tracker.
4. 900-block Yates, Market On Yates & Harris Green Village between Quadra to Vancouver and Yates to View, as well as the eastern half of the 1000-block Yates (mid-block to Cook) – Starlight Investments. Status: With Applicant since 21 Feb 2020. CALUC letter submitted to City 08 Mar 2020.
5. 777 Herald, Hudson Place One – Townline – Development Variance Permit for a height variance from the previously approved plans. Note: This project was granted a 3m height variance in 2018. Construction of this building is nearing completion. Status: Application Received and Review by City 20 Feb 2020.
6. 1312 Broad, Duck Block – UVic Properties/Chard – Rezoning, Development Permit and Heritage Alteration for 6-storey 139-unit hotel with ground floor commercial with FSR 4.0 (from 4.39). Includes an OCP amendment for a very significant increase in density offside of the Official Community Plan maximum densities for Old Town and best practices of Heritage Conservation. Status: On Thurs 06 Feb 2020, CotW voted to send this project to Public Hearing.
7. 700 Douglas, Bus Depot – Bosa with James KM Cheng – Rezoning to construct long-term rental with ground floor commercial. Status: With Applicant since 4 Oct 2019.
8. On 04 Jul 2019 at Committee of the Whole, Council unanimously passed the recommendation “That Council consider as part of the 2020 budget discussions the allocation of some new assessed revenue for parks and green space acquisition and amenities in neighbourhoods where development is occurring.”
9. List of Community Amenities needed for Downtown Harris Green. Results from 2014 Town Hall Meeting were substantiated by comments on Social Media in 2020 outreach. Many other challenges and issues identified that were not related to amenities but have been noted. Will continue to collect and compile.
10. 1620 Blanshard, Gateway Green – Tri-Eagle & Jawl Residential – Temporary Use Permit to demolish the two-storey commercial building and provide 62 surface parking spaces. Staff recommendation to decline the TUP. Council approved the TUP but requested that the applicant work with Staff to explore the temporary use of the site for modular housing as opposed to parking. There will be another public notice circulated (for any TUP use) before it goes to Public Hearing. Status: Report Preparation by Planner since 14 Nov 2019.

January 2021 – Urban Livability Committee Report

A letter was sent to Mayor and Council supporting the call of North Park Neighbourhood Association to reopen the arena for sheltering. A response was received. The main part of it is as follows:

“The ongoing pandemic has reduced access to indoor shelters and supports for people experiencing homelessness, and due to physical distancing requirements, shelters are not able to offer the same number of beds they normally do. Consistent with advice of Public Health Officials, Council deferred enforcement of the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. restriction on sheltering in parks. These bylaw amendments are written so that daytime sheltering will end 30 days after the provincial state of emergency ends.

There are no easy answers to the challenges we’re facing but we will continue to collaborate with the provincial and federal governments, as well as community agencies, to find and secure more safe spaces for people to stay warm and dry. For example, the Community Wellness Alliance, co-chaired by Mayor Lisa Helps and Island Health, meets weekly to match people without homes with appropriate housing and corresponding supports.

While we work to end homelessness in our community, our focus is on managing sheltering in parks as safely as possible for everyone.

BC Housing is responsible for supportive housing in the region, and at the start of the pandemic, various City facilities were offered to BC Housing for use on a temporary basis but most were deemed unsuitable. However the City has been clear that we would like to see BC Housing work out an arrangement with the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre operator to get the arena opened back up as temporary shelter as soon as possible. BC Housing and the GSL Group have recently begun discussions on this, but no firm decisions have been made at this time.”

In the meantime, new tents have been set up in the parking lot of Royal Athletic Park after folk were flooded out of Central Park. (My question: Why did this situation happen?) Others continue to camp in parks throughout the city many with limited access to washroom facilities or food. COVID 19 has been found among the unsheltered population and non-profits are working to put protocols in place to deal with this situation.

The “Hey Neighbour” project to construct 30 units of shipping container housing (160 sq.ft per housing unit) is almost halfway to their \$500,000 goal. Despite the hype on the website, which is good for fundraising, the project will not meet the needs of those who are currently without housing. With no extreme winter protocol in place this year because of the pandemic, and with limited spaces available within the shelter system, many residents of Victoria will spend the remaining months of this winter living in tents.

January 2021 CEC Report:

CEC committee had 1 pre-xmas meeting to review the new website.

Favorable comments by committee members, and some minor changes suggested(eg., contrast, logo whitespace, font consistency).

These changes have been made.

Will give a quick review/demo of the new website during my CEC time during board meeting.

Next step for website:

after receiving 2nd payment installment, developer will complete *engage* pages, *mobile version*, *SEO*, *pre-launch review*, *domain linking*, etc (per design brief).

Dale
CEC Chair