

DRA Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Location: ZOOM
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Board members: Sandra Severs (President), Doug Boyd, Ian Sutherland, Jeremy Zhao, Jordan Royer, Sherry Lee

DRA Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator: James Davis

City Council Liaison: Dave Thompson

City Staff: Mike Hill

5:30 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, Land Acknowledgement and Approval of Agenda

5:35 p.m. Councillor Update: Dave Thompson

Councillor Thompson provided following updates:

- 780 Blanshard St: Council supports development as art and cultural space. Long-term plan for purposing for the building is pending. There is ongoing application for development.
- Ship Point development: Council approved to begin planning.
- Strathcona Hotel: Council approved converting designated space from food-primary to liquor-primary venue.
- Development of transit corridors.
- Policing and Homelessness:
 - There will be increased police effort to prevent tenting near the Conservatory on Pandora Ave.
 - Increased efforts to move housed residents indoors.
 - Members of Council are looking for traction for supportive housing. And awaiting provincial plan for supportive housing by Fall.
 - Council supports converting emergency warming shelters to permanent shelters during winter months.
- Food/liquor venue application for use of street space for patio vs. public access to streets being considered.
- Due to Province announcing legislation to prohibit public drug use, Council discussed implications.
- Public Washroom: current day-time washroom to support day-time substance consumption sites. Need for 24/7 washroom on Pandora Ave identified. Pressure on Province to provide
- No meeting planned between Craft Brewery and Mermaid Wharf to address noise issue.

ACTION: Councillor Thompson to seek clarification on Provincial rules for short-term rentals and implementation timeline

5:55 p.m. Downtown Update: Mike Hill (report attached)

Additional updates/discussions:

- CRAFT Brewery has applied for change in license terms for adopted operating hours. City may impose ‘good neighbour agreement’ due to noise issues.
- Great Neighbourhood Grant has now been fully committed.
- Meares St x View Street housing project: consultation of community advisory committees planned.
- Community Association Community of Practice will hold a workshop on branding in late November.
- “Our Downtown” program: revitalization of downtown busking is under planning, consultation planned.
- Changes anticipated in “Tiny Town”.
- Yates Street Community Garden water intrusion concern is being investigated.

6:20 p.m. Standing Committee Reports – Q and A

- **Urban Livability Committee (ULC) and Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee (UEC):** Michael/Colby (no report)
 - Potential use of View St parkade rooftop as garden space was reviewed by City and was not approved. Engineering report cited concerns for structural load and emergency exit access. Community Garden Startup grant application deadline is Oct 30. Committee will consider alternative temporarily vacant lots.
ACTION: James to share report summary.
ACTION: DRA to request full engineering report.
ACTION: James to request follow up meeting with City to discuss outcome of assessment report before Oct 30.
 - Mural project has not been confirmed.
 - Naloxone training planned for before end of 2023.
 - Community disability awareness training before end of 2023.
 - Ongoing work prioritization and recruitment for new members.
- **Communications and Membership Committee (CMC):** Doug (report attached)
- **Governance Committee:** Dianne (no report)
- **Land Use Committee (LUC):** Ian/Jordan (report attached)
ACTION: Ian to follow up on 603 Pandora Ave
 - 1030 Fort St. mid-street cross walk: No updates
- **Community Engagement Committee (CEC):** James (report attached)
 - Update: Go By Bike week program was reduced due to staff illness.

6:25 p.m. External Meeting Reports – Q and A

- **Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN):** Sandra/Ian (report attached)
- **900 Pandora Good Neighbour Group:** Sandra (no report)
Committee met this morning. Ongoing frustration expressed over the lack of movement on the washroom issue. A letter is being drafted to send to Mayor and Council asking them to send a letter to the Province requesting this issue be addressed.
- **Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee:** Doug (no report)

7:30 p.m. Meeting concludes.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 5:30pm



DOWNTOWN

2022 Election Lessons Learned

Council received a [report](#) on a review of the 2022 municipal election. 27,452 (~38%) of registered voters participated in the election with 2,685 mailing in ballots and 4,633 attending advanced polls. Voter turnout was over 5% lower than the previous election. Recommendations included that guidelines be developed for conducting elections and that a larger facility such as the Victoria Conference Centre be used as a primary voting place in the next election.



Sidewalk Patio Bylaw

On October 19, staff will present a [report](#) to Council on amendments to the Sidewalk Patio Bylaw. There are currently 57 Sidewalk Café permits and 32 Build Back Victoria permits which expire on December 31, 2023. Changes retain preclusion of unpaved boulevards and restrict patios that extend beyond the immediate frontage of the building other than in atypical conditions. Several businesses have constructed enclosures on their patios which will require removal on this expiration date. Other proposed changes would increase allowable heights of fencing, provide clarity on terms related to security gates and awnings, and clarify terms for special events in patios.

Liquor Licence Changes

Council approved a licence change for the Strathcona Hotel to increase the Liquor Primary capacity by converting 117 Food Primary seats, from 183 to 300. There would be no overall change to the occupant load; the change simply removes the emphasis on food to consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Council also recently approved a change in licensing for Saint Franks, now located at 727 Yates Street, to extend their food primary liquor licence service to 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily with an occupant load of 90 people.

Sheltering Homeless

Council has deferred a Council Member [Motion](#) to further restrict camping in parks by adding Vic West and Irving Parks to the prohibited list. The motion will be considered pending a staff report on previous Council direction. Council approved motions to "...work in collaboration with the province to create seasonal shelters throughout the region which would operate annually from approximately November 1st until March 31st" and to extend the contract of the Parks Relocation Coordinators to continue their work.



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

Your Council Liaison
Dave Thompson dave.thompson@victoria.ca

MY GREAT Neighbourhood

Community Arts Centre

Council has approved a [motion](#) directing staff evaluate options for a long-term community arts facility in the city. The current facility at 780 Blanshard supports over 80 artists. Council adopted a resolution to provide a grant of \$390,000 to the operator of the arts hub to provide support for the facility in the short term.

IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY



Local Champions Complete Program

Eighteen participants in the 2023 Local Champions program were recently celebrated as they completed the six-month program. The group learned skills ranging from conflict resolution to writing successful grant applications. They completed several community projects during their 3-month practicum including teaching people a workshop on how to make and plant seed balls, designing and building a new multi-use platform in Arbutus Park and running a bike skills event. At the celebration, Mayor Alto spoke about the importance of leadership at the grassroots level and how impressed she was with the calibre of projects the participants undertook as their practicum project. The Local Champions program will re-open for applications in early 2024.

Community Impact Awards

The new Community Impact Awards recognize residents who have made long-term contributions to improving their neighbourhood. In 2023, the winners were John O'Brien, Robert Tornack, Kathryn Pankowski, Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Jack Meredith and Patti Parkhouse. This annual award will be accepting nominations from the public in the spring of 2024, so keep an eye open for those people who are actively making Victoria a better city. Congratulations to the 2023 recipients!





IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

Parisian Grassroots Initiative Promotes Neighbourliness



Exciting experiments for increasing local sociability are happening in Paris. Across an area of approximately 50 streets, the *Republic of Super Neighbours* organization helped over 1,200 neighbours connect for everything from sharing communal dinners to swapping pet care. The organization's founder Patrick Bernard says the rise of conviviality can provide urban benefits ranging from combating loneliness to fighting food insecurity. One recently completed project saw neighbours transforming an underused

plaza into a community gathering place. More details on this story can be found [here](#).

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Reducing Food Waste Event

Residents, business owners and non-profit organizations are invited to attend this in-person session to learn how a circular economy is growing in Victoria to reduce food waste. Come enjoy complimentary food and beverages! Register [here](#).



Looking for more ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#) for a monthly notice to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.

Executive Committee Report – October 2023

OCP Review – A preliminary planning meeting to set out the framework of the OCP review has been set up with Rebecca Mersereau of Wiser Projects. There will be opportunity for the full Board to participate at a later date. Anyone who is interested in the planning stages of this process is welcome to be involved in the early conversation and should indicate their interest to Sandra. The meeting is tentatively set for the evening of Monday, October 23rd.

Bookkeeper- A contract has been finalized with Dwight Aranha of Small Change Bookkeeping and the process of setting up our financial record-keeping and payroll are underway. As the migration of financial data takes place, we will finalize the schedule for providing Board members with detailed financial information.

Staffing Model Conversations- A short-term employment contract has been finalized with James Davis, our Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, and an account has been set up for payroll with CRA. Sandra is working on a draft of an Executive Director position description.

Seasonal Shelters – A motion was made at the October 3, 2023 Council meeting to move from the Extreme Weather Response sheltering system to a seasonal winter shelter model for all those who remain unhoused. The currently EWR system is weather driven and does not come into effect until the temperatures reach freezing conditions leaving many people in significant distress as they are forced to shelter in tents in inhumane conditions. Sandra has been working with Councillor Loughton and City Manager Jocelyn Jenkyns to locate and secure shelter spaces for those who are currently camping on Pandora Avenue.

Communications and Membership Committee Report – October 2023

Update on Committee activities since the July 2023 report:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
 - The August newsletter was issued on August 16 and the September E-News on September 20 . Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that they were opened by 43.9% and 41.1% of subscribers, respectively. The items receiving the highest number of clicks were the articles on Royal BC Museum, Victoria Coolkit, and Capital Bike Sticker Challenge.
 - We also sent these emails to our subscribers:
 - Call for members to volunteer at the Wicket Victoria Event on October 29, and the Music on the Green Event on August 20.
 - Information on our Music on the Green event, sent on August 16.
 - Information on the Victoria Coolkit Open House, sent on August 8.
 - We intend to put together a newsletter by October 18 and welcome contributions from Board members.

- **Web site**
 - We continue to add posts to the News page and add events to the Events page of our new website.
 - 303 site sessions over the past month (down 44% from the previous month). The most viewed post was the queer Open Stage event on September 21.

- **Social Media**
 - The number of posts over the past 2 months, and the current number of followers are:
 - Facebook - 20 posts, 1037 followers
 - Instagram - 10 posts, 904 followers
 - Twitter - 10 tweets, 1144 followers

- **Other**
 - 11 new members since the last report. As a note, we send welcome letters to all new members inviting them to become involved with DRA activities, and, where applicable, to become an ambassadors for posting notices of our events in the buildings where they live.
 - 36 new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by
Doug Boyd
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

**Land Use Committee Report – For Board Meeting
17 October 2023**

City of Victoria Development Tracker: <https://tender.victoria.ca/WebApps/OurCity/Prospero/Search.aspx>

Current

1. 1885 Government Street – Pooni Group/ Nicola Wealth Real Estate

CALUC meeting to consider an OCP amendment, Rezoning and Heritage Alteration Application to the City for site at 1885 Government St. Pre-CALUC booked for October 30th.

2. 851 Broughton – Concert Properties

CALUC meeting to consider development of YMCA/YWCA site to include 225 condominiums and 150 market/affordable rental homes. Pre-CALUC booked for October 30th.

3. 1011 Fort Street - Wild Coast Construction

CALUC meeting to consider a rezoning application to amend Zoning Regulation Bylaw #80-159 Part 6.55, 1(1)(k) & 2(2) – which currently prohibits dwelling units on the first storey and also requires that retail uses occupy not less than 75% of both street frontages – in order to allow the conversion of two small commercial suites facing Meares Street into residential use. Commercial units on Fort St. will be maintained. **CALUC meeting held on September 5.**

4. 1215 Langley St – Heritage Alteration Permit – Francophone Society

HAV application received for 1215 Langley St for Francophone society redevelopment of bastion square building; adding a balcony to the exterior. **Response due on October 28, none received to date**

5. 825/827 Fort Street – Development Permit Variance – Salient Group

Previously Fairfield – now within downtown, currently under construction. Requesting an additional storey. **Responses due October 26**

6. 539-545 ½ Fisgard & 16-18 Fan Tan Alley - Temporary Use Permit – Salient Group

Temporary Use Permit for short term accommodation. **Responses overdue – note that transient accommodation was just announced to not be allowed.**

7. 586 Johnson Street – Liquor License – Forged

Preliminary letter received for upcoming permit application at 586 Johnson St for liquor license. **Waiting for application.**

8. 1050 Yates – Chard Properties

Development Permit with Variance application for a mixed use development which includes purpose-built rental housing and ground oriented retail and shared amenity spaces. The proponent is asking for a variance of 24.22m or eight storeys, reduction of setbacks throughout and a reduction of 173 parking stalls. Status: **revised drawings received on September 12**

9. 937 View St – Nelson Investments w/ de Hoog & Kierulf –

Development Permit with Variance to build an 19-storey (over the 10 storey permitted) 60.2 m (over the 30m permitted), 266 studio and 1 BR market rental units with 0 vehicle parking and 317 bikes spots on R48 land and located in Fort St Heritage Corridor (using pre-fabricated components?). Proposed FSR

7.97. The applicant is not proposing to rezone away from the R48 zone but is requesting a height variance. Updated Status: **Revised drawings received on July 19**

10. 919 Douglas – Strathcona hotel – Liquor license

Liquor license application received to change to a complete liquor primary license for Strathcona hotel. Status: **letter sent to council on August 23**

11. 727 Yates – Saint Franks

Liquor license application to change location from broad st to yates st location received for Saint Franks received. Status: **Letter sent to council July 20**

12. 579-585 Johnson St – Hartwig Industries w Studio 531 architects

Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance & Devt Permit applications to construct a new mixed-use building while retaining the heritage building at 579 Johnson in 2 phases (new buildings: P1, Cameron building: P2). “The project proposes to amalgamate 2 sites.” The existing 1F building on Johnson will be demolished. The proposal includes three buildings (new 4F on Johnson, existing 2F heritage on Johnson and new 5F behind others) with one storey below grade. 25 residential units with a mix of 1 BD and 1 BD+den. FSR of 2.72:1. No vehicle parking is required or proposed and 49 bike parking proposed (48 required). Declined by both HAPL and ADP at their final meetings in 2021. Revised plans were posted on Development tracker April 27, 2022. Status: HAPL meeting was held July 14 to confirm Municipal Heritage designation on 579 Johnson St.

13. Delegating Minor Variance

Council is requesting CALUC feedback on allowing minor development variance permits to be delegated to staff.

14. 533 Chatham St – LeFevre Developments

Development Permit with variance application for a mixed use building and through block walkway and subdivision of property with existing heritage building. The proposal requires variances for height of building and on-site parking. Variance is for height (5.7m) and parking reduction of 13 stalls (from 92 to 79). Status: **Heritage Advisory Panel meeting held April 11th, 2023**

15. 780 Blanshard/ BC Power Building – Reliance Properties

Rezoning to construct/add an 18-storey tower (proposed uses 17F residential + 1F amenity) above the existing 4- storey heritage registered building (proposed hotel use) with a total FSR 4.6. The heritage designation is proposed to be concurrent with the Rezoning and the Heritage Alteration Permit approvals. No on-site parking proposed but offered that they may have access to 25 off-site spots. The hybrid CALUC with concurrent in-person and online attendance was held on 21 March 2022 with in-person at The Parkside Hotel. The CALUC letter was submitted 27 April 2022 reflecting the community’s concerns regarding the poor quality of the in-person presentation (audio and visual deficiencies) with a request for a second properly planned and executed CALUC meeting. Status: **Revised Drawings Received by City March 31st 2023.**

16. 530 Chatham – Reliance Properties w D’Ambrosio

Rezoning application to permit residential uses, retail, commercial, arts and cultural facilities, high-tech, office, assembly, studio, small-scale commercial agriculture, parks and open space, and to designate

two heritage-registered buildings. An OCP amendment is required for the addition of residential uses and for height. Proposal includes buildings with 2-6F podiums and 3 towers of 10F, 13F and 17F with a density of 3.0:1. Heritage buildings will be preserved and adapted for reuse. Public Amenity Contributions include open spaces and land for a proposed new art gallery. Online & in-person CALUC meeting with Burnside Gorge and Downtown residents took place on 21 Sept 2021 with comments open until 03 Oct 2021. Approved at Heritage Advisory Panel on 10 May 2022. Revised drawings were received 1 February which precipitated a second CALUC Status: **CALUC waived by DRA and Burnside Gorge due to limited changes**

2. 1045 Yates St, Harris Chrysler (Phase 1) – Starlight

Development Permit with Variance concurrent with a Rezoning Application related to area of 4.9 acres over two sites. Proposal includes: 5 & 4-storey podium with 23 & 22 storey towers with a 6.18:1 FSR. Rental for 518 residential units, including mix of studio, 1, 2, 3 BRM, & TH with 7 Ground-oriented and 10 podium units with 348 onsite parking stalls & 674-bike parking. Proposal includes 484m² for Daycare. **Special Council meeting on February 16th: 3rd reading of zoning and OCP amendments. Council indicated support for the application (6-1). Motion to adopt zoning amendments, bylaw amendments, and housing agreements was postponed. Motion to approve development permit with variance was postponed.**

3. 1205 Quadra/911 Yates – Starlight

Rezoning and OCP Amendment and Devt Permit for two sites on the south side of Yates between Quadra & Cook: 1.35 hectare full 900-block Yates and the 0.63 hectare eastern half of the 1000-block Yates, 1045 Yates. Revised proposal includes: 5 & 4-storey podium with 34, 31 and 30 storey towers with an overall FSR of 6.06, 1584 new rental apartments, including 27 ground-oriented units and 30 podium-level units with 1291 parking spaces, and 2125 bike parking. Proposal now includes reference to a 2109 m² “public park” “play areas” & “dog park on View St” for the 900 Yates block. A 484 m² Daycare is also noted as included. Status: Revised drawings were received on August 8th.

Special Council meeting on February 16th: 3rd reading of zoning and OCP amendments. Council indicated support for the application (6-1). Motion to adopt zoning amendments, bylaw amendments, and housing agreements was postponed. Motion to approve development permit with variance was postponed.

5. 2621-2629 Douglas Street (**BURNSIDE**) - Merchant House Capital

Pre-application CALUC for rezoning and DP. Applicant is seeking to rezone parcel at 2621 Douglas - near the former Times Colonist Building. 12-storey purpose-built rental building. 160 units ranging from studio to two-bedroom. No on-site parking.

LUC: Ongoing and Active

17. 1205 Blanshard/Capital Six – Jawl Properties with D’Ambrosio –Rezoning & Devt Permit applications for 15,792 sqm total/commercial floor area, with an FSR of 5.89:1, 44.35 m/10 storeys, 144 onsite parking stalls, 117 bike spots. Online alternate CALUC meeting took place on 13 July 2021. Revised plans posted 13 Jan 2022. CALUC letter submitted 01 Feb 2022. Status: Bylaw Adopted
18. 603 Pandora Avenue –Hampton Inn Development – Held an Open House September 28th indicating a fall/winter development application. Application will include height and density variances.
19. 1030 Fort – Jawl Properties w Cascadia Architecture – Rezoning and Devt Permit with Variance for a 6-storey (22.28m) market rental project with CRUs at grade and 30 residential units (20 x 1BD+den and 10 x studio) with FSR of 4:1. No onsite parking is proposed (24 req) with 56 bike parking spots (44 req). An online community meeting was held on 31 Aug 2021. Approved at ADP on 23 Feb 2022. Status: Revised application received on July 5th, a letter response was sent to the city on July 20th. The project received 1st and 2nd reading on August 4th with a referral to public hearing once the following conditions are met: arborist report, housing agreement, transportation demand measures secured legally, park provisions secured, public hearing fee paid and notification signs erected.
20. 579-585 Johnson St – Hartwig Industries w Studio 531 architects – Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance & Devt Permit applications to construct a new mixed-use building while retaining the heritage building at 579 Johnson in 2 phases (new buildings: P1, Cameron building: P2). “The project proposes to amalgamate 2 sites.” The existing 1F building on Johnson will be demolished. The proposal includes three buildings (new 4F on Johnson, existing 2F heritage on Johnson and new 5F behind others) with one storey below grade. 25 residential units with a mix of 1 BD and 1 BD+den. FSR of 2.72:1. No vehicle parking is required or proposed and 49 bike parking proposed (48 required). Declined by both HAPL and ADP at their final meetings in 2021. Revised plans were posted on Development tracker April 27, 2022. Status: HAPL meeting was held July 14th to confirm Municipal Heritage designation on 579 Johnson St.
21. 780 Blanshard/ BC Power Building – Reliance Properties – Rezoning to construct/add an 18-storey tower (proposed uses 17F residential + 1F amenity) above the existing 4- storey heritage registered building (proposed hotel use) with a total FSR 4.6. The heritage designation is proposed to be concurrent with the Rezoning and the Heritage Alteration Permit approvals. No on-site parking proposed but offered that they may have access to 25 off-site spots. The hybrid CALUC with concurrent in-person and online attendance was held on 21 March 2022 with in-person at The Parkside Hotel. The CALUC letter was submitted 27 April 2022 reflecting the community’s concerns regarding the poor quality of the in-person presentation (audio and visual deficiencies) with a request for a second properly planned and executed CALUC meeting. On 10 May 2022, Miko Betanzo, City Planner, emailed the DRA LUC and the applicant the following,

6

7. 836 Yates –Heritage Alteration w Variance for approval of fence and gates, variance for height of the fence. Council declined the previous HAP w/V on 09 Dec 21. As of Mar 2022, all fencing and gates have been removed from the property. (Note: this application, in combination with any application from neighbouring 848 Yates, will effectively remove all or part of the pre-existing mid-block walkway that was presented with expansion and improvements as part of the application for Chard’s development at 848 Yates St and identified in DCAP as part of the pedestrian network.) Status: New Application

Review by City 07 Mar 2022 for the HAP w/V of fence & gates, variance for height of fence. Plans posted on the Devt Tracker. DRA letter response sent May20th.

8. 710 Caledonia – Chard/ProvBC – Rezoning and Devt Permits to develop three buildings over a shared commercial podium that includes office, grocery store, childcare and public plaza. Burnside Gorge LUC invited DRA LUC members to attend the Zoom meeting on Mon 07 Feb 2022. Status: Revised plans submitted to City on June15th

9. 700 Government St – HAVN Experiences Ltd/Nicholas Van Buren – Rezoning to permit personal service uses (sauna) in the Inner Harbour & Devt Permit to convert a barge into a floating sauna structure. Status: Revised plans sent to City June 3rd.

10. Fairfield Gonzales LUC (on DRA border): 846 Broughton – Parc Living – Rezoning and Debt Permit to increase density and allow for a 10-storey mixed-use building. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 02 Mar 2022.

11. 516 Discovery (Burnside Gorge border) – City-initiated rezoning as part of the Rock Bay Plan to rezone to the M2-I Zone. The M2-I Zone – Douglas-Blanshard Industrial District permits limited light industrial uses, high-tech, service-commercial & limited retail. The following uses are the only uses permitted: high-tech, call centre, professional services (including architects, engineers, & surveyors), retail sales of home furnishings, home supplies or sporting goods, and retail sales & offices as accessory uses incidental to, and less FSR than, principal use. Limits on FSR of each use per building or by portion of site. Status: Only activity is City doc posted on 14 Sept 2006. Item added to follow in relation to “Innovation District” related proposals at our northern border.

12. Municipal Alcohol Policy – Staff provided update on progress on the policy with request from council on direction on several items at daytime Council 09 Dec 2021. Much time spent reviewing context and suggestions to expand the scope of the policy. Work will continue with direction given from council on all items brought from staff. No new information on this file to date.

13. 1244 Wharf – Salient Group – Heritage Alteration Permit and Rezoning File 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). Concurrent Rezoning File: REZ00739 concluded with approval to add hotel use. Status: Review of Revised Plans 24 June2021.

14. 450 Swift St. Craft Beer Market Victoria Harbour. Liquor License Application. Notice of Application to combine two existing Liquor Primary Licences into one Liquor Primary Licence and Change Hours of the resulting Liquor Primary Licence.

15. Combine the two existing liquor primary licences that currently total 315 persons to one licence. Two liquor primary patios are proposed of 80 persons and 75 persons from the existing 315 persons to be licenced on the patio under the liquor primary licence. Align the liquor primary hours with the existing approved food primary hours: 9.00am – 1.00am, Monday – Saturday and 9.00am – midnight Sunday. New Liquor Primary would run from 9AM – 1:00AM every day, aside from Sunday which would be 9AM-MIDNIGHT. Current Liquor Primary runs from 11:00AM – MIDNIGHT Monday-Sunday.

Letter Sent December 29th.

16. 27-560 Johnson Street. Artemis Whiskey Bar. Extending Liquor License Hours.

The application is to change hours of liquor service for an existing liquor primary license and proposes to increase hours on Friday and Saturday only by one hour each day from 12am to 1am. The occupant load is 110 people and is not proposed to change. All licenced areas are interior as the establishment does not have exterior seating.

17. 910 Government Street. Axe and Grind. Liquor License Application.

The application is for a new liquor primary licence having hours of operation from 9am to 2am daily with an 80-person occupant load. The application does not include any outside seating. Letter Sent December 14th.

19. 854-880 Pandora Avenue (**NORTH PARK**) - Townline Development

A twelve-story building with a varied unit mix of apartments and townhomes, including: 36 studio units (28%), 24 one-bedroom units (19%), 15 one-bedroom + den units (12%) , 51 two-bedroom units (40%) , Two three-bedroom units (2%), Large podium-level indoor/outdoor space with varied programming tailored to the needs of the building and its residents, Rooftop lounge and outdoor social space. The project constraints are approximately 7,100 ft² of ground-floor commercial space. Density of 4.5 FSR.

This is a development occurring in North Park, but is right on the border of the Downtown Neighbourhood. The project is not yet on the Development Tracker. The NPNA has invited the DRA to attend a CALUC meeting dated February 28th, at 6:30PM, in the BOSA Building Community Room at 1008 Pandora/1025 Mason Street.

Archived or Inactive or Cancelled

1. Zoning existing City parks as parks. Why has the City not committed to this? What can our committee do to advocate for protection of these community amenities? Discussed at 06 July 2020 DRA LUC meeting.
2. Develop a draft doc outlining guidelines for Heritage Corridors as referred to in the OCP, and as relevant to Fort St, etc. Discussed at 12 Aug 2020 pre-CALUC meeting. Quinn is reviewing supporting docs.
3. Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing – City-led initiative to consider an application to amend the Land Use Procedures Bylaw to delegate development approvals for non-market affordable housing to the Director of Sustainable Development and Community Planning in all Development Permit Areas. Additionally, Council is considering an application to amend the Zoning Regulation Bylaw and the Zoning Bylaw 2018 to establish a maximum floor space ratio for qualifying affordable housing developments. Approved at Public Hearing on 14 Apr 2022.
4. Neighbourhood Boundaries – Non-statutory public hearing at Council 27 Jan 2022. City proposal to change boundaries between Downtown and Fairfield to include DCAP plus other lands outside DCAP. DRA board and LUC sent letters not supporting change as proposed. LUC posited suggestion that only DCAP area should be considered for inclusion in Downtown but nothing else. Council amended the motion as advised by LUC and approved. Will come to Statutory Public Hearing as some changes require OCP amendments. Status: Report to Council on 17 Feb 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – OCTOBER 2023

1. Recent activities:

Queer Open Stage: The event returned from summer hiatus on Thursday, September 21st and included music, poetry, comedy, and a music set by featured performer, Zuber. Approximately 30 people attended and many expressed how happy they were that the series had started up again.

Hudson House Welcome Event: James, Dianne, Doug and two volunteers (including a resident of Hudson House) hosted this free gathering in the rooftop amenity space of the building on September 26th, attended by around 35 residents. The DRA provided free pizza and drinks and participants were able to learn about the organization and participate in a Downtown-themed trivia game.

Go By Bike Week Celebration Station: We gave out free bike-powered smoothies and spoke to attendees about the work of the DRA and our upcoming events at this Capital Bike event on Monday, October 16th outside the GVPL Central Branch.

2. Upcoming activities:

Queer Open Stage: The October edition of this monthly event takes place on Thursday, October 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at theDock. This month's featured performer will be poet Jeremiah Gittens.

Wicked Victoria: For the third year in a row, the DRA will have a presence at this annual harvest-themed event on Government Street. This year, we will be setting up our “Dogs of Downtown” photo booth, which was a very successful activation at Upper Fort StreetFest in June. The event runs from 11 am to 3 pm between Broughton and Yates and we welcome additional volunteers to help out.

Submitted by: James Davis, Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator

Report on VCAN – September 2023

An AGM was held during the September meeting and Avery Stetski (Burnside Gorge Community Association) and Don Monsour (Fairfield Gonzales Community Association) agreed to co-chair VCAN replacing Sandra Severs who had served a one year term. Chairing the September meeting was Sandra's last act as chair. VCAN is currently in search of a secretary to take minutes.

Elizabeth Cull, Chair of the Finance Committee of the Esquimalt and Victoria Police Board, was present at the meeting seeking feedback from the neighbourhoods about their priorities for policing. Among the suggestions for the upcoming Board budget were the following:

- increase foot patrols and a stronger on-the-street police presence
- Better communication with neighbourhood associations after incidents occur in the neighbourhood so that fears can be allayed and residents have information
- More policing near supportive housing sites especially near businesses and residences
- Move to an integration of police forces
- Enforcement of noise bylaws to improve urban livability