

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022

Location: ZOOM

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Sandra Severs (President), Doug Boyd, Michael Demakiling, Dianne Flood, Sherry Lee, Colby Young, Jeremy Zhao, Jordan Royer (joined at 6:00), Ian Sutherland (joined at 6:20)

DRA Neighbourhood Engagement Co-ordinator: James Davis

DRA Land Use Planning Advisor: Daniel Lake

City Staff: Mike Hill

DRA member(s): Trish Paterson

Call to Order/ Welcome of Guests/ Approval of Agenda

Sandra called the meeting to order, welcomed our guest and the agenda was approved.

Downtown Update – Mike Hill: Report attached. Mike noted he is using a new format, with matters of interest to the Downtown being listed first, then matters of interest in other neighbourhoods and across the City, followed by some more general information. James noted that the links in the report did not seem to work, so Mike undertook to provide a new version, with the URL's.

Mike noted that the new Council has a lot in front of them, including a workshop on their roles and responsibilities. The Governance Report has been referred to the new Council for consideration in January 2023, so Neighbourhood Associations may want to consider informal opportunities to provide input into that review, especially with respect to the role of councilor liaison and whether they should act as an advocate for the Neighbourhood Association to which they are assigned. Also, the out-going Council directed City staff to review on a more thorough basis of all of the related impacts of the permits for the "Covid sidewalk patios", prior to the expiry of their extension to March 2023.

The Neighbourhood Space at the Crystal Gardens (formerly known as the Neighbourhood Hub) has been upgraded and is available for residents and others to book for meetings and other activities at: neighbourhoods@victoria.ca.

Follow-up from the September Minutes: None required

Executive Report - Sandra Severs: Report attached.

- *2022 Election:* General discussion about the election outcomes, with specific discussion about the DRA's election events, with the general feeling and feedback being that the Mayoral Debate went well – the only hitch was the late arrival of two of the candidates, which was out of our control – and the venue for the All Candidates Forum was not ideal – in part due to the number of candidates (21 council and three mayoral candidates) – and also the interest in the topic tables varied considerably, with some being very popular and others having little

activity. **Decision: To survey DRA members, all the various volunteers and the candidates about what worked well and what might be improved.**

- *Starlight Developments:* The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for November. The LUC will make its submission within the mandate of the CALUC and the Board will undertake separate efforts for both public outreach and a submission to Council. The Executive will give Daniel further direction on those efforts.
- *Survey:* Daniel provided an overview of the survey results, noting the survey participants closely align with the overall City of Victoria demographics, with some minor variations, and over 50% of the participants live in the Downtown neighbourhood, with others owning property in or visitors to the Downtown. Of note was the broad interest in improvements in pedestrian improvements, and the willingness to support amendments to the official planning documents, but only if (sufficient) public amenities were provided. The survey results will be used to inform the “wish list” for Downtown improvements and programs the Board will be submitting to Council in December.

Jordan joined the meeting at 6:00

Mike Hill left the meeting and Ian joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

James left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Urban Livability Committee:** Report Attached.
- **Land Use Committee:** Report attached.
- **Community Engagement Committee:** Report attached. Dianne asked Board members to consider volunteering at Wicked Victoria on Sunday, October 30.
- **Communications and Membership Committee:** Report attached.
- **Governance Committee:** Report attached.
- **Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee:** No report attached. Michael has done some preliminary work on the possible use of the View Street Parkade as a possible location for a second community garden, taking pictures at various times and days, which might form the basis for a great video presentation. The need for a Committee Chair was discussed, given the high degree of interest in a second Downtown community garden. Ideally, someone with or looking for a garden plot would step up and take on this role. Michael will canvass his garden volunteers to see if there is any interest.

External Meeting Reports

- **Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN):** The Board congratulated Sandra on her election as Chair of VCAN, and noted the possible opportunity for a larger and more proactive role for VCAN, given the number of new councillors who have served on neighbourhood associations.
- **Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC):** No report.
- **Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee:** No meetings and no report.

- **DVBA Clean and Safe Committee:** No report
- **900 Pandora Working Group:** Sandra reported this Group met and advocacy efforts will focus on the provision of washrooms.

Board Discussion/New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. by ZOOM.



DOWNTOWN

Election Results

Total voter turnout in the City of Victoria was 27,452 or 37.98% of registered voters. The [results of the municipal election](#) for Victoria are as follows:

Mayor: ALTO, Marianne

Councillors:

CARADONNA, Jeremy	HAMMOND, Stephen
COLEMAN, Christopher Mark	KIM, Susan
DELL, Matt	LOUGHTON, Krista
GARDINER, Marg	THOMPSON, Dave

The new Council will be inaugurated on November 3, which is the next scheduled Council meeting.



COVID Patios to Continue

On October 6, Council received a [staff report](#) regarding the Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw, and associated Build Back Victoria Program, which is set to expire on October 31, 2022. Council's previous advocacy to the Province of BC was successful in having the Temporary Expanded Service Area (TESA) program continue until March 31, 2023.

Council resolved to "...direct the City Solicitor to bring forward amendments to the Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw) to change the expiry date from October 31, 2022 to March 31, 2023;" and "...that Council direct staff to report back on options for an inspection prior to occupancy of patios to ensure accessibility and other public interest considerations."



Governance Review

Council held a discussion on the Governance Review at their [September 29 meeting](#). The outcome was to refer the report to the new Council for their consideration in January 2023.

Scouting Around Downtown

On September 29, [Councillor Loveday proposed](#) that the City consider participating in the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project. It was stated that scooters are increasing in popularity and are a means for reducing greenhouse gasses. Assessing issues related to their operation was therefore presented as of value. Council resolved to "...direct staff to report back with options for and implications of joining the Provincial Electric Scooter Pilot Program."



NeighbourSpace

The space in Crystal Garden has been refurbished to improve it as a meeting space for community groups. You can book the space by sending a note to neighbourhoods@victoria.ca

MY GREAT Neighbourhood

From Around the City...

Community Dinners

Community dinners are a great way to meet your neighbours and enjoy a meal that someone else has prepared. Several community centres offer community dinners for your enjoyment. Oaklands Community Dinners happen on the last Sunday of every month at the Community Centre. The Fernwood Community Meal happens Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm, by donation and first come - first served. Fairfield community dinners will also resume in October. Check their websites for more details.



Halloween in the City

Quadra Village Community Centre is hosting a Haunted House on October 29th from 6pm-7:30pm. Come to the front of the centre at 901 Kings Rd and check in with our Welcome Table. Please stay home if you have any COVID or cold symptoms. One pod at a time. Masks required. Warning: There will be dark, tight spaces, blood, spiders, loud noises and flashing lights. Best suited for ages 5+. The first part of the haunted house will have stairs but it can be skipped to accommodate accessibility needs. Please let the welcome table know. For more info community@quadravillagecc.com



What makes a good placemaking project?

Seating, plants, lighting and colour are the basic elements that create a welcoming and inviting space. Here is a great example in Fairfield utilizing three of these four key elements... and using a My Great Neighbourhood Grant to make it happen. If you see a place in your neighbourhood that needs some revitalizing, reach out to your Neighbourhood Liaison to see how we can support your idea. You can take a walk up to the 600 block Cornwall St to see this site in person.

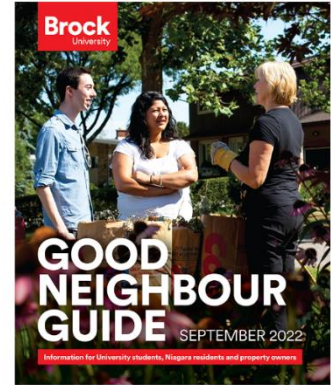
From Further Abroad...



Good Neighbours

Brock University took the initiative to ensure the newcomers are integrated into the community as the school year gets underway and students settle into their new homes. Brock staff, alumni and student volunteers, along with local community representatives, went door to door to speak with students and other residents in popular student neighbourhoods. In addition to the Brock contingent, the Welcome Wagon team included representatives from Council, police and bylaw services.

The group answered questions and discussed the importance of being good neighbours in their new community, making responsible choices while living off campus and understanding their rights and responsibilities as student tenants. They also handed out 750 bags filled with resources on topics such as student housing, waste management, volunteering and responsible partying. Included in the information kits delivered to homes was Brock's annual [Good Neighbour Guide](#), which provides helpful information about neighbourhood relations and getting involved in the community. For more information on their Welcome Wagon, visit Brock's [Neighbourhood Relations web page](#).



Community Activation

The *My Main Street Community Activator* program provides support for community projects in southern Ontario. It is designed to draw visitors and increase local vibrancy and includes ideas for events and activities, main street enhancements and policy and partnership development. The program provides support for local groups to revitalize neighborhoods and reimagine public spaces including main streets, downtown strips and plazas, as vibrant and inclusive places that work for everyone.



Monitoring Collaboration Tool

Have you ever wondered how your organization can work more collaboratively? The Tamarack Institute has developed a tool designed to help you monitor and assess the quality of collaboration that occurs amongst a group. It encourages participants to reflect on their process and groups dynamics and to share perspectives on how to improve their collaboration and the outcomes of such projects. Learn more about this tool on [Tamarack's webpage](#).



The ABCDs of Community Development



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt people.



How do we get neighbourhood development that focuses on the valuable assets already there, rather than focusing on its deficiencies and needs? This 3.5 hour Tamarack workshop will provide you with an opportunity to explore Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) through discussions and breakout activities. It will focus on the elements and methods of ABCD, and how to incorporate its lens to put community at the centre of your work. Learn more about this webinar on November 1 and 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. Find the latest issue of [Connect](#) here or check out recent new items [here](#).

Looking to stay engaged? Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#). You'll get a monthly update about current engagement opportunities to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OCTOBER 2022

1. 2022 Civic Election Task Force

- ***Mayoral Debate:***

The Mayoral Debate was held at the Vic Theatre on Sunday, September 25 from 2-4 p.m. with Shannon Waters, Municipal Reporter for the Capital Daily moderating the event. Three candidates were invited – Marianne Alto, Stephen Andrew and Brendan Marshall — who were selected from the field of eight based on the following criteria: work experience, platform development, on-line presence, and evidence of public service or civic/community engagement.

The Vic Theatre (capacity of 213 seats) was nearly full, with people coming up to an hour early to ensure they got a seat. Despite starting twenty minutes late due to two of the candidates' late arrival, the event moved quickly thanks to Shannon's skill and ended only 10 minutes past our intended finish. The planned questions were comprehensive, the "Civic Camp" process moved smoothly, and the candidates appreciated being able to "buy" more time with their tokens. The closed captioning for the theatre and the live Zoom feed worked well to ensure that persons with hearing impairments or language difficulties could participate. A small number of attendees expressed disappointment that questions were not allowed from the floor.

Two Mayoral candidates complained about not being invited. The criteria for inclusion were provided to them.

The event was streamed live via ZOOM with over 200 viewers and over 1,400 have viewed the recording of the event which was posted to YouTube. The link to the recording can be found on the DRA website.

- ***All-Candidates Forum:***

The All-Candidates Forum took place on Monday September 26, 7-9 p.m. at the Atrium with a well-attended turnout of Council candidates and three Mayoral candidates who had not been included in Sunday's event, and a large crowd of interested electors.

Response to the venue and café style format was mixed. Candidates seemed comfortable with the relaxed atmosphere and were able to freely move around engaging in conversation with participants. Organizers were more unsure about the format and venue, citing the difficulty sustaining conversations because of the noise levels and the challenges of engaging in theme-based conversations. Some candidates did not appear to have either opinions or knowledge about some of the theme areas.

Thanks were received from a number of other neighbourhood associations to the DRA for putting the work in and hosting the two events.

- ***Other activities:***

Four of the Mayoral candidates and 21 of the council candidates responded to our ten question survey, with those answers posted on the DRA website.

Also in advance of the election, Sandra had coffee with various candidates (Marianne Alto, Matt Dell, Jeremy Caradonna, Krista Loughton, Dave Thompson, Marg Gardiner and Janice Williams) to express the DRA's role, interests and needs. Further outreach will happen once the new Council is elected.

A big thank you to the members of the Task Force in the pre-event planning and volunteering at the events, Board members and DRA members who volunteered at the Forum, and to James for all his hard work in pulling it all together.

2. Strategic Planning for the New Council

The Executive is continuing to work with Daniel on compiling the survey outcomes and using that information to formulate a strategic plan to present to the new Council. A big thank you to DRA member Kathleen Rawlinson for her significant work on organizing and analyzing the open-ended answers.

3. Starlight Developments

The Executive is working with Daniel on preparing a strategy for the public hearing on these significant developments, which is anticipated to be held in November.

4. Correspondence: We have been asked to again write a letter of support for the Canadian Pacific Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club's application for a New Horizon Grant to cover some minor projects to update their facility adjacent to Cridge Park, to make it more accessible for seniors. This is an important recreational facility within our neighbourhood, and as was done last year, the Executive has authorized a letter to be sent.

Of note, the Club has offered us the free use of their facilities: the bowling green for fundraisers and their clubhouse which accommodates up to 50 seated guests and has a full kitchen.

Urban Livability Committee Report

Victoria Downtown Residents Association

October 18, 2022

Introduction

The committee is excited to welcome a new volunteer to the Urban Livability Committee. The Committee also attended the Systems Transformation Working Group meeting and continues to do Pandora walkabouts with the Neighbourhood Solidarity of Unhoused Neighbours. In addition, the Urban Livability Committee is hearing more about the increased concerns about food prices and the noise and traffic congestion caused by construction in the Downtown area.

Committee Updates

New Volunteer

The Urban Livability Committee is excited to welcome our newest volunteer, Hannah Munn. Hannah Munn is a resident of the Fairfield neighbourhood, however, has a lot of interest in Downtown Victoria. She works as a Recreation and Rehabilitation Coordinator at Seven Oaks Tertiary Mental Health Facility. She would like to volunteer her time with the Urban Livability Committee to build a sense of community for the Downtown Victoria residents and support activities that support residents facing homelessness and toxic drug poisoning. We look forward to working with Hannah to engage in activities that support urban livability initiatives in Downtown Victoria!

Systems Transformation Working Group Meeting - September 22, 2022

Michael participated in the September 22, 2022, Systems Transformation Working Group meeting. At the meeting, Renee Beausoleil presented her work on The Victoria Declaration, a housing and support services governance statement. The Victoria Declaration states five principles:

1. Governance involves all stakeholders
2. Addressing inequities in governance
3. Engage in meaningful dialogue
4. Ensuring community safety
5. Inclusivity

The statement also proposes action-based commitments:

1. Build long-term reciprocal relationships.

2. Create safe spaces and common ground for the benefit of all.
3. Building the capacity to have dialogue that helps make decisions across differences.
4. Moving beyond a political and economic culture of scarcity towards building a future based on shared resources and understanding.
5. Creating a community that can work together to provide various housing options that meet the needs of our diverse population.
6. Enacting the kinds of relationships we need that create the governance of housing and supports envisioned.

To read The Victoria Declaration statement in detail, please click [HERE](#).

The participants in the meeting discussed what this statement could look like in practice and what barriers it could face in implementing it. From the perspective of the Urban Livability Committee, if the Downtown Residents Association supported the statement, perhaps what we can contribute is engaging activities that promote a sense of community and inviting residents to participate in sharing of ideas and participating in activities that support the housing and support services in Greater Victoria. As the statement suggests, “Governance involves all of us” and “creating a community that can work together to provide a variety of housing options that meet the needs of our diverse population.”

Heather Murphy, with the Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN), provided the group with an update on Pandora. Within the report, the need for public washrooms were discussed, and concerns about gentrification. Other discussion topics included that for people on Pandora without homes, their homelessness will likely not be solved over the next two years. In the interim, it would be ideal for making life on Pandora better for everyone. Ideas include a curb cut to access Harris Green Park, two temporary portable toilets, a community garden on Pandora, and benches. The Urban Livability Committee continues to work on the Pandora bench project and will provide an update at the next board meeting.

Noise and Disruption caused by Construction

During the week of October 09 to October 14, road maintenance occurred to repave the road on Johnson St between Vancouver St and Cook St. With the ongoing construction of

two developments in the area, concerns were voiced by some residents in the area. The concerns were about the amount of construction noise and congestion from vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians caused by construction. Johnson St feels like a compact street; some residents work from home and have diverse work schedules, including those that work evenings and weekends and have weekdays off during the day. The loud noise, congestion, and length of construction activities can be unbearable for those living and working from home in the area. Perhaps, approved developments can be spread out rather than close to each other. Downtown residents are paying high rent amounts or have invested a lot of money purchasing property in Victoria, so it would be ideal if the current residents' needs are also considered so they can live comfortably in Downtown Victoria while making manageable sacrifices to allow for the need for city maintenance and developments.

Concerns of Food Prices and Food Security Programs

As indicated by the most recent Food Price Report by Dalhousie University et. al. (2022), food insecurity will be a big issue as Canadians grapple with rising food prices. Food programs may face increased demand along with higher costs of food. Furthermore, rising inflation will not affect all Canadians equally, as lower-income households spend more of their income on basic needs such as housing and food. As costs increase, they will have more difficulty maintaining their existing quality of life. Disproportionately higher food prices will severely impact women, indigenous populations, people of colour and other vulnerable populations. From a local level, perhaps one of the key factors that can support residents to offset the adverse personal financial effects of the higher cost of living is to provide opportunities to grow their food.

The demand for community gardens seems to increase. In the Downtown Community alone, the Yates Street Community Garden's waitlist has soared to 172 people. The Urban Livability committee is committed in researching and proposing unique and innovative ideas of promoting greenspace that can benefit not just those seeking gardening space, but providing opportunities for residents to enjoy personal and gathering green spaces to overcome mental challenges associated with periods of uncertainty in an environment faced by rising inflation and climate challenges.

Conclusion

The Urban Livability Committee continues to participate in meetings that support the unhoused and services that affect residences. The committee continues to listen, learn, and share ideas to enhance or modify programs that aim to improve lives for everyone. Support services and housing programs will be even more critical with the rise of inflation, particularly in food security. With uncertainty in the minds of many of the residents of Downtown Victoria, providing better livable communities will be necessary, including creating more public green spaces and community gardens. Continuous development in the city seems to be unavoidable and perhaps needed; however, it would be worthwhile to consider strategic planning on how closely located the developments are within each other. The increase in traffic congestion and substantial noise seems to affect the residents currently living in the Downtown Victoria neighbourhood, especially those who are spending a significant amount of rent now that the City of Victoria is the 3rd priciest city to rent a one-bedroom (Pescod, 2022). The Urban Livability Committee is committed to continuing to participate in various activities that will enhance the livability of everyone in Downtown Victoria. We look forward to working with our newest volunteer toward that very goal.

References

- Dalhousie University, University of Guelph, University of Saskatchewan, and The University of British Columbia. (2022) *Canada's Food Price Report* (12th Edition). Halifax, NS: Dalhousie University
- Pescod, Nathan. (2022, October 14) *Median rent for one-bedroom in Victoria now \$2,080 per month, up 30 per cent: report*. Retrieved October 15, 2022, from <https://www.cheknews.ca/victoria-rent-up-30-percent-in-one-year-1106072/>.

Communications and Membership Committee Report – October 2022

Update on Committee activities:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
 - o The September newsletter was issued on September 22. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by a 44.7% of subscribers. These were both lower than our average of 47.8%. We intend to put together a newsletter by October 21 and welcome contributions from Board members. The items receiving the highest number of clicks were about the election events.
 - o Two communications were sent re our election events, on August 31 and September 6. These were opened by a 70.0% and 56.6%, respectively, of subscribers. A reminder about our All Candidates Event was sent on September 26 and was opened by 57.9% of subscribers.
 - o A reminder to vote with a link to our candidate survey responses was sent on October 12 and was opened by 55.4% of subscribers.
- **Web site**
 - o We continue to add posts to the News page and add events to the Events page of our new website.
 - o 1271 site sessions over the past month (up 216% from the previous month). The most viewed post was on the All Candidates Forum and had 535 views.
- **Social Media**
 - o The number of posts over the past month, and the current number of followers are:
 - Facebook - 15 posts, 1030 followers
 - Instagram - 6 posts, 512 followers
 - Twitter - 8 tweets, 1183 followers
- **Other**
 - o **4** new members since the last report
 - o **14** new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by
Doug Boyd
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

2022 Oct DRA Project List for Board Meeting

Land Use Committee

18 October 2022

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

LUC: Current

1. 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: 3rd reading and public hearing received October 6th.
2. 603 Pandora Avenue –Hampton Inn Development – Held a Open House September 28th indicating a fall/winter development application. Application will include height and density variances.
3. 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.

Status: Public Hearing referred to next council in November

4. 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. Public hearing has been scheduled for November

LUC: Ongoing and Active

1. 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.

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. 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,

“I am writing to confirm that the community meeting held on March 21, 2022 for 780 Blanshard has satisfied the pre-application community meeting requirements, as set out in the Land-Use Procedures Bylaw (No.16-028). While the applicant has met the bylaw requirements, staff would encourage the applicant to host a follow-up meeting with the Downtown CALUC in a format that resolves the hybrid meeting shortfalls (i.e. either wholly on-line or in person). It is also advisable to host this additional meeting at the earliest time possible so that there is an opportunity to consider the community feedback early in the application process. That said, the City can now accept an application given that the pre-application community meeting requirements have been met.”

An application was received on June 27 and sent out for referral on July 8th. A letter response from the DRA LUC was sent to the City on August 9th.

2. 1140 Government – Garrick’s Head – Permit to expand their patio, no change to occupancy numbers or hours – Responded to via letter, note that additional information was received and a revised letter is being sent reflecting additional information
3. 537 Johnson – Friends of Dorothy – Dual Food and Liquor permit (time depending) – Responded to via letter no issue, however concerns over enforcement of this type of permit
4. 826 Yates St – TELUS Victoria with Gustavson Wyle Architects – Development Permit with Variance to add elevator vestibule to roof. Status: As of June 8th, application under

review by City.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.. Status: Revised plans posted to development tracker and staff review started June 17th 2022.
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 June 15th
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. 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. Approved to go to Public Hearing at CotW 03 Feb 2022. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 04 Apr 2022, notified by City 20 Apr for additional comments.
11. Fairfield Gonzales LUC (on DRA border): 846 Broughton – Parc Living – Rezoning and Devt Permit to increase density and allow for a 10-storey mixed-use building. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 02 Mar 2022.
12. 517 Herald St – KILO Architecture/Neurotech 40 – Devt Permit to construct an enclosure at the rear north of the building. Status: With Applicant 18 Feb 2022.

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 June 2021.

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 2022

1. Recent activities:

Reconciliation Books in Little Free Libraries: In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Committee purchased several books by Indigenous authors at a Downtown bookstore and seeded the Little Free Libraries in the neighbourhood with them.

Civic Election events: Much of the Neighbourhood Coordinators' time was taken up with the preparations for and hosting of the election events, which are reported on more fully in the Executive Report.

2. Upcoming Events:

“Wicked Victoria” Once again the Committee will engage with folks at the Victoria Festival Society's Halloween celebration on Sunday October 30, from 11:00 to 3:00 pm. on government Street. The plan is for our booth to be similar to last year's very popular photo booth, with hay bales, pumpkins and games and treats for the kids and treats for their four-legged furry friends. Dianne has reached out to our volunteer base with some limited response, and will continue those efforts, but the support and participation of Board members is critical to make this a success. Please let Dianne know how you can assist at this fun event.

November and December activities: Dianne and James are looking for ideas and opportunities to make the wet and rainy winter days a little less dreary and more fun for our Downtown residents, so if you have any ideas, please let us know.

Note: the Canadian Pacific Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club has offered us the free use of their facilities located adjacent to Cridge Park: the bowling green for fundraisers and their clubhouse which accommodates up to 50 seated guests and has a full kitchen.

3. Welcome Package For New Residents:

Work on this project took a bit of a back seat to the election events, but will resume, with the goal to have a brochure ready for distribution to the new residents of the newly constructed Hudson House, along with a DRA postcard and possibly a fridge magnet. The brochure will serve as a guide to living Downtown, with key services and non-profit organizations highlighted.

Submitted by: Dianne Flood Committee Chair

Report on VCAN and the 900 block of Pandora Good Neighbour Group -October 2022

Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN):

The 2022 AGM of VCAN was held on Wednesday, September 28th. Sandra was elected Chair of VCAN and Sarah Murray of North Park Neighbourhood Association was elected Vice-Chair, replacing Don Monsour of Fairfield Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and Marg Gardiner of James Bay Neighbourhood Association.

The purpose in assuming leadership roles in VCAN is to see if the network can become more effective in creating a shared voice on issues of importance to neighbourhoods as the new Council is elected to their term in City Hall. First steps in strengthening the network will involve the development of a website and a social media presence.

900 block of Pandora Good Neighbour Group:

There has been continued discussion about the role of the 900 Block meeting and whether it serves any purpose beyond information sharing. It was decided that the group needs to move into an advocacy role and that pressuring decision-makers about the lack of washrooms on the block would be a concrete action that the group could undertake. From the DRA's survey of candidates, it is clear most support the creation of washrooms on the block. Whether these should be stand-alone facilities or funding for an organization like Our Place to staff their own washrooms beyond 9 p.m. is unclear at the moment. Heather Murphy, of NSUN (Neighbours in Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours) has been in conversation with Bylaw, Island Health and Mayor Helps advocating for a solution to this problem.