

**DRA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 15, 2024**

There was no regular Board Meeting in October. In its place we held an in-person meeting with Mayor Marianne Alto at theDock,

October Committee reports that were submitted are attached.

## **Executive Committee Report – October 2024**

**Wiser Projects Report** - Requests for coffee and conversation have been sent to members of Council to discuss the recommendations of the Wiser Projects report.

**900 Block of Pandora Design Charrette** – The next stage in the design charette process will take place on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> with a concept design being presented for discussion by the architectural team at Cascadia Architects.

**Community Safety and Wellbeing Leaders Advisory Committee** – A conference is being planned for October 27-30 entitled “Intentional Transformation- Reimagining Inclusive Community Safety and Wellbeing” and will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre. Sandra will be moderating two panel discussions – one on responses to homelessness and the other on urban agriculture. The report, which is still in the drafting stages, should come before Council in November.

**All Candidates Meeting** – We have received a request from Vanya McDonell, Co-Executive Director of Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, about whether we are interested in being part of organizing an All Candidates Meeting prior to the provincial election. **Update: Plans for an All-Candidates meeting have been cancelled after it was impossible to find an available date before the Fall election.**

## Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator Report - October 2024

Updates since last board meeting:

Park(ing) Day - This event was held on Broad Street on September 20th in collaboration with the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and the Invisible Water/Ways project. Approximately 100 people took part in the event over the course of the afternoon and were able to participate in art activities, take a tour of the Johnson Creek watershed, enjoy a bicycle-blended smoothie and listen to poet Michael Kenyon read from his book of poems, *Broad Street Blues*.

Emergency Preparedness - After including a piece about the Connect & Prepare program in our September newsletter, we invited residents from four different Downtown buildings who had expressed interest in the program to fill out an application form. Applications will be reviewed this week and we hope to select the buildings to take part in pilot of the program very soon.

Upcoming Events

Queer Open Stage - The October event is happening on Wednesday, October 16th and the featured performer will be musician Jaimie Park.

**Urban Livability Committee  
and  
Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee  
Reports**

Victoria Downtown Residents Association

October 15, 2024

## **Urban Livability Committee**

### **Updates**

#### **Park(ing) Day - Friday, September 20, 2024, from 12 PM - 5 PM**

The Urban Livability Committee supported and volunteered at the Park(ing) Day event on Friday, September 20, 2024, from 12 PM to 5 PM. The committee is dedicated to promoting more functional urban spaces, including green spaces such as parks and places where people can socialize or find little sanctuaries to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. This event occurred on Broad Street on September 20th in collaboration with the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and the Invisible Water/Ways project.

Approximately 100 people participated in the event throughout the afternoon. They were able to participate in art activities, take a tour of the Johnson Creek watershed, enjoy a bicycle-blended smoothie, and listen to poet Michael Kenyon read from his book of poems, "Broad Street Blues."

We look forward to more events like this in the future.

#### **City Talks: Downtown - Dying, Surviving, or Thriving?: Thursday, October 24, 2024**

Moderated by Eric Bramble, the event will be exploring the topic of our beloved Downtown Victoria core. There are various opinions on its state and trajectory, some aspirational and others bleak. With panellists from different backgrounds and different relationships to the downtown core, the event hopes to explore a range of perspectives and put them in conversation with one another. Our panel will include the Chair of the Urban Livability Committee and the Chair of the Urban Ecology & Agriculture Committee, Michael Demakiling, a representative with extensive experience in urban planning, Christine Lintott, and a resident with a diverse background in the arts, Wendy Welch. The audience will also have the opportunity to ask questions and shape the exchanges, to ensure an enriching experience.

For more information, please visit

[City Talks: Downtown - Dying, Surviving, or Thriving?](#)

## **Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee**

### **Updates**

#### **Yates Street Community Garden**

Waitlist Count: 260 (As of October 15, 2024)

#### General Updates

The activities at Yates Street Community Garden are winding down as we transition into the fall and winter seasons. While some gardeners will continue with winter gardening, the garden has been gearing up for the fall/winter clean-up. In preparation for the close of the general gardening season, the garden has been hosting some last workshops, including a watercolour workshop that took place on Sunday, October 6, 2024. The one-hour workshop offered participants the opportunity to have fun drawing and painting whimsical daisies. Attendees learned various watercolour techniques, including painting wet on wet and dry, as well as adding depth to their watercolour flowers. It was a great event to close the growing season!

## **Communications and Membership Committee Report – October 2024**

Update on Committee activities since the July 2024 report:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
  - The July newsletter was issued on July 16. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by 37.4% of subscribers.
  - The August newsletter was issued on August 21. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by 36.4% of subscribers.
  - The September newsletter was issued on September 18. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by 39.3% of subscribers.
  - We also sent communication about our OCP Report on September 24, our Yates Street Mural Celebration on September 9, the Music by the Green event on August 7, and the Naloxone Training event on July 22.
- **Web site**
  - We continue to add posts to the News page and add events to the Events page of our website.
  - 447 site sessions for September (up 27% from the previous month). The most viewed posts were the Queer Open Stage event, the Boulevard Garden Workshop, and the Downtown Victoria Livability Report.
- **Social Media**
  - The number of posts over the past month, and the current number of followers are:
    - Facebook - 10 posts, 1078 followers
    - Instagram - 6 posts, 1107 followers
    - Twitter - 6 tweets, 1159 followers
- **Other**
  - 4 new members since the last report. As a note, we send welcome letters to all new members inviting them to become involved with DRA activities, and, where applicable, to become an ambassadors for posting notices of our events in the buildings where they live.
  - 32 new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by  
Doug Boyd  
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee