

## **VICTORIA DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**APRIL 18, 2023, at The Dock, 300-722 Cormorant Street, Victoria**

#### Welcome and Introductions

DRA President Sandra Severs welcomed members and guests.

Sandra noted that as a first step to a meaningful land acknowledgement the Indigenous Perspectives Society has been retained to provide an “Understanding History” workshop for the DRA Board. The Society is a Victoria-based, Indigenous-run charitable non-profit comprised of Indigenous staff, allies and volunteers that provides educational opportunities. The intent of the workshop is to assist the DRA in building strong relationships with the local Indigenous communities and from that create and commit to a respectful acknowledgement of the Indigenous territory on which the Downtown neighbourhood is located.

#### Establish Quorum and Approve the Agenda

Sandra confirmed quorum and the agenda as proposed was approved.

#### Guest Speaker Mayor Marianne Alto

Mayor Alto expressed her pleasure at attending and sharing her vision for the Downtown Neighbourhood. She noted that with a council comprised of all new councillors the initial training and education sessions meant a bit of slow start but was time well-spent and its value was already apparent as Council is now tackling the challenges of transitioning from a town to a city.

The City’s Strategic Plan is being worked on and will reflect a focus on climate adaptation. The efforts to increase housing will also reflect that, with investing and situating housing in a way that acknowledges climate adaptation issues. Transportation will also see and require changes, with high-speed buses into downtown being one way to address the climate changes.

With efforts to keep tax increases at a minimum, the budget process has forced some serious balancing of interests, with paring back of some items.

Policing consumes 40% of the budget, with Esquimalt looking to “de-couple” from the policing agreement, but provincial approval is needed for that and the time frame for that approval is lengthy, so it will perhaps be three to five years before anything happens. A regional police force might be a better option to work toward, and exploring amalgamation with Saanich is back on-track with a citizens’ assembly being established soon.

With respect to the Governance Review, Council is looking at streamlining its procedures and land use bylaws, which should happen very soon, and is also

looking at various samples for a Code of Conduct, with that anticipated before the end of summer.

Regarding Downtown amenities, Council is adopting a priorities list with a focus on investing in bringing folks into the downtown, so Centennial Square will be on the list, with Ship's Point also under consideration but likely longer-term, with the provincial, federal and Songhees governments being involved.

Mayor Alto answered a number of questions from the audience, including about shelters downtown, the 900 block of Pandora, and downtown parking.

Sandra thanked Mayor Alto for her leadership and for her support to neighbourhood associations.

### Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes as posted on the DRA website in advance of the AGM were approved.

### DRA 2022-in-Review and the Strategic Plan for 2023

Sandra reviewed the year, highlighting the increase in 2022 funding which permitted the Association to retain contractors to assist with the land use and development issues and to help build a stronger community, including conducting a survey of residents, holding two successful election events and hosting a variety of community activities, including musical concerts in our three downtown parks. The just-confirmed 2023 funding will allow the DRA to continue with those contracts and activities and also to undertake more rigorous strategic planning to strengthen the Association in order meet the challenges of the ever-increasing population within our neighbourhood.

### Review of Financial Report & Budget

Treasurer Doug Boyd presented the 2022 Financial Report and the proposed budget for 2023, as posted on the DRA website in advance of the AGM.

Moved by Doug Boyd, seconded by Wendy Bowkett the 2022 Financial Report and 2023 Budget be approved. By a show of hands: all in favour, none opposed. The 2022 Financial Report and 2023 Budget as presented were approved.

### Executive and Committee Reports

The Executive and Committee Reports, posted on the DRA website in advance of the AGM for the members to review, were accepted. Members were encouraged to participate on committee activities.

### Special Resolution: Amendment to the Bylaws

Notice having been given as required, moved by Dianne Flood, seconded by Doug Boyd, the special resolution to amend the DRA Constitution and Bylaws as posted on the DRA website in advance of the AGM be approved.

The amendment changes the references in the Constitution and Bylaws to the boundaries of the Downtown Neighbourhood and merges the former Harris Green Neighbourhood and the Downtown Neighbourhood under the name of the Downtown Neighbourhood. This reflects the decision by the City Council with respect to the Downtown Neighbourhood and its boundaries.

By a show of hands: all in favour, none opposed. The Special Resolution was adopted.

#### Election of New Board Members

Three declared candidates, Sherry Lee, Dawn Moorhead and Jeremy Zhao, were introduced. Other candidates were solicited from the floor, but none came forward.

By a show of hands: all in favour, none opposed. Sherry Lee, Dawn Moorhead and Jeremy Zhao were each elected to the Board for a three-year term.

There being vacancies remaining on the Board, two Board members who had exceeded the two-term limit set by the Constitution and Bylaws, Doug Boyd and Ian Sutherland, agreed to stand for election for an additional three-year term.

By a show of hands: all in favour, none opposed. Doug Boyd and Ian Sutherland were each re-elected to the Board for a three-year term.

#### New Business

No new business was identified.

#### Meeting Concludes

The meeting concluded at 7:40.



## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR END DECEMBER 31, 2022

**Prepared by Doug Boyd, Treasurer**  
**Presented at the AGM on April 18, 2023**

In accordance with the Victoria Downtown Residents' Association (DRA) Constitution, the following Report, Financial Statement and Budget have been prepared for the Annual General Meeting for the review of the Membership. The details are attached following the report.

This is the 18th reporting year for the DRA since the Society became a financial entity on November 1, 2004. Our fiscal year end is December 31.

Total revenues in 2022 were \$91,175. City of Victoria grants comprised \$89,060 of this total, other grants \$500, and memberships \$330. Revenues were significantly higher than in previous years due to the Community Outreach grant and higher Base Grant due to the population increase in the Downtown.

Total expenses in 2022 were \$60,633. The items funded by the Community Outreach grant was the largest category and included contact payments for the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator and the Land Use Planning Advisor, the Community Needs Survey, the Welcome Package, and Office Space Rent. Event expenses totaled \$8,056. T-shirt re-order cost was \$918, and the remainder consisted of various administrative and operational items.

For the 2023 Budget, forecasted revenue of \$88,390 consists of \$10,040 in Base Grant funding and \$78,000 in Community Outreach Grant funding from the City, and \$350 in Membership Fees.

Forecasted expenses are \$91,905. Major items include \$65,000 for two contact positions, \$10,000 for events, \$6,085 for office space rent, \$5,000 for a Strategic Planning exercise and \$2,100 for an Understanding History workshop resented by the Indigenous Perspectives Society.

The balance in our main bank account as of January 1, 2023 was \$55,426.18.

### Yates Street Community Garden

The Yates Street Community Garden is a project of the DRA. It is operated by a governing committee with the assistance of the Garden Volunteer Coordinator, funded through a Garden Volunteer Grant from the City of \$8,850. Other garden project revenues included membership fees of \$2,900.

Primary expenses were for contract services of \$10,000, garden projects/workshops and events of \$1,584, garden materials of \$587, miscellaneous expenses of \$223, and garden maintenance expenses of \$613.

The balance in the Yates Street Community Garden bank account as of January 1, 2023, was \$9,981.00.

**2022 Revenues and Expenses**

Actual Budget

**Revenues**

City of Victoria Base Grant	10,040.00	9,778.00
City of Victoria Community Outreach Grant	78,020.00	78,000.00
City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant - music event	1,000.00	
City of Victoria Insurance Reimbursement	1,250.00	
Fiesta West Music Event Grant	500.00	
Membership Fees	330.00	300.00
Workshop Registration Fees	35.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,175.00</b>	<b>88,078.00</b>

**Expenses**

Contract Payments - Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator	26,665.00	65,000.00
		*incl NEC & LUPA
Contract Payments - Land Use Planning Assistant	12,570.00	
Community Needs Survey - design, printing, postage	2,578.92	1,500.00
Welcome Package - magnets, printing	905.83	1,500.00
Strategic planning	0.00	4,000.00
Events	8,056.47	10,500.00
Office Space Rent	5,796.00	5,796.00
General Insurance	1,250.00	
E-Bike Insurance	190.00	190.00
Paypal, Zoom, Dropbox, Web Hosting fees	559.27	905.00
T-Shirt Re-order	918.42	
Board Orientation	108.65	400.00
Volunteer Victoria + Volunteer Canada Memberships	330.00	180.00
Volunteer Victoria workshops	126.00	
Advertising	216.25	400.00
AGM	0.00	250.00
Misc. Administrative	215.61	290.00
Bank Fees	147.00	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,633.42</b>	<b>91,061.00</b>

## Proposed Budget for 2023

2022 Budget 2023 Budget

### Revenues

City of Victoria Base Grant	9,778.00	10,040.00	* based on 2022 actual
City of Victoria Community Outreach Grant	78,000.00	78,000.00	* based on 2022 actual
Membership Fees	300.00	350.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,078.00</b>	<b>88,390.00</b>	

### Expenses

Contract Payments	65,000.00	65,000.00	
Welcome Package-magnets, printing, distribution	1,500.00	500.00	
Strategic planning	4,000.00	5,000.00	* deferred from 2022
Events	10,500.00	10,000.00	
Office Space Rent	5,796.00	6,085.00	* assumes 5% increase
Understanding History Indigenous workshop		2,100.00	
E-Bike Insurance	190.00	200.00	* assumes 5% increase
Paypal, Zoom, Dropbox, Web Hosting fees	905.00	950.00	* assumes 5% increase
Volunteer Victoria Membership	180.00	180.00	
Volunteer Victoria workshops		150.00	* based on 2022 spend
Advertising	400.00	300.00	* based on 2022 spend
Misc. Administrative	290.00	290.00	
Bank Fees	150.00	150.00	* based on 2022 spend
Contingency		1,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,911.00</b>	<b>91,905.00</b>	



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## **EXECUTIVE REPORT 2022/23**

The Executive of the DRA consists of Sandra Severs (President), Doug Boyd (Vice-President/Treasurer) and Dianne Flood (Secretary). Throughout 2022/23 the Executive generally met on a bi-weekly basis to guide and support the work of the Association.

**Key Executive activities in 2022/23** included advocating for the DRA, its Committees and members and downtown residents with City Council and other organizations; building stronger relationships with key partners and other agencies; outreach activities to better understand and represent the DRA's members and downtown residents; engaging and overseeing contractors to achieve the DRA's goals and plans; providing direction and advice to the DRA Board and Committee chairs; and reporting to supporting and government agencies as required.

**Advocacy:** The Executive prepared for Board approval and delivered submissions to the Mayor and Council:

- in the City's Strategic Planning and Budget Process, advocating for better support and community amenities for downtown residents, including more green space and additional community gardens;
- in response to the City's KPMG Governance Review, advocating for greater clarity and improvements in the relationship between the City and its neighbourhood associations and made recommendations for steps to be taken to achieve that;
- in the City-initiated review of the boundaries for the neighbourhood associations, including responding to the City's proposed extension of the DRA's boundaries to the north and south;
- with respect to the significant community impacts of the proposed Starlight development of Harris Green Village;
- in support of North Park Neighbourhood Association's requests to more fully utilize Royal Athletic Park and with respect to the City's proposed "community space" at 926/930 Pandora.

In addition, the Executive prepared and submitted a letter of support for the Canadian Pacific Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club in its successful application for grant funding to maintain its public facilities within the downtown neighbourhood.

**Outreach Activities:** The Executive, with the assistance of an ad hoc committee comprised of two DRA Board members, a DRA member and the DRA's contractors, developed and distributed a survey of residents to better understand and represent the DRA's members and downtown residents. The survey responses were collated and analyzed, with the report published on the



DRA website. The survey results were used to guide the submissions made to the Mayor and Council and will be used in developing strategic plans and activities on a go forward basis.

With 2022 being a civic election year, The Executive, with an ad hoc committee of two Board members and the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, organized:

- *Not Your Average Election Debate*, featuring three candidates for mayor (Marianne Alto, Stephen Andrew and Brendan Marshall) and moderated by Shannon Waters, Capital Daily's municipal affairs reporter, to a sold-out audience at the VIFF'S Vic Theatre. The event was also livestreamed via Zoom and YouTube and over 1,900 people watched the recording, either live or after the fact.
- *All Candidates Forum*, a cafe-style, meet and greet event at The Atrium, attended by 31 city council candidates and three mayoral candidates who mixed and mingled with residents at six different themed discussion tables.

In addition, the Executive directed and guided its Neighbourhood Engagement Contractor in the development of a welcome brochure for new residents to the Downtown neighbourhood, with initial distribution focussed on new multi-residential buildings as they come on line. Plans are underway to host welcome events at those buildings as they become more fully occupied.

**Relationship building:** The Executive engaged in significant work to connect with organizations and individuals in order they might better understand the changes and challenges of the Downtown neighbourhood and take action to address those challenges. Those activities included:

- meeting with a number of the candidates for Mayor and Council prior to the election to explain and highlight the needs of Downtown residents and the significant amenities deficit within our neighbourhood;
- participating in a number of educational and other events hosted by the City and by various others, including one hosted by local MLA Grace Lore;
- meeting with the Downtown Victoria Business Association;
- liaising with the North Park Neighbourhood Association on issues of common interest;
- representing the DRA on various external bodies, including:
  - the Victoria Community Association Network,
  - the City-led Late Night Advisory Committee,
  - the Greater Victoria Harbour Association's Community Advisory Group,
  - the 900 Block of Pandora Good Neighbour Group, and
  - the Downtown Victoria Business Association's Clean and Safe Committee.
- monitoring the minutes of the Downtown Service Providers as well as the Systems Transformation Working Group of the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region.

Relationships with Downtown and other organizations continue to expand as we search for ways to support our neighbourhood by partnering with others.

**Engaging and overseeing contractors:** The Executive was responsible for the assessment of the DRA needs and to issue requests for proposals and conduct processes to successfully engage contractors to assist the Association in meeting those needs, including.

- a Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, retained to support the Community Engagement and Urbanlivability Committees in reaching out to the neighbourhood's residents to build a stronger and more resilient community through in-person events including concerts, social events, educational opportunities; to expand the DRA's social media presence; and to assist the Executive in its relationship building.
- a Land Use Planning Advisor (LUPA) to support to the increasingly busy DRA Land Use Committee in carrying out its CALUC duties in relation to the substantially high number of commercial and residential developments proposed within our boundaries. This ensured that residents' views and interests could be made known to the Council when determining whether to approve those developments that fall outside of the planning documents. In addition, the LUPA assisted that Committee in its other work, and also assisted the Executive in preparing and analyzing the DRA's survey of downtown residents.

**Administrative work:** The Executive was responsible for submitting accountability reports to funders to support on-going and new funding and for filing Association documents as required.

As we look forward to work in 2023, the Executive, with Board approval, has engaged Scale Collaborative, a Victoria-based consulting firm, to assist the Board through a process of Strategic Planning and Development, to prepare the Association to better identify and meet the challenges of the organization so that the Downtown neighbourhood continues to be a great place to live. In addition, the Executive is reaching out to partners within the Indigenous community so that our Association will better understand and work toward strengthening our relationship as settlers with the local Indigenous peoples.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,  
Sandra Severs



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## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2022/23 REPORT AND 2023/24 PLANS**

The Governance Committee is comprised of the Chair and Board Secretary, Dianne Flood, and the DRA President, Sandra Severs, and Vice President and Treasurer, Doug Boyd. The Committee met on a number of occasions in 2023. The following is our report on the Committee's activities in 2022/23 and our plans for 2023/24.

### **Committee activities in 2022/23:**

**1. Strengthening the DRA Board:** In June, 2022 the Committee successfully recruited two new Board members, Sherry Lee and Jeremy Zhao, and prepared the necessary documents for the Board to consider and approve Sherry's and Jeremy's appointments to fill vacancies on the Board for terms to expire at the 2023 AGM when they would seek election by the membership.

**2. Board orientation:** The Governance Committee conducted the first-ever formal DRA Board orientation in July, 2022. All Board members, both new and longer term, attended the two-hour presentation, which covered a variety of topics, including the legislative framework governing the DRA and its Board, the DRA's Constitution and Bylaws, the Board and Committee Structure, and DRA policies; the Financial responsibilities including the DRA's funding, financial statements, on-going financial commitments, signing authorities and safeguards, and Insurance, including directors' insurance; and the DRA's key relationships with other entities and organizations and the annual and strategic plans.

**3. City of Victoria Governance Review:** The Committee provided input into the DRA's submission to the City of Victoria Governance Review, focussing on the relationship between the City and the neighbourhood associations and made recommendations for steps to be taken to clarify and improve that relationship.

**4. Special Resolution for the DRA Boundary changes:** To reflect the changes made by the City of Victoria to the DRA's boundaries, which are referenced in our Constitution and Bylaws and set the qualifications to be a Voting member of the DRA, the Committee prepared the special resolution that is to be considered at the 2023 AGM.

**Committee plans for 2022/23:**

**1. To continue Board recruitment efforts,** especially with a view to building greater diversity, by reaching out to various organizations and through social media and DRA events.

**2. Board orientation:** To conduct a formal orientation for all new and any other interested Board members, to ensure they are fully familiar with the DRA's legal framework, financial responsibilities and key relationships.

**3. City of Victoria Governance Review:** To monitor Council's steps to implement the recommendations of the Governance Review, focussing on the recommendations for the relationship between the City and the neighbourhood associations.

**4. Land acknowledgement:** The Committee will participate with the Executive and the Board in efforts to build a meaningful relationship with the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the DRA is located, and to develop a meaningful land acknowledgement, reflecting that relationship.

**5. Addressing any new governance issues as they may arise:** The Committee will monitor and support Board activities and where necessary provide advice and support for any governance issues that may arise.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Flood,  
Governance Committee Chair



## LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT 2022/23

The DRA Land Use Committee (“DRA LUC”) continued to meet throughout 2021 and offered input into various rezoning and variance applications as well as several City-based initiatives within Downtown Harris Green:

- Development Applications with Rezoning and/or Official Community Plan (OCP) amendments: 8
- Development Applications without Rezoning or OCP amendments: 1
- Liquor licence applications: 3
- Cannabis licence applications: 0
- City-led initiatives (Public Consultation Process, Downtown Core Area Plan review): 0

2022-2023 was dominated by the election, rising cost concerns and staffing issues. This likely led to a significant decrease in development applications. No DRA LUC meetings were held from March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022- March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. However, there were still several large development applications that continued through the year. The following projects advanced this year.

### 1. 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<sup>1</sup>. Rental for 518 residential units, including mix of studio units, 1, 2, 3 bedroom & townhouse units, with 7 ground-oriented and 10 podium units, 348 onsite parking stalls & 674-bike parking spaces. Proposal includes 484m<sup>2</sup> for daycare. Special Council meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>: third 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.

### 2. 1205 Quadra/911 Yates – Starlight

Rezoning and OCP Amendment and Development Permit for two sites on the south side of Yates between Quadra & Cook: 1.35 hectare full 900-block of Yates and the 0.63 hectare eastern half of the 1000-block of Yates, 1045 Yates. Revised proposal includes: 5

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<sup>1</sup> Floor space ratio (FSR) is the ratio of the floor area of a building to its site area. FSR is one control used to define the size of a building and control the intensity of development on a parcel of land.

& 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 spaces. Proposal now includes reference to a 2109 m<sup>2</sup> “public park” “play areas” & “dog park on View St” for the 900 Yates block. A 484 m<sup>2</sup> Daycare is also noted as included. Status: Revised drawings were received on August 8th. Special Council meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>: 3rd reading of zoning and OCP amendments. Council indicated support for the application (6-1). Motion to adopt zoning amendments, bylaw amendments, and housing agreements was postponed. Motion to approve development permit with variance was postponed.

3. 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 2-6 floor podiums and 3 towers of 10 floors, 13 floors and 17 floors with an FSR 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 Land Use Committee 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 February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

4. 1011 Fort Street - Wild Coast Construction

DRA LUC 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 Street will be maintained. Waiting for applicant book meeting space and set date for DRA LUC meeting.

5. 1205 Blanshard/Capital Six – Jawl Properties with D’Ambrosio

Rezoning & Development Permit applications for 15,792 m<sup>2</sup> 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 DRA LUC meeting took place on 13 July 2021. Revised plans posted 13 Jan 2022. DRA LUC letter submitted 01 Feb 2022. Status: Bylaw Adopted

6. 603 Pandora Avenue –Hampton Inn Development – Held an Open House September 28<sup>th</sup> indicating a fall/winter development application. Application will include height and density variances.

7. 1030 Fort – Jawl Properties w Cascadia Architecture

Rezoning and Development Permit with Variance for a 6-storey (22.28m) market rental project with commercial retail units at grade and 30 residential units (20 x 1 bedroom+den and 10 studio units) with FSR of 4:1. No onsite parking is proposed (24 required) with 56 bike parking spots (44 required). An online community meeting was held on 31 Aug 2021. Approved at Advisory Design Panel (ADP) on 23 Feb 2022. Status: Revised application received on July 5<sup>th</sup> , a letter response was sent to the city on July 20<sup>th</sup> . The project received 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on August 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

8. 780 Blanshard/ BC Power Building – Reliance Properties

Rezoning to construct/add an 18-storey tower (proposed uses 17 floor residential + 1 floor 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 applicant offered that they may have access to 25 off-site spots.

The hybrid DRA LUC meeting with concurrent in-person and online attendance was held on 21 March 2022 with in-person at The Parkside Hotel. The DRA LUC 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 DRA LUC 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 DRA LUC 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 8<sup>th</sup> . A letter response from the DRA LUC was sent to the City on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

Development Permit with Variance to build a 19-storey (over the 10 storey permitted) 60.2 m (over the 30m permitted), 266 studio and 1 bedroom market rental units with 0 vehicle parking and 317 bikes spots on R48 zoned land and located in the Fort Street

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 26<sup>th</sup> of May, referred back to staff on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

10. 836 Yates – Heritage Alteration w Variances (HAP w/V) 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 March 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 & gate.

11. 710 Caledonia – Chard/BC Housing – Rezoning and Development 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

The DRA LUC also reviews Liquor License and Storefront Cannabis applications. To guide the response to all Liquor License applications, the committee applies the DRA LUC Late Night Food Primary and Liquor Primary Policy that was developed and ratified in February 2020. On this topic, the committee provided input on the following applications and initiatives:

- Axe and Grind – 910 Government St
- Craft – 450 Swift St
- Bedford Regency – 1140 Government St

For the duration of 2021, the bimonthly DRA LUC meetings to discuss Land Use Policy, current land use applications, and City-initiated projects were discontinued in person due to the pandemic. Committee participation continued remotely except for site meetings that were capable of maintaining Public Health Order protocols. The DRA LUC appreciates the involvement of members and residents in the process during the past year, and we encourage all residents to attend the public consultations when possible and relay their concerns or support, as the feedback obtained really does find its way into the built form. Residents with an interest in urban planning are encouraged to learn more about the DRA's Land Use Committee.

**Jordan Royer**  
**Land Use Committee Co-Chair**





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## **URBAN LIVABILITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

### **Introduction**

Urban livability is a concept that refers to the quality of life and well-being of people living in urban areas. It encompasses various aspects such as environmental, social, economic, cultural, and political factors that affect the satisfaction and happiness of urban residents. Urban livability is especially relevant for downtown cities, where high-density development, mixed land use, diverse population, and vibrant activities create opportunities and challenges for urban planning and management. This report aims to summarize activities the Urban Livability Committee (ULC) engaged in from the last Victoria Downtown Residents Association (DRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2022 to the early part of 2023. For this reporting period, the ULC focused on the dimensions of urban livability, in particular supporting our unhoused neighbours and those struggling with toxic drug poisoning and cultural diversity.

### **Urban Livability Committee Main Highlights**

#### Co-Chair and New Committee Members

The ULC welcomed Colby-Young as the co-chair of the Urban Livability Committee. The ULC welcomed three new committee members, Hanna Munn, Kevan Coyle, and Dawn Moorehead.

#### Neighbourhood Solidarity for the Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN)

NSUN is a group of Victoria residents to actualize housing justice and inclusive communities throughout Greater Victoria through solidarity, mutual aid, providing basic humanitarian assistance, and centering the right to housing. NSUN aims to give a sense of community and social connection between housed and unhoused neighbours, listen to and help address unhoused neighbours' needs, provide material support (tents, sleeping bags, clothing, food), and advocate for housing justice.

Periodically, the ULC attended the NSUN meetings held every two weeks through Zoom and at Stadacona Park during the summer months. Periodically, Michael conducted Pandora walkabouts with Heather to better understand our unhoused neighbours on Pandora.

In a snowy and frigid December of 2022, the ULC assisted Nikki Otteson with distributing warm clothes and hand warmers.

The ULC will continue to attend several meetings in 2023 to continue to learn and support activities that will support initiatives to support our unhoused neighbours. To learn more about NSUN, you can visit their website [HERE](#).

#### Victoria Clean & Safe Committee

The Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) was identified as the lead partner in this action to meet and identify current challenges; provide Council data as to what is currently happening Downtown; provide guidance and solutions for Council to act on to deal with identified issues and make Downtown clean and safe and welcoming for all. Colby, the co-chair of the ULC, attended two of the committee's quarterly meetings. These meetings focused on addressing challenges such as loitering, public camping in doorways, graffiti, and litter. However, in February of 2023, with consultation from the City, the Clean & Safe Committee decided to reform to focus on engaging downtown businesses and making improvements on a block-by-block level, as opposed to broader advocacy.

#### Greater Victoria Systems Transformation Working Group

The System Transformation Working Group (STWG) is part of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH) strategy to support effective and equitable systems change, service delivery and access. The STWG will provide actions/solutions/recommendations agreed upon by the group to the Health and Housing Steering Committee for support, advocacy or action. The STWG will also be a table where community partners can bring initiatives for recommendations and review. The STWG meets via Zoom 1-3 pm on the 4th Thursday of every month. In the past year, Michael Demakiling & Colby Young, the co-chairs of the ULC, attended five of the meetings and look to participate periodically in 2023.

#### LGBTQIA2S+

Victoria, BC, is home to a diverse and vibrant LGBTQIA2+ community celebrating its pride and resilience yearly. According to Statistics Canada, about 4% of Canadians aged 15 and older identified as LGBTQ2+ in 2018, and this proportion may be higher among younger generations. There were 72,880 same-sex couples in Victoria in 2016, representing 0.9% of all couples in the city. About 12% of these couples had children living with them. According to a Statistics Canada's 2021 population census, Victoria was indicated to be the most gender-diverse urban centre in Canada, with approximately 0.75% of residents identifying as transgender or non-binary. Victoria also has a variety of programs and interventions that promote health equity and social inclusion for LGBTQIA2+ people, especially for youth, who are often more vulnerable to discrimination and violence. For example, the Victoria Pride Society organizes events and

activities that foster community engagement and education on LGBTQIA2+ issues. The Rainbow Health Co-operative offers peer-led health and wellness services for LGBTQIA2+ people, focusing on marginalized groups such as Indigenous people, newcomers, and people with disabilities. These initiatives reflect the commitment and diversity of Victoria's LGBTQIA2+ population, contributing to the city's social and cultural richness.

In 2022, the ULC joined the DRA's Community Engagement Committee and the Yates Street Community Garden to host the Blossom your Pride event to celebrate Pride Week. For 2023, the ULC will submit its application to participate in the 2023 Pride Parade to show its support and acknowledgement of the diversity of the residents in Downtown Victoria.

### The BCCDC Take Home Naloxone Program

As of February 2023, the Victoria Downtown Residents Association is now a registered satellite site of the BC Centre for Disease Control's Take Home Naloxone Program (THN). Partnering with the Cool Aid Health Centre, we are now able to receive Naloxone kits and training supplies.

Naloxone is a life saving medication used to temporarily reverse an opioid induced drug poisoning (overdose). Since 2016, when a public health emergency was declared due to an increase in drug related deaths in British Columbia, Victoria has consistently ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest community for fatalities (behind Vancouver and Surrey). Of the over 10,000 British Columbians lost since the public emergency declaration, over 800 were in the Greater Victoria area (BC Coroners Service, 2023).

As a satellite site for the THN program, the Urban Livability Committee is now able to instruct community members on how to administer Naloxone. Additionally, we can now provide Naloxone kits to community members. On March 2nd, we hosted our first training session, instructed by ULC Co-Chair Colby Young. 32 community members received training and kits. The committee looks to host this training bi-monthly (once every two months).

### Food Security and Community Gardens

Food security is the ability of people to access sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. Food insecurity is a serious issue that affects many people in Victoria, BC, especially those with low incomes, disabilities, chronic illnesses, or other vulnerabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this problem by disrupting food supply chains, increasing prices, and reducing income and employment opportunities.

Community gardens are one of the ways that Victoria residents can enhance their food security and well-being. They provide a source of fresh, local, and organic food for gardeners and their families, as well as opportunities for social interaction, connection to nature, environmental education, and physical activity. Community gardens also contribute to the beautification of the city and the creation of healthy and diverse ecosystems.

Community gardens are important for Victoria residents, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and high inflation. They help improve food security, health, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. They also demonstrate the resilience and creativity of the community in facing challenges and finding solutions. The reasons stated motivated the co-chair, Michael Demakiling and the second community garden proposal committee was formed to propose a second community garden on the top of View Street. parkade. The City of Victoria's Urban Agriculture Team is currently reviewing the proposal.

### **Conclusion**

Throughout the 2022 calendar year, and early 2023, the ULC focused on participating in several committees and groups that focused on supporting our unhoused neighbours and those struggling with toxic drug poisoning. We also welcomed three new committee members eager to contribute their knowledge, skills, and abilities to foster a diverse, vibrant, and safe downtown. For the remainder of 2023, the ULC will expand its scope to focus on other social issues, such as racism, and work with the Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee to promote green space and advocate for better food security.

Respectfully submitted,

Colby Young, Co-Chair, Urban Livability Committee

&

Michael Demakiling, Co-Chair, Urban Livability Committee



**VICTORIA  
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## **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2022/23**

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members and Subscribers:**
  - Newsletter were issued on a monthly basis. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that they were opened by an average of 43.9% of subscribers from April 2022 to March 2023. Mailchimp reports that the average open rate of organizations in our peer group is 42.5%.
  - We sent 16 communications, including event reminders, notices, and calls to action. These were opened by an average of 55.5% of subscribers.
  - We also sent communications with event posters to those who agreed to post in their residential building and to our casual volunteer list requesting volunteers for events
  - 114 new subscribers were added since March 2022.
  
- **Membership:**
  - 43 new members joined since April 2022. Our membership growth continues to be limited by the reduced number of public events where we participated, due to Covid restrictions.
  
- **Web site**
  - The CMC is responsible for adding new content on a monthly basis to our website. This includes letters to Mayor and Council, news releases, events, Board meeting minutes, and more.
  - The analytics reports for our site shows an average of 463 monthly unique visitors from April 2022 to March 2023, as compared to 118 for August 2021, when our new website was launched.
  
- **Social Media**
  - We continue to actively post on social media and the number of followers on our accounts continues to increase.
  - The current number of followers for each account are:
    - Facebook - 1074 followers, vs. 689 at the start of 2021
    - Instagram – 604 followers, vs. 399 in April 2022
    - Twitter - 1163 followers, vs. 1024 at the start of 2021
  - You can help grow our social media presence by sharing our posts with your social media followers.

I wish to express thanks to James Davis, our Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, who with his graphic and editing skills created a more colourful and lively newsletter, made a substantial contribution to updating our website, and posting updates on our social media platforms.

Submitted by  
Doug Boyd  
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee



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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2022/23 AND PLANS FOR 2023**

The Community Engagement Committee is the committee for the fun-loving residents of Downtown! We initiate and deliver events and other opportunities for Downtown residents to meet and connect with others in our neighbourhood, to make new friends, and build an exciting and vibrant community. Currently the Committee is comprised of the Committee chair, four active DRA members and the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, and is supported by a number of event volunteers. The Committee meets on a semi-regular basis to develop and bring new ideas to fruition.

### **Committee Events in 2022/23**

#### **Creative Reuse Workshop - April, 2022**

Supply Victoria's Ashley Howe lead this reuse workshop for the Committee at the City's then-newly opened Crystal Garden Neighbour Hub. DRA members and other interested persons learned how to create fun woven baskets using ethernet cables that would otherwise end up in the landfill. Thanks Ashley and a big shout out to Supply Victoria, now located at 705 Fairfield Road, in the old art deco BC Energy building.

#### **Understanding Trauma - May, 2022**

Seraphim Project facilitated this workshop for the Committee, again using the space at the City's Crystal Garden Neighbour Hub. The workshop provided participants the opportunity to recognize, understand and develop empathy for persons who are unhoused by examining trauma's influence on the nervous system and brain, learning how to create safety in the body, and discovering just how it feels from a person with lived experience of homelessness. Thanks to the Seraphim Project for some important learning and to the City for giving us the use of this space for such a worthwhile event.

#### **Free Community-based Summer Outdoor Music Concerts**

- **Music on the Green:** In June, 2022 the Committee was thrilled to host our first-ever music concert in the underused Harris Green Park, located on our northeast boundary and one of the few green spaces within our neighbourhood. The concert featured an eloquent Lekwungen welcome by TEALIYE/Brianna Bear and her family, an opening set by The Eclectics (a fun and fabulous performance group, part of the Friends of Music Society), and an amazing headlining set by award-winning musician Ann Vriend. The event – powered by bicycles – was 100% off-grid and was attended by over happy 100 folks.
- **Music by the Shore:** In July, 2022, building on the success of the Music on the Green, the Committee hosted a second music event - this time in the evening sunshine in Reeson Park, the little park hidden at the foot of the Johnson Street Bridge. Featured performances by folk

musician Sara Rose and bilingual singer-songwriter Sofia Sol were a hit with the over 75 folks who stopped to enjoy the music, again powered by bicycles and off the grid.

- **Music in the Park:** In August, 2022, the final event in our series of free concerts took place in Cridge Park, our little hidden gem of parks located on our southwest boundary behind the Crystal Gardens building. This event featured a short opening set by Simon Russell and Alastair Pursch, a poetry reading by Erika Finestone, and a headlining set by folk musician Richard Garvey. It was also bicycle-powered and provided a fun and enjoyable opportunity for folks to become familiar with Cridge Park.

Thanks to all the many bicycle pedallers who made these events ecologically “sound”!

### **Queer Open Stage**

To meet the need to provide a safe place for 2SLGBTQIA+ performers to showcase their talent, find community, and network with other queer artists, the Committee is pleased to host in collaboration with queer musician Sara Rose a monthly series of music, drag, poetry, dance, drama, magic and more.

- Starting in November, 2022, we opened the space at theDock to live music and poetry, with many thanks to Sara Rose for being our very first featured performer.
- The December edition — a great evening with some fantastic performances, including comedy, drag, poetry and music — was enjoyed by about 30 people.
- The January open stage kicked off the new year with featured performer singer-songwriter Marina Avros and about 40 enthusiastic folks in the audience.
- February’s featured performer was drag performer/poet Luna Piscetta, with ten others also performing that night to the appreciative audience of 30. For at least two of those performers it was their first-ever public performance!
- In March, comedian/musician Alexis was the featured act and other performances included poetry, beat boxing, comedy and music, with approximately 25 people enjoying the evening.

Congratulations to Sara Rose and her team of volunteers for making these events a warm and welcoming place and we look forward to hosting these events on a regular monthly basis, typically on the third Thursday of the month, September to May.

### **International Women’s Day Movie Night - March, 2023**

To celebrate International Women’s Day, the Committee hosted a movie night at theDock, featuring films made by women and about women. *Ohero:kon - Under the Husk* provided interesting information and insights into the coming of age celebration ceremonies of two Mohawk young women. And *Ovarian Psycos* gave an insider’s view of the creation, activities, challenges and sometimes frustrations of a bicycle-riding group of feminists in Los Angeles. Attended by 20 people, both films were well received. Donations were made to the Support Network for Indigenous Women & Women of Colour and accepted by one of their team members who spoke briefly about the organization.



### **Neighbourhood Walking Tour - March, 2023**

Committee Chair Dianne Flood led a 90-minute tour highlighting some fun and lesser-known facts about the early settler history and some more current activities within the Downtown neighbourhood. The tour was attended by 16 people, with almost everyone staying until the end, despite the misty rain at the start developing into an actual full-on spring rain! Watch for more walking tours in the coming months.

### **Pop-Up Bike Repairs - February, 2023**

To mark Winter Go By Bike Week, our Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator offered free minor bicycle repairs to fellow members at theDock. This offering was well-received and was a good trial run for a potential future event for Downtown residents.

### **Partner Events**

#### **Franco Fest - March, 2022**

The Committee chair, various members and volunteers staffed a booth at the *Celebration Franco*, hosted by the Francophone Society of Victoria in Plaza Franco adjacent to Bastion Square, to celebrate the francophone culture in Victoria with live music, food and various booths and activities. For our booth, the Committee worked with local illustrator Lydia Beaugard to create a colouring postcard combining symbols of local and French culture for the children to enjoy and take home. And for the adults, we gave instructions in plant propagation, sending folks home with a starter plant.

**Art for Dogs - May, 2022** At the opening reception for a dog-themed driftwood art show by artist Tanya Bub at the Gage Gallery in Bastion Square, Committee chair Dianne Flood spoke on behalf of the DRA and the need for more dog parks in the downtown, given the increasing numbers of residents with pets.

#### **Get Growing Victoria Seedling Distribution Day - May, 2022**

Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator James Davis attended this event on behalf of the Committee. Stationed at the exit to the garden with the DRA bike trailer and some DRA promotional materials, James spoke about the DRA and our programs with many of the 74 people who dropped by to pick up free seedlings.

#### **Go By Bike Week Celebration Station - June, 2022**

Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator James Davis and Committee member Doug Boyd attended this early-morning event at Centennial Square as part of Capital Bike's annual Go By Bike Week. James' bicycle-powered blender was a hit with attendees who were able to use it to make their own fruit smoothies. James and Doug directly interacted with approximately 100 people over the course of the event, providing information about the DRA.

#### **Bicycle Music Festival - August, 2022**

The DRA partnered with the organizers of this annual festival to bring a session of the event to the Downtown neighbourhood for the first time. That session took place in Harris Green Park

and featured a Lekwungen welcome by TEALIYE/Brianna Bear, drumming and singing by Gordy Bear, poetry by Lee Ingram, and music by Caleb Hart. Despite a change in date due to illness, approximately 100 people attended the Harris Green Park for this event.

### **Wicked Victoria - October, 2022**

Committee Chair Dianne Flood and Committee member Doug Boyd were supported by Board member Michael Demakiling, along with a great group of event volunteers, in staffing the DRA tent at this annual event put on by the Greater Victoria Festival Society. An estimated 75 people visited our tent, posing for photos in our decorated photo booth made up of straw bales and pumpkins and with the costumed kids taking part in a fun Halloween-themed matching game.

### **Other Activities**

#### **Books for Little Free Libraries**

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Remembrance Day and Black History Month, we purchased books on corresponding themes from downtown bookstores and distributed them to the three little free libraries in the Downtown neighbourhood. The little free libraries in Dragon Alley and Franco Square received books on the first two distributions and on discovering an additional little free library in front of the Crystal Garden NeighbourSpace, it was included for the third distribution of books.

#### **DRA Bike Trailer**

The bike trailer has seen some exposure at public events over the past year (*Get Growing, Victoria!* seedling distribution event, Spring Go By Bike Week, Music on the Green, Bicycle Music Festival, All-Candidates Forum), and has also been used fairly regularly by the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator to transport equipment such as tables and sound equipment to DRA events. It's been a good way to promote both the DRA and environmentally sustainable travel.

A big thank you to all the Committee members and event volunteers for their enthusiasm and efforts in making Victoria a fun place to live!

### ***Some of the Prospective Events planned for April to December 2023***

*We welcome new members to help us either deliver our own Committee events or to support the Committee in taking part in others' events, or to initiate ideas for some new community events. Grant funding may be available. Email [engage@victoriadra.ca](mailto:engage@victoriadra.ca) to join the Committee or volunteer for a single event.*

#### **April**

20th - Queer Open Stage - *confirmed*

-Outdoor film screening or concert under the Johnson Street Bridge

**May**

7th - Jane's Walk

18th - Queer Open Stage - *confirmed*

-Asian Heritage Month event

**June**

3rd – Downtown Victoria Business Association's StreetFest block party on Fort St. - *confirmed*

28th - Cridge Park music concert

-Welcome event for Hudson House residents new to downtown

-DRA board/committee social

**July**

8th - Downtown Victoria Business Association's StreetFest block party on Government St.

20th - Reeson Park music concert

-Welcome event for the residents of the new Dalmation building on Johnson Street, above the new firehall

**August**

22nd – Harris Green music concert

-Ping pong tournament at Humboldt Plaza

**September**

-Queer Open Stage

-Walking tour

-Repair cafe

**October**

-Queer Open Stage

-Fall fair

-Wicked Victoria

**November**

-Queer Open Stage

-Walking tour

**December**

-Queer Open Stage

-Seasonal event

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Flood - Committee chair



**Victoria Downtown Residents Association**  
(the "Association")

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

**To: The Members of the Victoria Downtown Residents Association**

TAKE NOTICE that a special resolution will be proposed as part of the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Association, to be held on Tuesday, the 18th day of April, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at theDock, 722 Cormorant Street, 3rd Floor and by Zoom.

The text of the **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** is as follows:

1. That the current Schedule A to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Victoria Downtown Residents Association be replaced with the attached Schedule A.
2. That the provision of Section 1 "Definitions" of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Victoria Downtown Residents Association, which reads as follows:

"Downtown Neighbourhood" means the area as laid out in Schedule "A" to the Constitution and includes both the Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods;

be deleted and replaced with the following:

"Downtown Neighbourhood" means the area designated as such by the Council of the City of Victoria and which is currently indicated by Schedule "A" to this Constitution and Bylaws and includes the area formerly known as the Harris Green neighbourhood, and includes any such additional area or areas as Council may from time to time direct;

3. That the amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Association be registered in accordance with the Societies Act, SBC 2015, c. 18.

*The effect of this change is to reflect the decision of the Council of the City of Victoria to change the boundaries of the Downtown Neighbourhood and to merge the former Harris Green Neighbourhood and the Downtown Neighbourhood under the name of the Downtown Neighbourhood.*





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## **2023 AGM - BIOS FOR CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS OF THE DRA BOARD**

The following are Bios for the Candidates for Directors of the DRA Board. Our Bylaws allow for a maximum of 13 Directors. Directors are elected for a 3-year term.

Directors standing for nomination include:

- Jeremy Zhao and Sherry Lee, who were appointed to the Board as Directors during the current term, but need to be ratified at this AGM.
- Dawn Moorhead, who is a general member of the Association and has been an active volunteer.
- Doug Boyd and Ian Sutherland, who are current Directors, but have reached the maximum of serving 2 3-year terms. Per our Bylaws, they can be re-elected if vacancies remain after the other members who are nominated are elected.

Nominations for Directors of the Board are accepted from the floor during the AGM, with the provisions that a person not present at the AGM shall not be nominated unless such person's written consent to the nomination has been filed with the Association, and a person must be a Member of the Association in order to be nominated.

### **Bio for Jeremy Zhao**

Jeremy is a chemical engineer by profession and is active in the various technical groups within his profession. He has been a part of various community groups in Calgary over the past decade, including being the logistics lead for the citizen engagement grassroots group CivicCamp, advocacy lead for the Engineers Without Borders Calgary Professional Chapter, being on the steering committee for Basic Income Calgary and being involved with Fair Trade Calgary as part of that EWB role, and has some experience developing policy. He is also an active podcast host, with the most recent endeavour as a co-host for the Ward Zero podcast discussing local and urban issues about his former hometown of Calgary.

### **Bio for Sherry Lee**

Sherry is a senior policy analyst and a resident of Downtown Victoria since 2019. She grew up in the BC Lower Mainland and had worked in various capacities in the healthcare and biotechnology sectors. Sherry brings analytical and project management experiences and looks forward to opportunities to work with the DRA Board and Committees to plan and deliver projects that make Downtown Victoria a more cohesive, engaged, and safe neighbourhood for its residents and visitors.

### **Bio for Dawn Moorhead**

Dawn is a retired lawyer who transitioned from private practice to the non-profit sector where she co-founded three organizations in three countries - Canada, Dominica, and the USA. She is a resident of Harris Green and is passionate about climate change mitigation. She was personally trained by Nobel Laureate Al Gore and is spearheading the Victoria DRA's Coolkit program. When not huddled at the computer in her micro-condo, Dawn can be found outdoors hiking, kayaking, or enjoying coffee at a local patio cafe.

### **Bio for Doug Boyd**

Doug was one of the owners of a Calgary-based travel agency with locations across Canada, for over 30 years. Doug retired from that company in 2016 and moved to Victoria in 2011. In Calgary, he was actively involved in two neighbourhood associations as well as a business association. Doug is passionate about advancing sustainability and active transportation in Victoria. He loves the city and also is an avid walker. Doug has been a member of the Victoria DRA since 2013. Doug was elected as a Board member and as Treasurer in 2014 and is currently the Vice-President and Chair of the Communications and Membership Committee.

### **Bio for Ian Sutherland**

Ian has worked in the development industry as a Planning and Civil Engineering consultant for over 35 years, as well as a design/builder and developer specializing in custom homes and rehabilitation of designated heritage buildings. Ian has served on the Board of the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust and has received the President's award from the Hallmark Society and the BC Heritage Award for past projects. Victoria born and raised, Ian has enjoyed living Downtown for over 20 years. Ian enjoys travelling around the world seeking and studying famous and inspirational architecture. Ian joined the DRA Board and has acted as Chair of the Land Use Committee since 2011.