

# DRA Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2024

Location: theDock (722 Cormorant Street, 1st floor)

Time: 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Sandra Severs (President), Jeremy Zhao (Vice President), Doug Boyd (Treasurer), Colby Young, Michael Demakiling, Dawn Moorhead, Ian Sutherland, Sebastian Calderone, Furkan Kucukdurmaz, Jordan Royer, Sherry Lee (Secretary)

**City Council Liaison:** Dave Thompson

**DRA Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator:** James Davis

**Regrets:** Mano Majumdar, Neil McKinnon

## 5:30 p.m. Call to Order, Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Approval of Agenda

- Board welcomed new members, Sebastian Calderone, Furkan Kucukdurmaz, Mano Majumdar, and Neil McKinnon to the meeting and Board.

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

### Updates:

- OCP plan and bylaw update process: Various opportunities for input, including survey
- Capital Iron lands: City has approved plans to develop housing, light industrial and commercial space on the lands bordering the Downtown and Burnside-Gorge neighbourhoods
- Revitalization of Douglas Street transit corridor is under consideration including re-routing of traffic at the intersection of Bellevue and Douglas
- Council proposal to look at creating parking opportunities outside of the DT to decrease the amount of car traffic in the neighbourhood
- Pandora Street: Concern being expressed about the sweep of the 900 block. Council is looking for input on 1) homelessness, 2) possession/impound of personal possessions, and 3) any awareness of city staff not adhering to bylaw policy.
  - o Distinct solutions for homelessness vs. street camp issues needed
  - o Anticipate currently dissipated homeless population may return

Also see "Connect" newsletter.

### Discussion:

#### Pandora Avenue sweep:

- Board member voiced to Council concerns toward the manner in which street clearing took place and identified increased fear among unhoused and increased division within community. Board member recommends city to educate/ communicate to residents on impacts and engage residents in volunteering/supporting community.
- Board members further voiced concerns for the street clearing action:
  - o lack of communication with key partners, i.e., Our Place, ahead of the sweep
  - o lack of transparency in decision-making

- Possible cruelty in practice and protocol
- There are 5-10 tonnes impounded goods entering landfill per week.
- DRA staff urges Council to review Bylaw policy re. “if impounding initiated, the process must proceed, even if owner returns to claim during process of impoundment.”  
**ACTION:** Dave will review.
- Councillor confirmed the street clearing was authorized by City Bylaw, who will be briefing Council next week.
- Councillor also clarified there is a process to identify and collect belongings. There has been effort by City around storage through RFQ but no forward motion yet.

Relocation of parking outside the Downtown:

- Board member questioned cost toward relocating the parking garages.

Liquor license/Liquor policy/late night music event policy:

- Board member questioned Council’s interest in “livability” of DT residents when prioritizing issuing of liquor licenses and approving music events over nighttime noise concerns for residents. There are sometimes conflicting interests between promoting economic development and creating more livability. The lack of a municipal liquor policy adds to the stress and does not appear to be “best practice.”  
**ACTION:** Dave will review “Liquor Policy” status and reason why it is stalled.

**6:15 p.m. Executive Report:** Sandra (report attached)

- Draft financial Policy attached for discussion
- Quarterly Financial Report attached for discussion

**Discussion:**

- Status and stability of DRA annual funding in City of Victoria Budget.  
**ACTION:** Dave will review to confirm. **Update:** Dave confirmed by email permanent annual funding was approved by Council.
- Financial policy: committee chairs confirmed level of detail for committee budget setting proposals.  
**DECISION:** Moved (Doug) and Seconded (Dawn). Board approved draft policy.
  - Next steps: Governance committee to finalize and formalize policy as needed.

**6:40 p.m. Standing Committee Reports – Q and A**

- **Urban Livability Committee (ULC) and Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee (UEC):** Michael/Colby (report attached)
  - Downtown Coolkit Report attached. Coolkit is conducting a survey on air-conditioning ownership.  
**ACTION:** Dawn will work with Governance Committee to develop planning document for Climate Solutions Committee.
  - View Street Parkade garden proposal: Board discussed latest negative response from City staff
  - Visibility of Johnson Creek: advocates to increase marking, education and advocacy on awareness of the hidden waterway.

Conversation about the possibility of daylighting any portion of the Johnson Creek through the acquisition and creation of parkland.

**ACTION:** Dave will review and provide update on residual park acquisition budget.

- **Communications and Membership Committee (CMC):** Doug (report attached)
- **Governance Committee:** Jeremy (no report)
- **Land Use Committee (LUC):** Ian/Jordan (report attached)
- **Community Engagement Committee (CEC):** James (report attached)
  - New chair, Furkan

**7:00 p.m. External Meeting Reports – Q and A**

- **Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN):** Sandra/Ian (report attached)
- **900 Pandora Good Neighbour Group:** Sandra (report attached)
- **Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee:** Doug (no report)

**7:05 p.m. Other Business**

Track It Forward implementation (Doug)

- Track It Forward is an application to track volunteer hours, which will support justification for funding, HR commitment, etc. toward grant applications.

**ACTION:** Doug will create log-ins for each board member.

**ACTION:** Committee chairs will also track committee volunteers at large.

**7:30 p.m. Meeting concludes**

**Next Meeting: TBA**

## **Executive Committee Report – May 2024**

**Executive Committee membership** – A new Executive Committee has been formed following the AGM. It consists of Sandra Severs (President), Jeremy Zhao (Vice-President), Doug Boyd (Treasurer) and Sherry Lee (Secretary).

**Financial Policy draft**- A draft financial policy has been circulated with the reports for this meeting. As the organization becomes more complex in its structure, the importance of having clear policies for the spending of money becomes apparent. The Yates Street Community Garden financials have been included since they operate under the umbrella of the DRA. The ongoing quarterly financial statements will reflect the combined operating statements of both the YSCG and the DRA.

**Resource Diversification**- Sandra took part in a noon-time educational event at theDock on potential ways to grow a non-profit budget. Led by Scale Collaborative, the workshop talked about government funding, philanthropy, earned income, contracts, fee for service and social enterprise.

**Community Safety and Wellbeing consultation**- Doug, Mano and Jeremy participated in the on-line conversation with Elizabeth Cull, from Burnside-Gorge Community Association. Notes of the meeting's responses have been circulated to Board members. Content will be shared with the Community Safety and Wellbeing leaders advisory committee in preparation for data analysis and the sharing of a report with Council in the Fall.

**Johnson Creek** – Sandra and James met with Hayley Johnson from Christine Lintott Architects and with Connor Tice, from the **Our Dwtm** revitalization project, to talk about ways in which the Johnson Creek waterway might be highlighted in the neighbourhood. Opportunities to create educational material on Douglas Street are in development. Hayley Johnson led a Jane's Walk tour recently with 25 participants tracing the course of the waterway from its beginning in the marsh under the intersection of Vancouver and View Streets through to the outflow pipes under the Johnson Street bridge.

**Governance Committee** – Jeremy has agreed to be the Board liaison to the Governance Committee which will hold its first meeting in June. Soleil Heaney, a recent arrival to the neighbourhood, has also expressed interest in working on governance issues. Dianne Flood will continue to participate in the life of the DRA through this committee.

**OCP Review** – An in-person meeting with Mayor Alto has been set for Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the content of the OCP review community engagement process. The meeting will be held at theDock and involve conversation on the recommendations. Board members are asked to familiarize themselves with the content of the report in preparation for discussion with the Mayor who will also have received a copy of the report prior to the meeting.

**Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region-** Sandra met with Sylvia Ceacero, Executive Director of the Alliance and a resident of the Downtown, to talk about the work of the Alliance. Sandra also attended the presentation of the Alliance's Community Plan 2025-2030 at Laurel Point Inn.

**780 Blanshard** – Sandra toured 780 Blanshard and met with Lisa Helps and Logan Ford to look at available space in the arts centre. This site had been suggested by a member of Council as a possible community centre for the DRA moving forward. The space that is available is the board room and the executive office. In assessing the space, it was clear that the location was not sufficient for the DRA's programming nor could it provide the kind of support currently provided at the Dock.

**Grants** – We have been successful in our application for a Community Gaming Grant. While we did not receive the full amount we applied for, the receiving of a grant is significant as it means that we will have increased our chances of receiving one next year. This year's amount is \$10,000.

Our applications to Island Health for support of both the second community garden and an Urban Livability project on Pandora Avenue were not successful. Island Health were only able to fund 25% of the grant applications they received.

**Building Resilience in the Neighbourhood** – James is attending the Building Resilient Neighbourhoods "Connect and Prepare" facilitator's training event in Vancouver at the end of the May. The training event deals with how to prepare neighbourhoods not only in the event of an extreme heat event but also what do in the face of an emergency like earthquake. Sandra has been in conversation with Dan Atkinson, Fire Department Chief, and there is interest in helping our neighbourhood develop a plan that focuses strategically on multi-unit buildings.

**Heat Maps** – The CRD recently released its Regional Heat Map <https://heat.prepareyourself.ca/pages/regional-heat-map> According to the site, the Downtown was deemed to be an area of low risk despite the fact that the neighbourhood has the lowest level of canopy cover. Pursuing this future, James reached out to a contact for information. The following is her response to the question about risk:

*"As for the CRD map you linked, my company was actually also involved in the analysis. I've talked it through with my colleague who was the lead on the project to make sure I understood why DT was showing as low vulnerability. What's being shown on the demographic vulnerability map is an index, which means inputs are weighted differently and added to create a new score. So there are some things from the list that we see higher incidence of downtown (for example, low income residents) but when incorporated into a weighted index, other factors being low brought down its overall score comparatively to other areas. For example, the model weighs existing health conditions as more relevant to vulnerability than income. This weighting of the model was validated by comparing it to what happened during the 2021 extreme heat event, i.e. ensuring the areas that the model predicted as being most vulnerable were lining up with where we saw the most human*

health concerns during an actual event. Another factor is that downtown was comparatively high to the rest of Victoria for the Low-income measure (LICO), but ranked differently compared to the entire CVRD.

This brings me to data classifications methods, which is what I was talking about during my presentation. There are ways of classifying data that can manipulate how it's interpreted - this uses quantile, which was one of the two methods I had mentioned as being preferred to use. This method classifies the data so that each group is an equal size, i.e. the very low group is the lowest 20% of vulnerability scores out of the entire dataset. I don't think this is a situation where the data has been manipulated incorrectly to tell a story- if the data is normally distributed (as in the classic bell curve, which in this case it is due to the indexing process) quantile is a valid method for displaying data. In the project I was presenting on, we used natural breaks as the data wasn't always normally distributed. My colleague noted that they used quantile in part because they did want the most at risk areas to be highlighted - extreme heat is a risk everywhere, but they wanted to note that there are areas that require special attention due to increased risk (and this was confirmed by increased incidence of mortality in the 2021 heat event).

One last important thing is that this study didn't account for unhoused populations due to a lack of available data. It's a noted gap, but specific to downtown Victoria the air temperature was noted to be regionally lower because it's so close to the ocean. So while unhoused populations weren't included in the study, if they were included in the future I don't believe DT would be the highest risk from a spatial/environmental perspective, but it could contribute to greater demographic vulnerability.”

### **Building Code changes:**

The BC Building Code (announcement below) has changed to ensure that development permits, issued after March 8, 2024, provide mitigation strategies to prevent the life-threatening effects of heat exposure. While this will make a difference to folk living in new builds, it does not provide relief to folk currently living in housing. Many lease agreements have clauses in them preventing the installation/use of air conditioners in units.

Given that our neighbourhood is predominantly a neighbourhood of multi-unit buildings, this is of concern and will require some advocacy. Sandra is doing some preliminary investigation of this issue.

From [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/construction-industry/building-codes-and-standards/bulletins/2024-code/b24-08\\_overheating.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/construction-industry/building-codes-and-standards/bulletins/2024-code/b24-08_overheating.pdf)

“This bulletin provides information about new provisions in the British Columbia Building Code (Building Code) 2024 related to minimizing the risks to health and safety due to overheating in dwelling units. These new Building Code 2024 requirements apply to projects for which a building permit is applied for on or after March 8, 2024. These changes apply to new dwelling units in all large (Part 3) and smaller (Part 9) residential occupancies.

In the Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia, titled “Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021” a recommendation was made to “...ensure that the 2024 release of the BC Building Code incorporates both passive and active cooling requirements in new housing construction...”.

In response, the Building Code 2024 introduced a maximum design temperature limit for a single living space in each dwelling unit to minimize the risk to health and safety from overheating. Maintaining a safe temperature in a living space in each dwelling unit can involve a combination of mechanical cooling systems

*and passive design measures. The designated living space provides a place of reprieve for occupants of the dwelling unit from elevated temperatures, helping increase community resiliency and saving lives. The designer can designate a living space that makes sense for the circumstances of the dwelling unit (climate, configuration, building systems, etcetera), but it must be a living space that is designated. Unfinished basements, service rooms, and crawlspaces are not living spaces<sup>1</sup>.*

*In addition, designers must coordinate the specification of space-conditioning equipment (as necessary) with energy efficiency requirements of the BC Energy Step Code. In some cases, mechanical equipment such as heat-recovery ventilators and heat pumps can be used to help maintain indoor design temperatures while also helping to meet energy efficiency targets. “*

*<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/resource/2024/04/climate-and-construction-2024-b-c-building-code-spotlights-solar-gain>*

*[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/construction-industry/building-codes-and-standards/bulletins/2024-code/b24-08\\_overheating.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/construction-industry/building-codes-and-standards/bulletins/2024-code/b24-08_overheating.pdf)*

*<https://ubccclimatehub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Tenant-Rights-Extreme-Weather-Events.pdf>*

## **DRAFT FINANCIAL POLICY FOR DISCUSSION -May 2024**

With additional funding from the City and other sources, the financial affairs of the Victoria Downtown Residents' Association are becoming more complex.

The Board of Directors adopts the following policy to reflect and supplement its bylaws and to provide for the DRA's financial affairs:

1. Subject to paragraph 3 below, any commitment for any expenditure over \$5,000 must be approved by the Board at a Board meeting or by a majority of the members of the Board by email, prior to the commitment or payment being made.
2. The president and treasurer may approve the payment of an expenditure for less than \$5,000 without prior Board approval, provided that if a prior expenditure within that fiscal year to the same person or entity would mean the total paid to that person or entity would be above (enter the amount in 1 above once agreed upon), then the expenditure must be approved by the Board at a Board meeting or by a majority of the members of the Board by email, prior to commitment or payment.
3. Committee Chairs are encouraged to prepare and submit for Board approval a reasonably detailed proposal for activities and expenses for the Committee for the fiscal year (January 1 to December 31) or any part thereof and if the general activity and related expense is approved by the Board, the Committee Chair may make a commitment to incur that expense, up to the amount so approved, and the president and treasurer may approve the payment of that expenditure without any further Board approval.
4. Every quarter, the treasurer must submit to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, a statement of income, expenses and cash on hand. Any Board member may request a statement of income, expenses and cash on hand be prepared and circulated to the Board members at any time.

The DRA Bylaws provide as follows:

#### Part 8

##### *Role of treasurer*

9. The treasurer must:

- a) receive and bank monies collected from the members or other sources;
- b) subject to the control of the Board, shall initiate or approve the payment of any and all bills;
- c) keep the financial records, including books of account, necessary to comply with the Association Act;
- d) prepare and render financial statements to the directors, members and others when required;
- e) prepare and render draft financial statements to the directors at the board meeting immediately prior to the general meeting; and,
- f) file the annual report of the Association and make any other filings with the registrar under the Act.

#### Part 9

##### *Signing authority*

2. A contract or other record to be signed by the Association must be signed on behalf of the Association:

- a) by the President, together with one other director,
- b) if the President is unable to provide a signature, by the vice-President together with one other director,
- c) if the President and vice-President are both unable to provide signatures, by any 2 other directors, or
- d) in any case, by one or more individuals authorized by the Board to sign the record on behalf of the Association.

#### Part 11

##### *Audits*

1. The Officers shall present before the Members of the Association at the AGM a financial statement showing the income and expenditures, assets and liabilities, of the Association, signed by two or more of the Officers or by the Association's auditor.
2. The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1 to December 31.

## DRA Financial Reports

Two financial reports are presented for the first quarter of the 2024 fiscal year.

- **Revenues and expenses.**

Revenues from all sources are shown, including those for the Yates Street Community Garden. As per the footnote, the revenue from the Community Engagement Grant that was received in 2023 represents deferred funding. This is due to the receipt of grant funds in mid-year, whereas our fiscal year is the calendar year.

Expenses for all categories are shown, including those for the Yates Street Community Garden.

- **Balance Sheet**

This shows the current balances in our 3 bank accounts. A new account was opened when we received the Community Gaming Grant in late March. Having a separate bank account is a requirement for this grant.

It is our intention to present these reports at Board meetings on a quarterly basis.

These reports were prepared By James Davis, with direction by Dwight Aranha, the bookkeeper who we have retained on a contract basis.

Doug Boyd  
Treasurer

# Victoria Downtown Residents' Association

## Profit and Loss by Class

January - April, 2024

	DRA	MURAL PROJECT	PARTNER EVENTS	QUEER OPEN STAGE	SOCIAL EVENTS	WORKSHOPS	YSCG	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>								
4000 Grant Revenue								\$0.00
4002 City of Victoria - Community Outreach Grant *	47,266.80							\$47,266.80
4003 City of Victoria - My Great Neighbourhood Grant		7,500.00						\$7,500.00
4006 Vancity					300.00			\$300.00
4008 City of Victoria - Garden Grants							11,600.00	\$11,600.00
4009 Province of BC - Community Gaming Grant	10,000.00							\$10,000.00
<b>Total 4000 Grant Revenue</b>	<b>57,266.80</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>			<b>300.00</b>		<b>11,600.00</b>	<b>\$76,666.80</b>
4100 Other Income								\$0.00
4101 Membership Fees	60.00						2,840.00	\$2,900.00
4103 City of Victoria - Insurance Reimbursement	1,525.00							\$1,525.00
4104 City of Victoria - CALUC Funding	1,000.00							\$1,000.00
4106 Interest	315.27						90.85	\$406.12
<b>Total 4100 Other Income</b>	<b>2,900.27</b>						<b>2,930.85</b>	<b>\$5,831.12</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$60,167.07</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,530.85</b>	<b>\$82,497.92</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$60,167.07</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,530.85</b>	<b>\$82,497.92</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
5000 Wages & Benefits	12,212.14							\$12,212.14
5100 Contracts								\$0.00
5103 Events				600.00				\$600.00
5104 Garden Coordinator							5,391.99	\$5,391.99
<b>Total 5100 Contracts</b>				<b>600.00</b>			<b>5,391.99</b>	<b>\$5,991.99</b>
5202 Miscellaneous	94.42							\$94.42
5300 Office Rent	2,058.00							\$2,058.00
5400 General Office Expenses	151.85			8.07				\$159.92
5405 Subscriptions	728.61						140.25	\$868.86
5410 Miscellaneous Administrative	40.00							\$40.00
5415 Accounting	927.16							\$927.16

\* - Deferred funding from 2023

# Victoria Downtown Residents' Association

## Profit and Loss by Class

January - April, 2024

	DRA	MURAL PROJECT	PARTNER EVENTS	QUEER OPEN STAGE	SOCIAL EVENTS	WORKSHOPS	YSCG	TOTAL
5515 Board and Volunteer Expenses	14.48							\$14.48
5520 OCP Project Expenses	9,338.49							\$9,338.49
5600 Bank Fees	63.00						6.00	\$69.00
5610 Insurance								\$0.00
5611 General	1,625.00							\$1,625.00
<b>Total 5610 Insurance</b>	<b>1,625.00</b>							<b>\$1,625.00</b>
5715 Training	149.00							\$149.00
5800 Event Expenses								\$0.00
5801 Food				84.68	1,361.75			\$1,446.43
5802 Supplies				450.00	361.31		51.29	\$862.60
5803 Honoraria				400.00				\$400.00
5804 Rent						82.69		\$82.69
5805 Contracts				300.00				\$300.00
5807 Equipment rental				60.00	364.62			\$424.62
5808 Advertising					44.80			\$44.80
5809 Facilitation Fees						105.00		\$105.00
5810 Miscellaneous Event Expenses			110.00		368.04			\$478.04
<b>Total 5800 Event Expenses</b>			<b>110.00</b>	<b>1,294.68</b>	<b>2,500.52</b>	<b>187.69</b>	<b>51.29</b>	<b>\$4,144.18</b>
5910 CALUC Expenses	1,000.00							\$1,000.00
6000 Placemaking Projects								\$0.00
6001 Yates Street Mural	1,000.00							\$1,000.00
<b>Total 6000 Placemaking Projects</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>							<b>\$1,000.00</b>
6050 Garden Expenses								\$0.00
6051 Materials							115.89	\$115.89
<b>Total 6050 Garden Expenses</b>							<b>115.89</b>	<b>\$115.89</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,402.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$1,902.75</b>	<b>\$2,500.52</b>	<b>\$187.69</b>	<b>\$5,705.42</b>	<b>\$39,808.53</b>
Excesses of Revenue over Expenses	<b>\$30,764.92</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$ -110.00</b>	<b>\$ -1,902.75</b>	<b>\$ -2,200.52</b>	<b>\$ -187.69</b>	<b>\$8,825.43</b>	<b>\$42,689.39</b>

# Victoria Downtown Residents' Association

## Balance Sheet As of April 30, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1001 Coast Capital - DRA	55,750.12
1002 Coast Capital - YSCG	17,922.83
1003 Coast Capital - Gaming	10,000.00
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$83,672.95</b>
Suspense	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$83,672.95</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$83,672.95</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	75.76
<b>Total Accounts Payable (A/P)</b>	<b>\$75.76</b>
2310 Source Deductions Payable	1,140.52
2400 Accrued Liabilities	520.28
2900 Deferred Revenue	5,265.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$7,001.56</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$7,001.56</b>
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	64,523.58
Retained Earnings	-30,541.58
Profit for the year	42,689.39
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$76,671.39</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$83,672.95</b>

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

Victoria Downtown Residents Association

May 21, 2024

## **Urban Livability Committee**

### **Introduction**

The Urban Livability Committee has been making significant strides in improving our neighbourhood through various initiatives. The committee successfully secured funding for the Yates Street Mural project, which is set to transform the community space and add vibrancy to the Harris Green neighbourhood of Downtown Victoria. Additionally, the engaging pop-up smoothie event on Douglas Street brought joy to many residents and passersby, fostering community and connection.

The upcoming Naloxone Training workshop demonstrates the committee's commitment to addressing crucial issues, such as the drug toxicity crisis and reducing the stigma associated with it. By providing practical training and education, the workshop aims to empower participants to respond effectively in emergency situations, contributing to a safer and more supportive community.

Furthermore, the Urban Livability Committee and Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours are organizing an event called Pandora Day to bring the community together and promote inclusivity. This family-friendly event will feature food, art activities, live music, and a 'service share' program in collaboration with the Downtown Victoria Coolkit group. The goal is to reduce the use of disposable items and make the program accessible to other groups or organizations.

These events exemplify the committee's dedication to enhancing urban livability and fostering a sense of togetherness within our neighbourhood.

### **Updates**

#### **Yates Street Mural**

Our My Great Neighbourhood Grant application for the project was approved by the City of Victoria, and we have also received funding from the Downtown Victoria Business Association through the Enhance Downtown Victoria program. Artist Jesse Campbell presented the revised mural design at an information session at the Yates Street Community Garden on May 14th. The session was attended by 8 members of the community, including garden members, residents of 1030 Yates Street (the strata building that the mural is being painted on), and DRA members. We are hoping that Jesse will begin painting on June 3rd and that the mural will be complete by June 27th. We plan to host a couple of drop-in events at the garden during installation, as well as a celebration event in mid-July.

## **Pop-Up Smoothie**

James and Michael were joined by Sandra and her spouse Don for a pop-up event on Douglas Street on the afternoon of May 9th. We set up a bike blender station in front of the Shoppers Drug Mart and gave out approximately 60 free smoothies to folks waiting for the bus, hanging out on the block, or passing by and had good conversations with several folks. Many of those who we encountered said that the event brightened up their day.

## **Naloxone Training**

The Urban Livability Committee will host a Naloxone Training workshop on Monday, May 27, 2024, from 12 PM to 1 PM at the Dock (722 Cormorant St). During the workshop, we will address misconceptions related to the drug toxicity crisis and the stigma surrounding the issue. Our instructor will demonstrate the steps involved in administering Naloxone, and participants will be able to practice.

## **Pandora Day - Thursday, August 08, 2024**

The Urban Livability Committee and Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours are planning an event called Pandora Day. The goal of this event is to bring the community together, irrespective of race, gender, religion, and socioeconomic status. An event like this plays a crucial role in fostering unity, understanding, and empathy within the community. By providing opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, these events help break down barriers and promote inclusivity. They contribute to building a sense of belonging and connection among community members, creating a supportive and cohesive environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

Furthermore, community events that embrace diversity can help address social inequalities by creating a platform where people from all socioeconomic backgrounds can participate and engage with each other. This can lead to the formation of support networks and the sharing of resources, strengthening the community as a whole.

The family-friendly event will include food, opportunities to create art, and live music. Additionally, the event will collaborate with the Downtown Victoria Coolkit group to offer a 'service share' program. This initiative aims to reduce the use of disposable cutlery, plates, and cups by using reusable non-plastic dishes and cutlery. The goal is to make this program accessible to other groups and organizations in the future. The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2024, starting at 5:30 PM and running until 8 to 8:30 PM. We will

provide updates on the event as we continue to plan. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Urban Livability committee co-chairs, Michael or Colby.

## **Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee**

### **Introduction**

The Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee has been actively involved in several urban agriculture and environmental activities within our community. In this report, we will provide recent updates and developments within the Yates Street Community Garden, highlighting the committee's efforts to support urban gardening, ecological conservation, and community engagement for the mission of fostering a more sustainable and resilient urban ecosystem.

### **Updates**

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

Waitlist Count (As of May 17, 2024): 236

#### Spring Work Party

The Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) is hosting its annual Spring Work Party on Sunday, May 26th, from 11 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers will work on various tasks, including weeding, mulching, and planting. The work party will be followed by a potluck for garden members.

#### Children's Visits and Activities at the Garden

Last year, an exciting new project was launched at the YSCG in collaboration with local daycares to invite children to learn and experience the garden. Janet, the driving force behind this project, will continue and expand it this year with monthly activities centred around seasonal themes. There are plans to collaborate with the Greater Victoria Public Library to offer storytimes in the garden, followed by various activities. The first event is scheduled for Friday, May 24th, focusing on planting the new children's garden located to the right of the garden entrance. Additional activities with the kids will occur during Pollinator Week (June 17th - 23rd). Janet seeks volunteers to assist with set-up, and take down, and anyone who enjoys reading and singing with children. If you're interested in getting involved, please email Janet at [jkstrauss4@gmail.com](mailto:jkstrauss4@gmail.com).

### Compost Pilot Project

The YSCG is considering partnering with the Compost Education Centre (CEC) to launch a pilot project aimed at expanding the community garden's composting systems in the garden. The program will involve volunteers who will help with a new composting initiative at the garden. Garden volunteers will bring food scraps from home to contribute to the composting system. In addition, there will be volunteers to help maintain the composting systems by tasks such as flipping the piles, watering them, and adjusting the balance of materials. This composting system will enhance the compost to make it more suitable for growing produce and flowers in the garden.

### Get Growing, Victoria! - May 23, 2024, from 4 - 6 PM at the YSCG

Get Growing, Victoria! will be back at the YSCG with another seedling distribution on Thursday, May 23, from 4 to 6 PM. This event has been very popular and is a great benefit to the community. It provides seedlings to help people grow their fruits and vegetables at a time when food insecurity is affecting many members of the Downtown Victoria neighbourhood.

The plant selection for this distribution will include tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, collard greens, Swiss chard, kale, lettuce, beans, basil, chives, nasturtiums, and marigolds.

### **World Water Day Film Night**

This free screening of the documentary film Lost Rivers on March 23rd was a great success, with approximately 100 people taking in at least part of the film.

### **View Street Community Garden**

We are still waiting to hear back from City staff about the process for resubmitting our proposal for establishing a new community garden on top of the View Street Parkade. We recently heard that our application to Island Health for a Community Wellness Grant in support of the new garden was unsuccessful, as they only had funds to support a quarter of the applications that were submitted.

## May Downtown Coolkit Report

Members are concerned about the mature trees being removed from the 1000 block of Yates Street, ostensibly for development. It is difficult for us to find the bandwidth to timely keep up with the Development Tracker/CALUC reports. Perhaps we can work with our Land Use Committee (LUC) to flag (in advance) specific items of concern, such as the urban forest.

Members are creating a pop-up "Escape Room" to engage residents with electrification & efficiency solutions for their buildings, especially in light of future heat domes. We'd like the VDRA Board to be our first test audience once this project is ready.

Members will be tabling at various events around the city. Again the focus is on existing buildings - electrification and efficiency.

City staff from the Zero Waste department advise that one missing piece of the town's zero waste efforts is a community place-setting lending library. We haven't come up with a good name for it yet. We are implementing this, beginning with service for up to 150, and soliciting partnerships. The result will be much less waste! Many, if not most, "compostable" serving items are not compostable. People are trying to do the right thing, but it's not always working out that way. The first full scale use of this service will be at Pandora Day.

Pandora Day is August 8. A celebration of community together - housed and unhoused. Coolkit volunteers will help with food service. Details of this event will be in Urban Livability Committee and/or James's report.

One of the group's priorities is "co-ops". The Zero Waste Emporium on Douglas is being converted to a co-op, spearheaded by Michael and his partner. Coolkit members will support this conversion with word of mouth, patronage, and support for a "grand reopening" event.

Members will be collecting data on air conditioning in downtown buildings. The city does not have this data and it is important to us, especially in light of future heat domes and in analyzing recent CRD heat maps. Advocacy/lobbying may be required as funding for heat pumps has traditionally omitted multi-unit residential buildings ("MURBs"). While most data collection will be in person, we'd welcome a survey link and blurb in our May VDRA newsletter. Also, white VDRA t-shirts for the survey volunteers. :-)

Recommendations:

1. We've installed downtown's only air quality monitor and a link to the real time air quality map can be added to the VDRA website.

2. Formation of a VDRA "Climate Solutions" committee: The Climate Solutions committee concentrates on downtown climate mitigation and adaptation, especially in the areas of buildings, waste, transport, and the urban forest.

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

Update on Committee activities since the March 2024 report:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
  - The March newsletter was issued on March 20 and the April newsletter was issued on April 18. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that they were opened by 39.4% and 40.6% of subscribers, respectively. The items receiving the highest number of clicks were the Jane's walks events, the Board member update, the City of Victoria Development Tracker, and an article on Condo heating and cooking.
  - We send the invitation to our AGM on March 30 and a reminder on April 12. Open rate for the invite was 56.3%.
  - We also sent notification and call for volunteers re the Word Water Film night.
  - We intend to put together a newsletter by May 23 and welcome contributions from Board members.
  
- **Web site**
  - We continue to add posts to the News page and add events to the Events page of our new website.
  - 617 site sessions for March (up 66% from the previous month) and 368 site sessions for April (down 40% from the previous month). The most viewed posts were the Queer Open Stage events, The DRA 2023 annual report, the AGM and information on Board members, and the OCP engagement review event.
  
- **Social Media**
  - The number of posts over the past 2 months, and the current number of followers are:
    - Facebook - 7 posts, 1055 followers
    - Instagram - 4 posts, 1083 followers
    - Twitter - 6 tweets, 1159 followers
  
- **Other**
  - 11 new members and 3 renewals 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.
  - 25 new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by  
Doug Boyd  
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

**Land Use Committee Report – For Board Meeting**  
**18 May 2024**

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

**Current**

1. 837 Broughton St – Fort Properties

Rezoning for 42 unit (including one live/work unit) rental, 6-storey building. Note – no parking. CALUC was held April 4<sup>th</sup>. Rezoning has been submitted. Letter is due (not yet submitted)

2. 851 Broughton St – Concert Properties

Rezoning for mixed use development for 150 rental units (including IHCAP units) and 220 strata units. 26 storey condo building and 11 storey rental building. CALUC held April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rezoning has been submitted (not yet submitted)

3. 603 and 607 Pandora Avenue – Mairet Hotels

Rezoning/ OCP Amendment for 12 storey, 198 room hotel. CALUC booked for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. CALUC held and now letter is being drafted. (to be confirmed if letter is submitted)

4. 1885 Government Street – Pooni Group/ Nicola Wealth Real Estate

CALUC meeting to consider an OCP amendment, Rezoning and Heritage Alteration Application to the City for site at 1885 Government St. Pre-CALUC booked for October 30<sup>th</sup>. CALUC held February 13<sup>th</sup>, letter being drafted.

5. 1244 Whart St – Salient Group

Rezoning for the guild building to accommodate two additional storeys, with heritage designation. Building will be a limited service hotel. Status: CALC held December 11, letter drafted for distribution Feb 23. Letter sent.

6. 836 Yates – Chard Properties

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. Status: **updated application received Jan 12, going to committee on TBD date.**

7. 937 View St – Nelson Investments w/ de Hoog & Kierulf –

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

7.97. The applicant is not proposing to rezone away from the R48 zone but is requesting a height variance. Updated Status: **approved Council meeting to be held February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

8. 780 Blanshard/ BC Power Building – Reliance Properties

Rezoning to construct/add an 18-storey tower (proposed uses 17F residential + 1F amenity) above the existing 4- storey heritage registered building (proposed hotel use) with a total FSR 4.6. The heritage designation is proposed to be concurrent with the Rezoning and the Heritage Alteration Permit approvals. No on-site parking proposed but offered that they may have access to 25 off-site spots. The hybrid CALUC with concurrent in-person and online attendance was held on 21 March 2022 with in-person at The Parkside Hotel. The CALUC letter was submitted 27 April 2022 reflecting the community's concerns regarding the poor quality of the in-person presentation (audio and visual deficiencies) with a request for a second properly planned and executed CALUC meeting. Status: **Revised Drawings Received by City started Feb 26, 2024**

**LUC: Ongoing and Active**

1. 19. 2621-2629 Douglas Street (**BURNSIDE**) - Merchant House Capital

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

2. 530 Chatham – Reliance Properties w D'Ambrosio

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

3. 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.

#### 4. Delegating Minor Variance

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

#### 5. 533 Chatham St – LeFevre Developments

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

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

Temporary Use Permit for short term accommodation. **Approved at December meeting**

#### 7. 825/827 Fort Street – Development Permit Variance – Salient Group

Previously Fairfield – now within downtown, currently under construction. Requesting an additional storey. Application closed to responses – skipped public input.

#### 8. 1011 Fort Street - Wild Coast Construction

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

#### 9. 1215 Langley St – Heritage Alteration Permit – Francophone Society

HAV application received for 1215 Langley St for Francophone society redevelopment of bastion square building; adding a balcony to the exterior. **No response sent as no committee input received.**

#### 10. 1050 Yates – Chard Properties

Development Permit with Variance application for a mixed use development which includes purpose-built rental housing and ground oriented retail and shared amenity spaces. The proponent is asking for a variance of 24.22m or eight storeys, reduction of setbacks throughout and a reduction of 173 parking stalls. Status: **approved at council Jan 11**

#### 11. 586 Johnson Street – Liquor License – Forged

Application received for permit application at 586 Johnson St for liquor license. **Letter sent to the City Jan 8.**

#### 12. 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 484m<sup>2</sup> for Daycare. **Special Council meeting on February 16th: 3rd reading of zoning and OCP amendments. Council indicated support for the application (6-1). Motion to adopt zoning amendments, bylaw amendments, and housing agreements was postponed. Motion to approve development permit with variance was postponed.**

13. 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 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.

14. 919 Douglas – Strathcona hotel – Liquor license

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

15. 727 Yates – Saint Franks

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

16. 1205 Blanshard/Capital Six – Jawl Properties with D’Ambrosio –Rezoning & Devt Permit applications for 15,792 sqm total/commercial floor area, with an FSR of 5.89:1, 44.35 m/10 storeys, 144 onsite parking stalls, 117 bike spots. Online alternate CALUC meeting took place on 13 July 2021. Revised plans posted 13 Jan 2022. CALUC letter submitted 01 Feb 2022. Status: Bylaw Adopted

17. 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.

18. 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 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.

19. 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<sup>th</sup> to confirm Municipal Heritage designation on 579 Johnson St.

20. 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,

21. 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 15<sup>th</sup>
22. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
23. Fairfield Gonzales LUC (on DRA border): 846 Broughton – Parc Living – Rezoning and Debt Permit to increase density and allow for a 10-storey mixed-use building. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 02 Mar 2022.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 450 Swift St. Craft Beer Market Victoria Harbour. Liquor License Application. Notice of Application to combine two existing Liquor Primary Licences into one Liquor Primary Licence and Change Hours of the resulting Liquor Primary Licence.
28. Combine the two existing liquor primary licences that currently total 315 persons to one licence. Two liquor primary patios are proposed of 80 persons and 75 persons from the existing 315 persons to be licenced on the patio under the liquor primary licence. Align the liquor primary hours with the existing approved food primary hours: 9.00am – 1.00am, Monday – Saturday and 9.00am – midnight Sunday.

New Liquor Primary would run from 9AM – 1:00AM every day, aside from Sunday which would be 9AM-MIDNIGHT. Current Liquor Primary runs from 11:00AM – MIDNIGHT Monday-Sunday.  
Letter Sent December 29th.

29. 27-560 Johnson Street. Artemis Whiskey Bar. Extending Liquor License Hours.

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

30. 910 Government Street. Axe and Grind. Liquor License Application.

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

31. 854-880 Pandora Avenue (**NORTH PARK**) - Townline Development

A twelve-story building with a varied unit mix of apartments and townhomes, including: 36 studio units (28%), 24 one-bedroom units (19%), 15 one-bedroom + den units (12%) , 51 two-bedroom units (40%) , Two three-bedroom units (2%), Large podium-level indoor/outdoor space with varied programming tailored to the needs of the building and its residents, Rooftop lounge and outdoor social space. The project constraints are approximately 7,100 ft<sup>2</sup> of ground-floor commercial space. Density of 4.5 FSR.  
**This is a development occurring in North Park, but is right on the border of the Downtown Neighbourhood. The project is not yet on the Development Tracker. The NPNA has invited the DRA to attend a CALUC meeting dated February 28th, at 6:30PM, in the BOSA Building Community Room at 1008 Pandora/1025 Mason Street.**

#### **Archived or Inactive or Cancelled**

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

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 2023

### **1. Recent activities:**

**Queer Open Stage:** There have been three open stage events since the last report. The March 21st edition was attended by 32 people and the feature performer was singer-songwriter Opal Dar. The April 18th event was our most well attended to date with 52 attendees and the feature performer was pianist/guitarist/singer Jaye Watts. The May 16th event was attended by 36 people and the feature performer was singer-songwriter Zoubi. We are taking a break from the series for the summer, with the hope of starting it up again in September.

**Asian History Month Books:** We have purchased a number of second-hand books by Asian Canadian writers and will be distributing them to Little Free Libraries in the neighbourhood this week.

### **2. Upcoming activities:**

**Music in the Parks:** We expect to receive confirmation of the results of our grant application to the CRD later this week, but the staff report that will be discussed at the May 22nd meeting of the Arts Commission recommends a grant of \$3,000 for the concert series. The tentative dates for the events are June 25th (Cridge Park), July 17th (Reeson Park), and August 8th (Pandora Green). The concert on Pandora Green will be part of the Pandora Day event that the Urban Livability Committee is planning in collaboration with Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours.

### **3. Other news:**

New board member Furkan has volunteered to take on the role of committee chair. We plan to include a callout for committee members in our May newsletter and then schedule a committee meeting for sometime in June.

Submitted by: James Davis, Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator

## **900 Block of Pandora Good Neighbour Group – May 2024**

### **Designated sheltering:**

- No designated sheltering sites have been identified by BC Housing.
- Sheltering will be prohibited in Irving and Vic West parks when alternative shelter has been offered to those currently sheltering in those parks

### **926-930 Pandora daytime sheltering site:**

- SOLID support services have been extended from March 31 to Sept 30.

### **24/7 Washrooms on Pandora:**

- BC Housing has been communicating with Mayor and the City of Victoria regarding this topic, however no additional information is able to be shared at this time.

### **Storage Sites:**

- City of Victoria put out an RFP for additional storage sites and options, however response was limited. The City is considering revising the RFP and looking at their options.
- SOLID and Our Place currently offer bin storage options for people to use to store their belongings (existing storage, not new/additional storage options).

### **Updated Good Neighbour Agreement:**

- The details of a renewed agreement between community groups, non-profits and government agencies is close to completion.

## **VCAN meeting report – May 2024**

City planning staff were present at the April meeting to give an overview and answer questions from member neighbourhood associations about the Official Community Plan update. A letter to Mayor and Council is being drafted asking about the future role of neighbourhood associations and land use committees.

The Community Mapping survey project is getting underway with a presentation on RUSH (Resilient Urban Systems and Habitat) being presented at next week's VCAN meeting by Anne-Marie Daniel from UVic. **Anyone who would like to attend the VCAN meeting, please let Sandra know. The meeting is via ZOOM.**

A google poll has also been circulated to check availability for a one hour meeting with Dave Clark who serves as the Environmental Chair for the Rockland Neighbourhood Association. From an email from Carolynne Yardley (Rockland)...”Dave brings with him extensive experience in BC wildlife habitat and forestry. As part of his commitment, Dave will graciously lead a guided tour of the captivating Garry oak meadow located behind Government House in the Rockland Neighbourhood. Notably, Dave assisted in the development of the City of Victoria Urban Forest Master Plan. During this opportune time of the year, the kwetlal (camas) blooms vibrantly. Throughout the tour, Dave will impart valuable knowledge on identifying Garry oaks, observing new seedlings, and contemplating the significance of connectivity and urban wildlife corridors for the VCAN Community Mapping Project.” **If anyone would like to be involved in the VCAN mapping project on behalf of the DRA, please let Sandra know.**