

DRA Board Meeting Agenda
June 20, 2023
Location: Zoom Conference Call
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Board members: Sandra Severs (President), Doug Boyd, Michael Demakiling, Sherry Lee, Jordan Royer, Ian Sutherland, Colby Young, Jeremy Zhao, Dawn Moorhead

DRA Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator: James Davis

City Council Liaison: Dave Thompson

City Staff: Mike Hill

5:30 p.m. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Agenda

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

- New washroom on Pandora available from 8am-8pm. Extension of hours and detachment from safe consumption sites is being reviewed by council.
- Centennial Square redesign work is underway. Removal of fountain and pillar monoliths, due to poor state and based on city staff recommendation, was confirmed. Board member voiced concern for lack of public consultation for removal.
ACTION: Councilor Thompson will follow up about past engagement process
update: "There was extensive consultation to collect input on potential options for the Square, including big moves. At the time the original concept was presented, a lot of focus was placed on the relevant heritage aspects, however, certain details had not yet been fully fleshed out. This included an analysis of the sculpture's condition and anticipated long-term investments, as well as considerations around the practical design/use of the water play feature, and the overall programming potential for the Square with and without the sculptures. Since the time of the concept approval, further investigation was done on the condition of the fountain elements along with the anticipated benefits of removing the sculptures, and this informed the approach to the detailed design work that staff shared in the presentation."
- Camping ban bylaw in 3 parks passed. City will identify housing solution for campers to provide more stable supports and reduce costs on enforcement.
 - o VDRA advocated for development of strategy for people who cannot be readily housed

- 579/ 590 Johnson St. – one level building will be removed and updated to mixed commercial/residential, and another segment to be designated heritage status.
 - Governance items upcoming:
 - o Discussion for MNP report recommendations to continue at end of June.
 - o Strategic plan now posted: <https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/news-events/news/news-archives/2023-archive/new-2023-2026-strategic-plan-embraces-transformation.html#:~:text=The%20four%2Dyear%20plan%20prioritizes,themes%20and%20generations%20to%20come>
 - (Sandra) Park Sequencing Plan: what does “short-term” look like?
- ACTION:** Councilor Thompson to follow up on Park Sequencing Plan timing.
update: “...list of short-term actions will be included in the proposed investments in the 2024 Financial Plan.”

5:50 p.m. Downtown Update: Mike Hill (See Report attached)

Additional updates/discussions:

- Support Grants Funding cheques to be sent out in July. VDRA voiced concerns for timing of the funding, as some organizations are required to rely on reserve funds until support grants are allocated.
- Persisting late night noise issue in Downtown, including for emergency vehicles. City staff informed VDRA board that emergency service providers are well aware of complaints and already use discretion.

ACTION: Mike Hill/Councilor Thompson will attempt to provide further information.
update: “Sirens at night. I got in touch with the Chiefs of Fire and Police. In a nutshell, they are aware of the disruption for people trying to sleep, and are mindful of using their sirens, and only use them to prioritize safety in clearing intersections. And in some cases, they are actually required by law to use the sirens, e.g. when trying to get somewhere quickly and exceed speed limits or roll through stop signs or lights, or enter opposing lanes of traffic.”
- Downtown Scrub up details

ACTION: Mike Hill will follow up on communication strategy for the Downtown Scrub-up, planned for Tuesday June 27, for DT residents.
update: Primarily for business owners in the Downtown.

5:55 p.m. Follow-up from the Prior Minutes:

ACTION: DRA will apply to City for its community garden expansion funding if permission to develop a rooftop garden is granted. **update:** EOI submitted
ACTION: VDRA to provide input on OCP update. **update:** Councillor Thompson confirmed neighbourhood associations can provide input through webform on City of Victoria website. **Follow up:** Mike Hill to share out “Have Your Say” link with VDRA board.

ACTION: Doug / Sandra to draft letter to Council urging that the Govt Street closure remain in place, as per the opinion of residents in the VDRA's resident survey. **Update:** Action no longer required due to COUNCIL motion to maintain closure.

ACTION: Mike Hill will circulate the results of the 2nd Community of practice event. **Update:** Mike Hill provided Transportation Capital Projects summary and Community of Practice April 2023 session notes.

ACTION: Mike Hill and Councillor Thompson to confirm whether there is a pending sale of the Yate Street Community Garden lot. **Update:** Mike confirmed on May 18 no documentation indicated such sales at this time.

ACTION: Dianne will arrange for those interested board member orientation in July/August 2023. **No Update.**

ACTION: Dawn, Sandra, Ian will discuss formation of a working group to coordinate 1000 block of Fort Street mid-block crosswalk discussions. **Update:** Almost 150 signatures on the initiative. Have forwarded petition to councillors Loughton and Dell for council discussion.

6:00 p.m. Executive Report: Sandra (See report attached)

6:10 p.m. Standing Committee Reports – Q and A

- **Urban Livability Committee (ULC) and Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee (UEC):** Michael/Colby (report attached)
- **Communications and Membership Committee (CMC):** Doug (report attached)
- **Governance Committee:** Dianne (no report)
- **Land Use Committee (LUC):** Ian/Jordan (Report attached)
 - Tax incentive for heritage building upgrades: this is resulting in large investors buying up these building and stripping the insides of heritage buildings without proper refurbishment, while qualifying for tax incentive.
 - 500 block View street proposal: further aggressive proposal due to lack to clarity in bylaw.
- **Community Engagement Committee (CEC):** James (report attached)

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 (report attached)
- **Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC):** Sandra (no report)
- **Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee:** Doug (report attached)
- **DVBA Clean and Safe Committee:** Colby/Sandra (no report)

6:30 p.m. Other Business

- Strategic Plan Vision, Mission, Values

ACTION: board to provide written feedback to proposed wording on Vision, Mission and Values document

7:30 p.m. Meeting concludes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5:30pm



DOWNTOWN

OUR DWTN Scrub Up

As part of the OUR DWTN initiative to improve the vitality of the downtown, the City is working with the downtown business association to organize a downtown scrub up event. Thorough cleaning of public infrastructure is underway over the weeks leading up to the event. From 9-11a.m. on Tuesday June 27, participating business and property owners will receive cleaning kits to clean up their business frontages and help communicate that the downtown is clean and welcoming for the public's enjoyment. Interested businesses are asked to [register](#) in advance



Cultural Infrastructure Grant

Seven Victoria organizations recently received over \$216,000 in Cultural Infrastructure grants from the City of Victoria. The grants provide support for upgrades and acquisitions of cultural spaces. In the downtown, funding was awarded to the Conservatory of Music (\$12,750) to assess expansion and to The Other Guys Theatre Company (\$100,000) for the creation of a new arts facility.



Parks Sequencing Plan

As part of the Parks Sequencing Plan, Council has [approved](#) the expenditure of \$750,000 for advancing a plan for renovation of Centennial Square. The funding will cover a detailed design phase prior to reporting back to Council in the new year regarding the plan and costs for completion of the work.

Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation

On Thursday June 22, Council will receive a staff report providing an update on the Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation. A commitment from the City of \$250,000 and development of a Terms of reference have previously been approved. The report describes a timeline and process for selection of the assembly members and the completion of their work.

Community Safety Plan

On June 1, Council approved a [resolution](#) proposing endorsement of "...the creation of a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan to identify achievable ways in which the City of Victoria can take a leadership role in making our community safer and realizing community wellbeing". The initiative is part of Council's recently adopted Strategic Plan for their four-year mandate.



Strategic Plan

You can now find Council's [Strategic Plan](#) for 2023-2026 on the City website. The plan is more concise than previous strategic plans and includes 4-8 priorities under eight subject areas. Priorities related to neighbourhoods include to:

- Accelerate investment in community centres and seniors' centres.
- Beautify, support and enhance Victoria's downtown and urban villages.



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MY GREAT Neighbourhood

- Support innovative, well-being solutions to reduce harm for housed and unhoused people living in neighbourhoods where there are shelters.
- Begin major capital projects that support parks, recreation and public experiences (e.g., a new Crystal Pool, a revitalized Centennial Square, a re-imagined Ship Point, a new Central Library, a refreshed Royal Athletic Park).

IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

Queen’s Chambers Boulevard Garden

A few residents can do a lot to create amazing public spaces. Residents in Fernwood turned a boulevard area into a gathering place for the neighbourhood. Through a *My Great Neighborhood* grant, they first transformed the grass boulevard into a garden of native plant species. The City contributed several surplus planters and some concrete furniture. The residents recently completed the final touches on the project with the painting of the furniture through another grant. It’s now a popular place to sit and relax – a testament to its success!



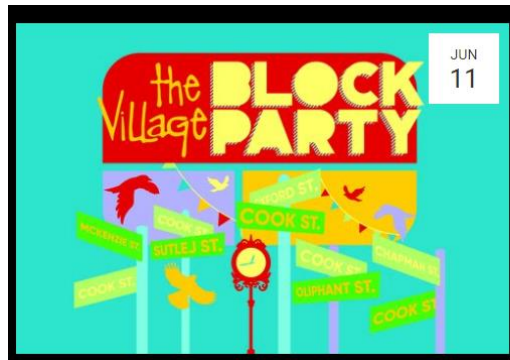
Oaklands Celebration

Get ready to kick off the summer season with Oaklands Garage Sale Day and Street Party! Explore the neighborhood for a fantastic neighbourhood garage sale where you can find amazing treasures. Then join us at the Oaklands Community Centre for a fun Street Party. There will be food trucks, music, and plenty of fun for everyone. Mark your calendars and be sure to check out the event schedule.

Garage sale maps will be available online and hard copies can be picked up at the community centre starting June 10th.



Party in Cook Street Village



The Village Block Party

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 313 Cook St, Victoria, BC, V8V 3X5, Canada (map)
 Google Calendar · ICS

Join us on Sunday, June 11th in Cook Street Village, Victoria BC for The Village Block Party, a family-friendly event with live music 🎵, food trucks 🍔, activities 🎪 & vendors 🛍️

#thevillageblockparty #cookstvillage #cookstreetvillage #dallasroad #dallasrd #beaconhillpark #victoriabc #yyj #vancouverisland #victoria #explorevictoria #victoriabccanada #shoplocal #supportlocal #downtownvictoria #yyjeats #yyjevents



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IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

Neighbours Helping Neighbours - Condo Care

In an effort to build resilience, neighbours in a Toronto condominium have formed a “Condo Care” group. Residents with skills in plumbing, electrical work and mechanical repairs volunteer to help their neighbours with simple tasks around the home. These volunteers feel valued and more connected to their neighbours and those receiving the help are grateful to know there’s someone trustworthy nearby they can call on. As a result, residents often feel motivated to “give back” to the community in some way themselves. What a fabulous example of building social connections where you live. *Building Resilient Neighbourhoods* is gathering stories of these kinds of community building, so check their [website](#) for other ideas. If you have an example to share, they would love to hear from you.



Neighbourhood Branding – Welcome to The Heights!



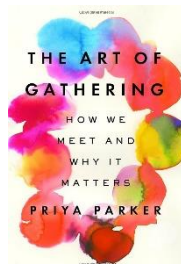
Have you ever driven through Burnaby and found yourself in *The Heights*? You know you are there because this neighbourhood branding shows up everywhere in the form of murals, street signs, stickers on windows of merchants in the area and street banners. Although this branding exercise was undertaken by the local business association, neighbourhood branding can be undertaken by any organization. Because Victoria has 12 distinct neighbourhoods, neighbourhood branding would be a great way to highlight everything from the entry points into your neighbourhood to focusing on your village(s). North Park undertook a branding exercise a few years ago and their “Edgy to the Core” banner is on display as you enter their village on the north end of Cook Street.

Neighbourhood branding is a big project but it’s a great way to engage with residents to learn how they view their neighbourhood and get a sense of what is important to them. A *My Great Neighbourhood grant* could support a neighbourhood branding exercise so if you are interested, talk to your neighbourhood liaison about what might be possible.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

NeighbourSpace Lending Library

The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters by Priya Parker



In *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker argues that the gatherings in our lives are lackluster and unproductive--and they don't have to be. She argues that we rely too much on routine and the conventional gatherings when we should focus on distinctiveness and the people involved. At a time when coming together is more important than ever, Parker sets forth a human-centered approach to gathering that will help everyone create meaningful, memorable experiences, large and small, for work and for play.

Drawing on her expertise as a facilitator of high-powered gatherings around the world, Parker takes us inside events of all kinds to show what works, what doesn't, and why. She investigates a wide array of gatherings --



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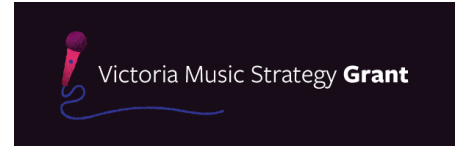


conferences, meetings, a courtroom, a flash-mob party, an Arab-Israeli summer camp--and explains how simple, specific changes can invigorate any group experience. The result is a book that's both journey and guide, full of exciting ideas with real-world applications. *The Art of Gathering* will forever alter the way you look at your next meeting, industry conference, dinner party, and backyard barbecue--and how you host and attend them.

This book is available to borrow from the NeighbourSpace Library. Please contact your neighbourhood liaison to arrange for pick up. If you have a book you think should be in our collection, please let us know.

New City Grant Available for Local Musicians

A new one-time \$150,000 Victoria Music Strategy Grant is now available to assist the local music industry. This grant will leverage what currently exists in the local music community and address gaps in the music ecosystem such as affordable spaces for music production, rehearsal and performances. Not-for-profit organizations, or musicians and music sector professionals in collaboration with a not-for-profit organization, are invited to apply. For all the details check out the [webpage](#) on the City's website.



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.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - JUNE 2023

Indigenous Perspectives Society – Members of the board attended an informative training session, led by Connie Martin, from the Indigenous Perspectives Society. The gathering was held on Thursday, June 15th at theDock.

Strategic Planning document – A draft strategic plan has been created by Scale Collaborative utilizing the input from the strategic planning session held in May. The document recommends a number of actions in order to build organizational capacity. James and Sandra met to discuss the recommendations and talk about strategies moving forward.

Webinar –Sandra attended a webinar run by the Canadian Urban Institute entitled “How can we work together on the mental health crisis in our downtown?” Among the comments made in the webinar: “People are falling out of the middle-class into poverty because they can’t find housing.” And “mental health has to be delivered at the community level.”

Meeting with Brendan Neilson, Executive Director of Christ Church Cathedral, Diocese of Vancouver Island and Inlets – The Diocese is working on a plan to redevelop the Cathedral precinct preserving the historical buildings and adding housing. In order to do the proper seismic upgrade and renovate the historic buildings, they need to find \$20 million.

Urban Livability Committee Report
&
Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee Report
Victoria Downtown Residents Association
June 20, 2023

Co-Chairs: Colby Young and Michael Demakiling

Committee Members: James Davis (DRA Community Engagement Coordinator), Dawn Moorehead, Hannah Munn, Kevan Coyle, Lynn Feasey, and Naomi Lyons.

Urban Livability Report

Introduction

In our June report, we will be providing some updates on our May activities. Our committee is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the expanding and vibrant community of 2SLGBTQIA+ residents in Downtown Victoria. In honour of Pride Month, we are excited to announce that the DRA will be participating in this year's Pride Parade on July 09, 2023, to demonstrate our unwavering support and solidarity.

Moreover, we have some developments to reveal about our continuous efforts to promote safety and well-being in our community. In May, we had bystander intervention training that equips individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to intervene in potentially dangerous situations and prevent harm. Additionally, we had a naloxone training event, which is crucial in saving lives and preventing overdose deaths. We are also actively working on the Pandora Bench Project, which aims to create welcoming and inclusive public spaces for all community members to enjoy.

Lastly, we have been advocating for a potential mid-block crosswalk on Fort Street to enhance pedestrian safety in this bustling area. As always, the committee is committed to fostering a secure, inclusive, and thriving community for all Downtown Victoria residents.

Pride Month

June marks the celebration of Pride Month, a time of recognition for the accomplishments and diversity of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community worldwide. In Victoria, BC, Canada, Pride Month is an opportunity to honour the past struggles and triumphs of the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community while embracing an inclusive and supportive future.

One of the main organizations supporting and advocating for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Victoria is the Victoria Pride Society (VPS). The VPS was founded in 1993 as a non-profit organization that organizes events and programs to celebrate 2SLGBTQIA+ culture and

identity. The VPS also works with other community groups and allies to promote awareness and education on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues.

The Victoria Pride Festival, held annually, is a shining example of inclusivity, diversity, and celebration. It is one of Canada's most significant and longest-running Pride events, spanning ten days in late June and early July. The festival offers a diverse range of activities and entertainment that caters to all ages and interests. From start to finish, the festival is a vibrant celebration of love and acceptance, and it's a must-attend event for anyone who believes in equality and respect for all. Some of the most anticipated highlights of the festival include:

- The Pride in the Word event, which showcases some of the best 2SLGBTQIA+ writers and poets from across Canada.
- The Big Gay Dog Walk, which invites dog owners and lovers to join a fun and furry parade along Dallas Road.
- The Memorial Drag Ball Game, which honours the memory of Roberta Taylor, a local drag queen who died of AIDS in 1992.
- The Pride Parade attracts over 100 entries and thousands of spectators along Government Street.
- The Pride Festival at MacDonald Park, which offers vendor stalls, beer gardens, live music, drag shows, and more.

The Victoria Pride Festival is not only a celebration of 2SLGBTQIA+ identity and culture but also a demonstration of solidarity and resilience. With that in mind, the Victoria Downtown Residents Association (DRA) will proudly march at the upcoming Pride Parade on July 09, 2023! Our association recognizes the vibrant and expanding community of 2SLGBTQIA+ residents in Downtown Victoria, and we march in solidarity with them and other organizations at this year's parade. We will send invitations to Downtown residents interested in joining us for this year's pride parade.

So, this Pride Month, let us celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Victoria, BC, Canada, and worldwide. Let us honour our history, embrace our diversity, and affirm our identity. Let us be proud of who we are and who we can be. Happy Pride!

Bystander Intervention Training (Monday, May 15, 2023)

Despite a slight drop in attendance from the initial session, the response to the Bystander Intervention Training was very positive. Attendees were given the opportunity to express their interest in anti-racism projects within the community, and we were thrilled to see that 25 individuals were eager to participate. We received a response from 12 of them following up

with these individuals. Recently, this group met and worked together to brainstorm two potential projects to tackle racism in our community. We are inspired by their dedication and commitment to creating positive change.

Naloxone training (Wednesday, May 24, 2023):

The VDRA recently held their second naloxone training, led by the ULC/UEC's co-chair Colby. While attendance was lower than expected, with only 17 people present, the level of engagement from those who did attend was incredibly positive. As we head into the summer months, we will be taking a break from hosting the training, but we are encouraged by the progress made so far and look forward to continuing our efforts to provide life-saving education to our community.

Pandora Bench Project - Update

On May 16th, Colby attended the 900 Block Neighbourhood Committee with DRA President Sandra Severs to get feedback on the proposed seating project. Despite limited time to discuss the project, the feedback was positive. Colby also connected with Katherine Francis, a Pandora Community Caretaker employed by SOLID, and is waiting for her response as we look into the project's feasibility.

However, we still have some concerns to address, such as whether the bylaw permits seating placement in the area or if we need to store the equipment elsewhere. We also need to figure out if we can place it on the 900 block or if it has to be on the Pandora Green, as well as how to balance the concerns of other community members who have appealed to the DRA to address unhoused residents on the Pandora Green.

Fort Street Crosswalk

Certain urban areas in Victoria have maintained a solid base of foot traffic with walkability in mind. These areas include LoJo, the 700 Block of Fort Street, and Chinatown. The key ingredients for the success of these areas are small commercial spaces and an easy pedestrian flow, including mid-block crosswalks. The lack of mid-block crosswalks on certain blocks of Fort Street makes navigating difficult and limits the number of stops shoppers make. However, Chinatown's slow street with easy pedestrian crossing makes it an enjoyable area to spend time in.

One of our committee members, Naomi, informed us that the city had planned to install a mid-block crosswalk on the 1000 block of Fort Street as part of the bike lane upgrade, but it was not implemented. There will be a public hearing soon where the possibility of discussing the

crosswalk could be included. To raise awareness in the community, our committee has created posters and engaged with residents who participated in the Upper Fort Street Fest on June 3rd.

In Summary

The committee has been actively working on activities to tackle racism in the community. We recently held our second naloxone training, which had lower attendance than expected but positive engagement from those who did attend. The ULC is taking a break from hosting the training during the summer months but plans to continue efforts to provide life-saving education to the community. The Pandora Bench Project is still being evaluated for feasibility and potential bylaw concerns. The ULC is also advocating for a mid-block crosswalk on the 1000 block of Fort Street to improve pedestrian flow and increase foot traffic for local residents and businesses. The committee has created posters and engaged with residents to raise awareness about the potential crosswalk and other community projects.

Urban Ecology and Agriculture Report

Introduction

The Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee (UEC) is excited to share with you the latest updates and events happening at the Yates Street Community Garden. In this report, you will find information on our waitlist, upcoming events, and initiatives to support pollinators. We also have updates on the UEC's proposal for a second community garden in Downtown Victoria and the success of our recent CoolKit workshops.

Updates

Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) Report

Waitlist

May Report: 196 people

As of June 16, 2023: 202 people

Blossom Your Pride Event

Come join us at the garden on July 8th for the Blossom Your Pride Event! This is a wonderful opportunity to create your own unique bouquet of flowers to celebrate Pride. The UEC and the YSCG are also generously providing snacks, including delicious Pride doughnuts. The event will take place on July 08, 2023, from 10 AM to 12 PM. We can't wait to see you there!

Pollinator Week - June 19-25

Pollinator Week is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate and safeguard the amazing creatures that play a vital role in plant reproduction. These hardworking pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, and more, tirelessly transfer pollen from one flower to another, enabling the growth of fruits and seeds that nourish both ecosystems and ourselves. Thanks to the Pollinator Partnership of Canada, we can come together each June to raise awareness about these essential species' challenges, including habitat loss, climate change, and more. By planting native plants, avoiding harmful pesticides, and creating pollinator-friendly gardens, we can all play a role in supporting these remarkable creatures. Joining the global community of Pollinator Week supporters is a beautiful way to celebrate the diversity and beauty of pollinators and ensure their continued success in the years to come.

The YSCG (in partnership with Pollinator Partnership Canada and Satinflower Nursery) will host several events during Pollinator Week:

June 20 & 21:

Come and join us in our garden for engaging tours of our indigenous bee apiary and pollinator gardens. These tours are specifically designed to cater to children of all ages, and are bound to be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

June 21:

Join Dr. Lora Morandin, the Associate Director of Pollinator Partnership Canada, in the garden to gain insightful knowledge on the significance of pollinators in food production and effective ways to support them. She will provide valuable information on how to create bee houses and will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding bees and plants.

June 25:

Are you curious about pollinator gardening? You're invited to the garden to gain insights about native pollinators. Also, you can fashion native plant seed bombs to take with you and plant in your garden or green space!

Downtown Victoria Second Community Garden Proposal

The UEC submitted their Expression of Interest (EOI) to the City of Victoria Parks Division on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. The EOI is now undergoing the review process by City of Victoria Staff.

Downtown Victoria CoolKit Workshop

The UEC successfully hosted its first two workshops at the YSCG, with 18 participants registering and all who could attend certain workshops making it to the events. The workshops surpassed expectations, meeting their objectives and providing a fun experience for all. We eagerly anticipate the third workshop on July 15, 2023.

In Summary

In conclusion, the Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) continues to thrive and provide opportunities for community engagement and education. The waitlist for the garden continues to grow, with the upcoming Blossom Your Pride Event and Pollinator Week events offering exciting opportunities for current and potential gardeners to get involved. The UEC's efforts to expand with a second community garden proposal and the success of their CoolKit workshops also demonstrate a commitment to community outreach and sustainability. Overall, the YSCG remains a valuable asset to the Downtown Victoria community.

Communications and Membership Committee Report – June 2023

Update on Committee activities:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
 - The May newsletter was issued on May 18. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by 45.6% of subscribers. The items receiving the highest number of clicks were the articles on Transportation Capital Projects and the Upper Fort Street Festival.
 - We also sent these emails to our subscribers:
 - Call for volunteers for the Upper Fort Festival, sent on May 25
 - Information re the Naloxone training event, sent on May 23
 - Information re Take Action on the Urban Forest and Climate Change - sent on May 4
 - We intend to put together a newsletter by June 22 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.
 - 335 site sessions over the past month (up 2% from the previous month). The most viewed posts were the Music in the Park event and the Board Members update.

- **Social Media**
 - The number of posts over the past month, and the current number of followers are:
 - Facebook - 17 posts, 1017 followers
 - Instagram - 14 posts, 774 followers
 - Twitter - 10 tweets, 1155 followers

- **Other**
 - 4 new members since the last report
 - 15 new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by
Doug Boyd
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

**Land Use Committee Report – For Board Meeting
20 June 2023**

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

Current

1. 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.

2. Delegating Minor Variance

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

3. 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**

4. 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.**

5. 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**

6. 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: **Applicant revising submission starting April 27**

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.**

7. 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.

8. 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. **Waiting for applicant book meeting space and set date for CALUC meeting.**

9. 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

4. 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
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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. 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. Status: Declined at council meeting at 26th of May, referred back to staff on June 9th.

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 May 20th.

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. 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 Apr2022.
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 – JUNE 2023

1. Recent activities:

Queer Open Stage: Approximately 45 people attended the May 18th edition of the open stage, which was the last event of the series for the season, as we will be taking a break over the summer. Non-binary fiddle player and vocalist Q was the featured act and other performances included poetry, beat boxing and music.

Go By Bike Week: James attended the Celebration Station at the GVPL's Central Branch on June 2nd. In addition to promoting the DRA and our events (including Music in the Park) and encouraging attendees to sign up for our mailing list, he also gave out free bicycle-powered smoothies. Attendees were able to ride the bike blender to make their own smoothies.

Seedling Distribution Event: James was at this event at the Yates Street Community Garden on June 2nd with the DRA bike and trailer and had conversations with many Downtown residents, including some who were not previously aware of our organization. Several people signed up for our newsletter and many expressed interest in the Music in the Park event.

Upper Fort StreetFest: This free block party was hosted by the Downtown Victoria Business Association on June 3rd and was very well attended. CEC member Trish organized and ran a *Dogs of Downtown* photo booth with the help of two volunteers, and over 70 dogs got their photos taken. We also had a table with information about the DRA and the Coolkit program, and board member Dawn and CEC member Naomi promoted a new campaign for a mid-block crosswalk on the 1000 block of Fort. The proposed location for this crosswalk happened to be right in front of where our booth was set up, and a temporary crosswalk was created with chalk. Close to 150 people added their names to the petition, including many local residents and business owners. We also had our new giant Scrabble game set up beside our booth, and it was a big hit.

2. Upcoming activities:

Music in the Park: The first event in our series of free summer concerts in Downtown Parks will take place on June 28th in Cridge Park. The concert will be an unofficial warm-up for the Pride Festival (which starts the next day) and will feature artists who have performed at the Queer Open Stage, including musicians Hoélune Rosé and Marina Avros, and poet Jeremiah Gittens. We have secured funding for the concert from Coastal Community Credit Union and the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service.

Music by the Shore: The second concert of the summer will take place on July 20th in Reeson Park. The lineup for the event is still being finalized, but we intend to feature performers with lived experience of homelessness and have booked SOLID Outreach's band, the Leftovers. We have received a grant from Vancity for this event and the CRD funding will also be used.

3. Welcome packages and events:

We recently received confirmation from a resident of Hudson House that they received the welcome package after moving in. We are working with the building's management to plan a welcome event for residents sometime in July. Welcome packages are also being distributed to tenants of the Dalmation building above the new firehall and we are in conversation with Pacifica Housing about hosting a welcome event sometime this summer.

Submitted by: James Davis, Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator

Report on VCAN – June 2023

The May meeting of VCAN was held on Wednesday, May 24th via ZOOM.

Tourism Master Plan

Jeremy Loveday, Director of Public Affairs, Destination Stewardship and Sustainability for Destination Greater Victoria presented on the 10-year Tourism Master Plan. Currently Victoria does not have a master plan.

DGV is a non-profit destination marketing management organization. It is the official tourism body of Greater Victoria with shared buy-in from a number of bodies. It has an agreement with the CRD, hotel association, and Destination BC, and the work is funded through a hotel tax. The Board of DGV is mainly composed of industry members and downtown businesses. No community organizations or neighbourhood organizations are part of it. Councillors are appointed by Council to the DGV board. Different board representative categories are elected by members (~800 members) Cruise tourism is not directly part of the DGV Master plan. It is run by the Harbour Authority. The Harbour Authority is completing a strategic plan regarding the future of cruise tourism.

Jeremy outlined the opportunities to participate in the public engagement strategy and an email circulated to neighbourhood associations to invite people to make their feelings known on-line.

Community Mapping project

Work is being done on sourcing out grants in order to hire a contract person to move the mapping project forward. A meeting has been set up with Gary Pemberton to talk about the Great Neighbourhood Grant process and whether it is possible for a number of neighbourhoods to join together on one grant application and request a larger sum of money. Currently, the project is estimated to cost \$16,500 with \$2,000 being contributed by Rockland Neighbourhood Association specifically for mapping in the Rockland neighbourhood.

Noisy Vehicles

Derek Pinto from Vic West requested support from neighbourhood associations to ask Council to enforce the noise bylaws and reduce noise pollution. A presentation is currently being developed.

Summer Break

VCAN will not be meeting during July and August.

Report on 900 Block of Pandora Good Neighbour Group – June 2023

Washrooms

Agreement has been reached between Island Health and the City for the provision of washrooms at the safe inhalation site until the site is closed at the end of 2023. While the washrooms will not be open 24/7, the movement to provide some access is welcomed.

930 Pandora

A conversation with city staff has revealed that the plans for the site are now in the delegated development permit review stage which is anticipated to take an additional few months. They were submitted at the end of March 2023.

The 900 block group brainstormed what functions could go into the new development that would have a positive and lasting effect on those who are using services on the 900 block. Those ideas included:

1. 24/7 integrated bathroom, shower, and laundry facility.
2. Community Police Office.
3. Free clothing boutique.
4. Space for social enterprise space, for example, a coffee shop.
5. Non-profit organization office space including service provision points.
6. Seniors drop in space.
7. A low barrier bank
8. A decent sized space that can be rented at low, or no cost for weddings, birthdays, religious services, and other community events so that people who cannot afford the normal prices for such venues can actually access them for their important events.
9. Employment readiness space

Because there has been limited consultation on the design of the building, many of these ideas may not be implemented. Most of the space on the ground floor appears to be committed to daycare and the building is primarily oriented to Mason Street although there will be access from Pandora.

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee

Report submitted by Doug Boyd for the June 2023 Board Meeting

The DRA has one delegate representing the association on the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee (GVHA CLC). Committee members include representatives from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, CRD, COV, Town of Esquimalt, DVBA, GVCC, Destination GV, Victoria Cruise Industry Alliance, Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society, Western Stevedoring (the company that services the cruise ships), and two community members at large.

I attended the CLC meeting on May 16. These were the topics covered of interest to the DRA:

- The cruise shuttle bus is embarking on a shorter bus loop than originally reported. It is now travelling up Douglas, stopping in front of the Fairmont Empress and returning back via Belleville. There are positives as it is a quicker route, allowing for fewer busses on the streets.
- Update from the GVHA on GVHA non-cruise related operations, including Fisherman's Wharf, Ship Point, inner harbour marinas and the Hyack Air terminal.
- Discussion re Government Street closure: the DVBA noted its impact on already struggling businesses and accessibility challenges for older guests and is lobbying to change this. I stated that the DRA is strongly supporting of the closure and that the results of our recent residents survey confirmed this strong support.

Please advise me if there are any items you wish me to raise with the committee.