

DRA Board Meeting Agenda
May 16, 2023
Location: Zoom Conference Call
Time: 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Councillor Thompson updated on the following topics/issues:

- Progress of MNP governance report
 - o potential CALUC changes:
 - Councillor Thompson shared some Councillors' intent for better practices and more consistency across the different CALUCs, which may include, for example, formalizing the use of video conferencing and enabling video submissions online.
 - If any changes are made, they likely wouldn't change much for DRA's CALUC as it is already fairly sophisticated.
- Inclusionary housing policy. Council revised the policy to enable more affordable housing as it was determined that the existing policy (as revised by the prior council) was not achieving the intended goals, and might actually be stifling condo developments and producing little in the way of affordable housing or usable funds.
 - o Ian provided feedback on lack of engagement with LUC/DRA prior to the previous changes and expressed that opportunities to provide input in a timely way might support a better policy.
 - o It was suggested that a 2-week minimum period be provided between when Council agendas are set and when discussion happens at Council. At the moment the turnaround time is often too short to respond in a meaningful way.
- Staff brought forward the expedited OCP update. The new OCP is expected to deviate substantially from the current OCP.
 - o The formal Stakeholder engagement period is Q4 2023 through Q2 2024. VDRA was welcomed to submit feedback as soon as able or by Q4 during the formal period.
 - o DRA can provide whatever input it wants, but likely to get better results by focusing on the desired outcomes, and not on amendments to the current OCP, because the structure of the new one may be significantly different.
 - o Councillor Thompson recommended VDRA submit feedback at more than one time points until engagement closing date, as needed.
ACTION: VDRA to provide input on OCP update.
- Parks sequencing plan: Council has acknowledged the lack of parks and green spaces in the Downtown and the parks sequencing plan lays out the direction for the next 3 years.

- Centennial Square revitalization to start this year
 - A second community garden is listed as a short-term goal
 - Investing in DT revitalization, funding come from parking fees and restoration of late-night policing program.
- Foot patrol pilot project: a continuation of old funding. Council directed that In next year's budget, funding for Late Night and hopefully foot patrol will be incorporated into VicPD budget.

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

- Government Street Refresh
 - Board members advocated for the continued closure of Government Street and for a reconsideration of the removal of the Hornbeam trees on Government Street as they provide much needed shade. Mike suggested that the hornbeams were at their useful life end and that the roots may be causing damage to underground services.
 - ACTION:** Doug / Sandra to draft letter to Council urging that the Govt Street closure remain in place, as per the opinion of residents in the VDRA's resident survey. Update: Action no longer required due to COUNCIL motion to maintain closure.
 - ACTION:** Mike Hill will circulate the results of the 2nd Community of practice event
 - Update:** Mike provided Transportation Capital Projects summary and Community of Practice April 2023 session notes.

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

- VDRA will apply to City for its community garden expansion funding if permission to develop a rooftop garden is granted – **update:** process is to complete EOI (due on June 2). Mike indicated this rooftop proposal is considered priority and will confirm with city staff.

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

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

- **Urban Livability Committee (ULC) and Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee (UEC):** Michael/Colby (report attached)
 - ACTION:** Mike and Councillor Thompson to confirm whether there is a pending sale of the Yate Street Community Garden lot. **Update:** Mike confirmed on May 18 no documentation indicated such sales at this time.
- **Communications and Membership Committee (CMC):** Doug (report attached)
- **Governance Committee:** Dianne (report attached)
 - DECISION:** Board voted unanimously to renew and maintain the annual membership fee at \$10, payable on a voluntary basis.
 - Board discussed interest for another board member orientation or reorientation in late July or early August.

Action: Dianne will arrange for those interested

- **Land Use Committee (LUC):** Ian/Jordan (Report attached)
- **Community Engagement Committee (CEC):** James (Report attached)

6:25 p.m. External Meeting Reports – Q and A

- **Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN):** Sandra/Ian (report attached)
ACTION: James will link Sandra with Friends of Bowker Creek Society
 - Discussed noise issue: Vic West will be bringing forward discussion topic in their next meeting.
- **900 Pandora Good Neighbour Group:** Sandra (report attached)
 - Anticipating stakeholder consultation to begin for the initiative to create living room space on 900 block.
 - Washrooms on 900 block:
 - Councillor Thompson confirmed conversations are occurring at City Council. Main concerns were around risk.
 - VDRA (Sandra) commits to continued push to implement washroom development
- **Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC):** Sandra (no report)
- **Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee:** Doug (no meetings/ no report)
- **DVBA Clean and Safe Committee:** Colby/Sandra (no report)

6:30 p.m. Other Business

- 1000 block of Fort Street mid-block crosswalk (Dawn)
ACTION: Dawn, Sandra, Ian will discuss formation of a working group to coordinate.

7:30 p.m. Meeting concludes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 5:30 pm

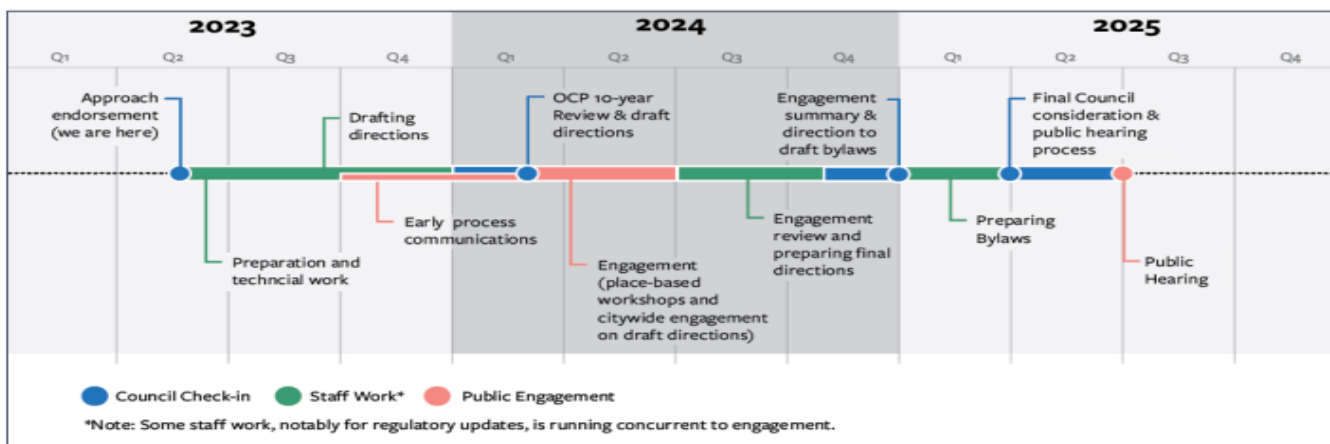


DOWNTOWN

New Direction for Official Community Plan (OCP)

On April 13, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) to adopt a new approach to updating and implementing the City’s core land management tools through the 10-year OCP Update. The approach shifts from local area planning to integrated citywide planning with an emphasis on implementation. On May 11 Council (COTW) approved [staff recommendations](#) for further options for the new approach, including eliminating a final phase of public engagement and updating the zoning through a process which “...would first forgo the complicated task of seeking to preserve site-specific regulations for the hundreds of zones in the City’s dated Zoning Regulation Bylaw. Instead, the general approach would be to add entitlements and de-regulate, only retaining site-specific parameters where they are crucial to City objectives.” The process also proposes to hasten the update “...by partially de-scoping the effort to zone designated Urban Villages and Town Centres.”

All bylaws enacted and works undertaken by the City must be consistent with the OCP pursuant to the Local Government Act. While the vision of the OCP was always intended to be actioned through zoning updates, staff noted that this has not played out in practice. The Zoning Regulation Bylaw, originally adopted in 1981, also remains largely unaligned with the OCP. Staff noted that, to date, local area planning has been the primary mechanism for keeping the OCP up to date. This approach has taken more time than anticipated, despite progressive improvements along the way. The revised approach as proposed is estimated to reduce the overall process by six months.



Governance Review

On [May 11](#), Council resolved to direct staff to present the Governance Review Report to Council by July 26, 2023. The report’s 29 recommendations had been presented to the last Council on July 21, 2023 and work is currently underway to implement some of the recommendations.



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

Your Council Liaison
Dave Thompson dave.thompson@victoria.ca

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



Parks Sequencing Plan

On April 6, Council initiated a Parks Sequencing Plan. The Councillors introducing the [resolution](#) suggested that while the plan should be flexible “...City staff and the city as a whole would benefit from access to a clear and publicly accessible parks sequencing plan”. The intention would be to outline priorities based on a need for parks downtown and in underserved and marginalized areas, as well as the role that parks play in serving various demographics in changing climatic conditions.

Immediate priorities include Crystal Pool Replacement Project, **Centennial Square revitalization**, expanding public and youth sport access to Royal Athletic Park, adding a new swimming dock to the Gorge Inlet for Summer 2024, Topaz Park Improvement Plan implementation, Stadacona Park playground replacement project and annual maintenance and renewal of existing amenities (i.e. playgrounds, sports fields, furnishings, natural areas) and expansion of the urban forest. Other short- and medium-term priorities were also identified.

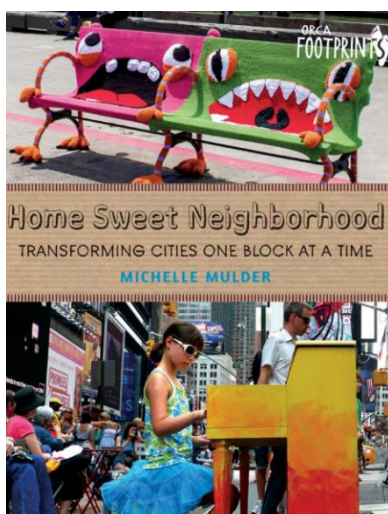
IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

Neighbour Day is Sunday May 7

Neighbour Day is an opportunity to connect with your neighbours in fun and creative ways. When neighbours know each other, they are more engaged in their neighbourhoods, share a sense of belonging and increase safety in your neighbourhood. In celebration of Neighbour Day, we invite you to take a few moments to reach out to a neighbour to offer a helping hand, share a few backyard flowers or invite them over for a cup of tea. What will you do to strengthen your neighbour-to-neighbour relationships? Let us know in a quick email to neighbourhoods@victoria.ca.



Neighbourhood Placemaking



Placemaking—personalizing public and semi-private spaces like front yards—is a growing trend in cities and suburbs around the world. Its drawing people out of their homes and into conversation with one another. Kids are natural placemakers - building tree forts, drawing on sidewalks and setting up lemonade stands - but people of all ages can enjoy creative placemaking activities. From Dutch families who drag couches and tables onto sidewalks for outdoor suppers to Canadians who build little lending libraries to share books with neighbors, people can do things that make life more fun and strengthen neighbourhood quality of life.

In *Home Sweet Neighbourhood*, local author Michelle Mulder combines upbeat text, fun facts and colorful photos to intrigue and inspire readers. Michelle was the lead for her neighbourhood street mural on Collinson Rd at Cook Street a few years ago. That project was funded through a **My Great Neighbourhood** grant. You can meet Michelle at her latest book launch for the youth-oriented story **Up for Grabs**. The launch is being held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (1040 Moss Street) on Saturday, May 20, 3-



5pm.

IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

Sharing More

There's something simple we can all do to help the planet -- and it's probably not what you think. Given that one-third of all the food we produce globally each year being thrown away, entrepreneur Tessa Clarke believes that sharing more and wasting less is an underrated solution to the climate crisis. Learn more through her short [TED Talk](#) about how you can join the growing movement reducing waste and building community worldwide.



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Pop-Up Dance Mat



In response to New Zealand's massive earthquake in September 2010, an organization called [Gap Filler](#), implemented an impressive and inexpensive animation project. Since the earthquake left Christchurch with an absence of venues, this local group organized a DIY dance party in one of the city's vacant lots.

By fashioning a "jukebox" out of an old washing machine and an MP3 player, and then setting up speakers around a makeshift stage, they created "Dance-o-Mat"—a public venue for spontaneous dance parties. The site quickly became a popular destination for city residents, and soon local salsa troupes and dance instructors began gathering there to practice and hold classes. Based on fees \$2 collected for each tune played, Gap Filler estimates that Dance-o-Mat supplied over 600 hours of entertainment in its first three months of operation (that's almost seven hours of activity per day!).

MAKING IT HAPPEN

NeighbourSpace Lending Library

In addition to the little free library outside of our NeighbourSpace at 711 Douglas Street, the Neighbourhood Team is developing a community development reference lending library inside the Space. Community members are welcome to borrow these books for up to a month at a time. New books are being added regularly and we would happily take recommendations for additions. Please contact your neighbourhood liaison to see if we have the book you are looking for, and to arrange for pick up.



Social Isolation Documentary Available Now

We are living in a time that has been described as the age of loneliness. Despite Western advances in technology, living conditions, education and healthcare, as a society, we are isolating ourselves from one another. Because of this we are facing a health crisis that affects all ages, genders, races, and cultures.



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MY GREAT Neighbourhood

How have we become so disconnected? And what can we do to change the status quo and fulfill our potential for health and well-being? Wellness expert Tamer Soliman journeyed through North American cities to meet with local citizens, community activists and leading authorities on social, economic, and urban planning to discover the true factors that have profound and lasting impacts. This timely documentary invites us to reflect on the relationships we have with those around us and raises the question: is it possible to overcome our modern culture of disconnectedness and rediscover how truly essential we are to one other?

The [Great Disconnect](#) is now available for streaming through Films For Action! You can rent it for \$5 or buy the film for \$10. What a great opportunity to host a community gathering to watch the film and discuss ideas on how you can combat social isolation and loneliness in your community. The Neighbourhood Team hosted this documentary and conversation with the director in late 2021 as part of our Community Virtuals program.

ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Find the latest issue of [Connect](#) here or check out recent new items [here](#).

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - MAY 2023

Budget confirmation – We received confirmation that our budget request of \$58,020 in addition to the \$20,000 for the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator has been approved. Our thanks to Councillor Dave Thompson and Councillor Stephen Hammond (Liaison for North Park) for advocating on our behalf and helping to secure this funding. The funding is “one-time only” ...for the second time. We will need to advocate for continuing Operating Funding before next year’s budget deliberations.

Strategic Planning

We had an engaging and thought-provoking Strategic Planning session on Saturday, May 13th at theDock. Over the next month, we will receive a draft report from Scale Collaborative in preparation for us setting a work plan for 2023.

Land Use Planning Advisor position

Sandra, Ian and Jordan met to discuss the future of the Land Use Planning Advisor role. We discussed the number of hours needed to support the Land Use Committee and the other pieces of work that need to be considered this year. We believe that the hours for the LUPA position can be reduced to 7 hours giving us flexibility to engage a consultant for project specific work. Among the work we will respond to is the OCP review. Given the limited amount of public engagement proposed by Council staff, it is imperative that we make financial resources available to do our own review. We have discussed the wisdom of finding a seasoned planner to do this review.

Community of Practice

Dawn, James and Sandra attended the second Community of Practice meeting. Close to thirty representatives from neighbourhoods attended. The conversation, which was held in a World Café format, focused on the following: food security, strategic planning, inclusivity, placemaking and how to increase resident involvement. City staff are looking for indications of continued interest in these topics in order to support neighbourhoods working together on issues of common interest. If any of these topics interest you, please speak to Mike Hill.

Proposal for Board and Committee Education on Indigenous/Settler relationships

We have a confirmed date of June 15 from 4-7 p.m. at theDock for our workshop with Indigenous Perspectives Society. Please hold that date in your calendar.

Urban Livability Committee Report
&
Urban Ecology and Agriculture Report
Victoria Downtown Residents Association
May 16, 2023

Co-Chairs: Colby Young and Michael Demakiling

Committee Members: James Davis (DRA Community Engagement Coordinator), Dawn Moorehead, Hannah Munn, and Kevan Coyle

Urban Livability Report

Community Engagement & NSUN & The Shift Project

Community engagement builds relationships and partnerships with various stakeholders to address common issues and achieve shared goals. One of the issues that community engagement can help with is the problem of homelessness, which affects millions of people worldwide.

Homelessness is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has many causes and consequences. Some factors contributing to homelessness include poverty, unemployment, mental health problems, substance abuse, domestic violence, discrimination, and lack of affordable housing. Homelessness can have negative impacts on the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals and families, as well as on the environment and public safety.

Community engagement can help the unhoused members of society by providing them with access to resources, services, and opportunities that can improve their quality of life and help them transition to stable housing. Community engagement can also foster a sense of belonging, dignity, and empowerment among the unhoused people and increase their participation and voice in decision-making processes that affect them.

Community engagement is a moral duty and a wise investment for society. By engaging with the unhoused members of society, we can create a more inclusive, compassionate, and prosperous community for everyone. As a result, the Urban Livability Committee felt compelled to participate in a collaborative project between the Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN) along with LLEOHN and the Backpack Project to assist people with previous or current experience living in encampments to make submissions about their experience to the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate.

The Urban Livability Committee was pleased to hear that the April 28, 2023, event to assist our unhoused neighbours with filling out forms about their experience living in encampments was a success. The goal was to receive 30 submissions; however, by the end of the event, NSUN and their volunteers were able to accept 76 submissions! A great example of community engagement

when organized groups and volunteers come together to help provide a voice to those living in encampments.

Pandora Seating Project

The Urban Livability Committee will engage with stakeholders to determine whether this project to advocate for proper seating is still wanted in the area and to get a sense of its best location. The engagement will include contacting the Community Caretakers and participating in the 900 Pandora Block meeting.

2023 Victoria Pride Parade - DRA Participation

This year the Victoria Downtown Residents Association is proud to participate in the 2023 Victoria Pride Parade! This year the Pride Parade will be on Sunday, July 09, 2023, starting at 11 AM. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Victoria Pride Society and upcoming event Pride events.

Urban Ecology and Agriculture Report

Yates Street Community Garden

The Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee and the Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) welcome Lisa (Lee) Small as the new Garden Coordinator! Lisa comes to this position with a farming background, having worked on and managed a number of farms in the area and on Salt Spring Island. She was also the Coordinator of Growing Together, a regional, collaborative initiative started at the beginning of the pandemic to support people in growing their own food. She started a mentorship program to match new gardeners with mentors, and she has worked with the City of Victoria to help get the Get Growing, Victoria! Program off the ground, which is now in its fourth year of growing and distributing free plant starts to the community. She is also passionate about plants and educating and supporting others in growing food! She is also working towards completing a diploma in the Restoration of Natural Systems at UVic. When her hands aren't in the soil, she is often out in the woods checking out plants and fungi, making herbal medicines, reading a good book, cuddling with her cat, or doing a craft project. She really is really looking forward to getting to know all the gardeners at the YSCG and supporting them however she can. Welcome Lee Small!

Current YSCG waitlist as of May 13, 2023: 192

Little Free Library at the Yates Street Community Garden

The Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee is excited to learn that the My Great Neighbourhood Grant for the Little Free Library submitted by project lead Wendy Magahay (Victoria Downtown Residents Association as a sponsor) has been approved! The project is expected to be completed by the middle to late summer, and the residents of the Harris Green area will have access to the little library, including some seeds!

Victoria CoolKit!

The DRA's Urban Ecology & Agriculture Committee invites you to take action on the urban forest and climate change by participating in the Victoria Coolkit program.

The program consists of three in-person sessions and five steps to help you get from conversation to action. It will open your eyes to what climate change impacts and solutions can look like right where you live, work or garden, and it is a great way to get to know your neighbours and build community. This free, fun, interactive and informative program is suitable for all ages!

Location: Yates Street Community Garden (1014 Yates Street)

Dates: Friday, June 9th - 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Saturday, June 10th - 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Saturday, July 15th - 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

To register, please click [HERE](#) . Registration includes materials and facilitation, as well as light supper on June 9th and a light lunch on June 10th.

Click [HERE](#) for background information on the project and contact coolkit@victoriadra.ca if you have questions or would like more details about Victoria Coolkit.

Parks & Gardens and Downtown Victoria Second Community Garden Update

Parks and gardens are essential in an urban city for many reasons. They provide a natural environment for people to relax, exercise, socialize and enjoy the beauty of nature. They also offer ecological benefits such as improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, moderating temperature and enhancing biodiversity. Furthermore, they contribute to the economic and cultural value of the city by attracting tourists, businesses and residents who appreciate the green spaces. Therefore, parks and gardens are not only aesthetic features but also vital assets for the well-being and sustainability of an urban city.

The Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee is delighted to hear that the Parks Sequencing Plan motion was passed at council, which included a second community garden in the downtown core as a shorty term priority. The next step for the Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee is to submit an Expression of Interest with the help of the Second Community Garden Proposal Committee.

Communications and Membership Committee Report – May 2023

Update on Committee activities:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
 - The April newsletter was issued on April 19. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by 45.7% of subscribers. The items receiving the highest number of clicks were the Janes Walk and the Vital Signs Survey.
 - We also sent these emails to our subscribers:
 - Information re the Victoria Coolkit Program, sent on May 4
 - Information re Bystanders Intervention training event, sent on April 24
 - AGM reminder sent on April 14
 - We intend to put together a newsletter by May 19 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.
 - 374 site sessions over the past month (up 2% from the previous month). The most viewed post was the Letter to Mayor and Council re the Starlight Project public hearing.

- **Social Media**
 - The number of posts over the past month, and the current number of followers are:
 - Facebook - 8 posts, 1085 followers
 - Instagram - 4 posts, 731 followers
 - Twitter - 9 tweets, 1155 followers

- **Other**
 - 5 new members and 10 renewals since the last report
 - 26 new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by
Doug Boyd
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

May 2023

1. **Orientation and training for (new) Board members:** An orientation session will be held in late July or early August, for all new and any other interested Board members.

2. **Membership fees:** Our constitution and bylaws require the Board to set the membership fee annually and the collection and date of collection. It is propose we confirm the membership fee at \$10, payable annually on a voluntary basis.

3. **Donation policy:** Several different events have been held where the proceeds have been donated to worthwhile entities/causes. It is proposed that a policy be developed to guide when and to whom donations may be made to ensure that the donations meet with Board approval and consistency in approach.

Submitted by
Dianne Flood
Governance 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, (enter address)

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.

The text of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association" is available on the Association website at: www.victoriadra.ca

Date of Notice: **[insert date of notice]**

SCHEDULE A TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



**Land Use Committee Report – For Board Meeting
15 May 2023**

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

Current

1. Delegating Minor Variance

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

2. 533 Chatham St – LeFevre Developments

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

1. 780 Blanshard/ BC Power Building – Reliance Properties

Rezoning to construct/add an 18-storey tower (proposed uses 17F residential + 1F amenity) above the existing 4- storey heritage registered building (proposed hotel use) with a total FSR 4.6. The heritage designation is proposed to be concurrent with the Rezoning and the Heritage Alteration Permit approvals. No on-site parking proposed but offered that they may have access to 25 off-site spots. The hybrid CALUC with concurrent in-person and online attendance was held on 21 March 2022 with in-person at The Parkside Hotel. The CALUC letter was submitted 27 April 2022 reflecting the community's concerns regarding the poor quality of the in-person presentation (audio and visual deficiencies) with a request for a second properly planned and executed CALUC meeting. Status: **Revised Drawings Received by City March 31st 2023.**

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. 1050 Yates – Chard Properties

Development Permit with Variance application for a mixed use development which includes purpose-built rental housing and ground oriented retail and shared amenity spaces. The proponent is asking for a variance of 24.22m or eight storeys, reduction of setbacks throughout and a reduction of 173 parking stalls. Status: **Applicant revising submission starting April 27**

2. 1045 Yates St, Harris Chrysler (Phase 1) – Starlight

Development Permit with Variance concurrent with a Rezoning Application related to area of 4.9 acres over two sites. Proposal includes: 5 & 4-storey podium with 23 & 22 storey towers with a 6.18:1 FSR. Rental for 518 residential units, including mix of studio, 1, 2, 3 BRM, & TH with 7 Ground-oriented and 10 podium units with 348 onsite parking stalls & 674-bike parking. Proposal includes 484m² for Daycare. **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.**

3. 1205 Quadra/911 Yates – Starlight

Rezoning and OCP Amendment and Devt Permit for two sites on the south side of Yates between Quadra & Cook: 1.35 hectare full 900-block Yates and the 0.63 hectare eastern half of the 1000-block Yates, 1045 Yates. Revised proposal includes: 5 & 4-storey podium with 34, 31 and 30 storey towers with an overall FSR of 6.06, 1584 new rental apartments, including 27 ground-oriented units and 30 podium-level units with 1291 parking spaces, and 2125 bike parking. Proposal now includes reference to a 2109 m² “public park” “play areas” & “dog park on View St” for the 900 Yates block. A 484 m² Daycare is also noted as included. Status: Revised drawings were received on August 8th.

Special Council meeting on February 16th: 3rd reading of zoning and OCP amendments. Council indicated support for the application (6-1). Motion to adopt zoning amendments, bylaw amendments, and housing agreements was postponed. Motion to approve development permit with variance was postponed.

4. 1011 Fort Street - Wild Coast Construction

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

5. 2621-2629 Douglas Street (BURNSIDE) - Merchant House Capital

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

LUC: Ongoing and Active

4. 1205 Blanshard/Capital Six – Jawl Properties with D’Ambrosio –Rezoning & Devt Permit applications for 15,792 sqm total/commercial floor area, with an FSR of 5.89:1, 44.35 m/10 storeys, 144 onsite parking stalls, 117 bike spots. Online alternate CALUC meeting took place on 13 July 2021. Revised plans posted 13 Jan 2022. CALUC letter submitted 01 Feb 2022. Status: Bylaw Adopted
5. 603 Pandora Avenue –Hampton Inn Development – Held an Open House September 28th indicating a fall/winter development application. Application will include height and density variances.

6. 1030 Fort – Jawl Properties w Cascadia Architecture – Rezoning and Devt Permit with Variance for a 6-storey (22.28m) market rental project with CRUs at grade and 30 residential units (20 x 1BD+den and 10 x studio) with FSR of 4:1. No onsite parking is proposed (24 req) with 56 bike parking spots (44 req). An online community meeting was held on 31 Aug 2021. Approved at ADP on 23 Feb 2022. Status: Revised application received on July 5th, a letter response was sent to the city on July 20th. The project received 1st and 2nd reading on August 4th with a referral to public hearing once the following conditions are met: arborist report, housing agreement, transportation demand measures secured legally, park provisions secured, public hearing fee paid and notification signs erected.

7. 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 14th to confirm Municipal Heritage designation on 579 Johnson St.

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. On 10 May 2022, Miko Betanzo, City Planner, emailed the DRA LUC and the applicant the following,

6. 937 View St – Nelson Investments w/ de Hoog & Kierulf – Development Permit with Variance to build an 19-storey (over the 10 storey permitted) 60.2 m (over the 30m permitted), 266 studio and 1 BR market rental units with 0 vehicle parking and 317 bikes spots on R48 land and located in Fort St Heritage Corridor (using pre- fabricated components?). Proposed FSR 7.97. The applicant is not proposing to rezone away from the R48 zone but is requesting a height variance. Status: Declined at council meeting at 26th of May, referred back to staff on June 9th.

7. 836 Yates –Heritage Alteration w Variance for approval of fence and gates, variance for height of the fence. Council declined the previous HAP w/V on 09 Dec 21. As of Mar 2022, all fencing and gates have been removed from the property. (Note: this application, in combination with any application from neighbouring 848 Yates, will effectively remove all or part of the pre-existing mid-block walkway that was presented with expansion and improvements as part of the application for Chard’s development at 848 Yates St and identified in DCAP as part of the pedestrian network.) Status: New Application Review by City 07 Mar 2022 for the HAP w/V of fence & gates, variance for height of fence. Plans posted on the Devt Tracker. DRA letter response sent May 20th.

8. 710 Caledonia – Chard/ProvBC – Rezoning and Devt Permits to develop three buildings over a shared commercial podium that includes office, grocery store, childcare and public plaza. Burnside Gorge LUC invited DRA LUC members to attend the Zoom meeting on Mon 07 Feb 2022. Status: Revised plans submitted to City on June15th

9. 700 Government St – HAVN Experiences Ltd/Nicholas Van Buren – Rezoning to permit personal service uses (sauna) in the Inner Harbour & Devt Permit to convert a barge into a floating sauna structure. Status: Revised plans sent to City June 3rd.

10. Fairfield Gonzales LUC (on DRA border): 846 Broughton – Parc Living – Rezoning and Debt Permit to increase density and allow for a 10-storey mixed-use building. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 02 Mar 2022.

11. 516 Discovery (Burnside Gorge border) – City-initiated rezoning as part of the Rock Bay Plan to rezone to the M2-I Zone. The M2-I Zone – Douglas-Blanshard Industrial District permits limited light industrial uses, high-tech, service-commercial & limited retail. The following uses are the only uses permitted: high-tech, call centre, professional services (including architects, engineers, & surveyors), retail sales of home furnishings, home supplies or sporting goods, and retail sales & offices as accessory uses incidental to, and less FSR than, principal use. Limits on FSR of each use per building or by portion of site. Status: Only activity is City doc posted on 14 Sept 2006. Item added to follow in relation to “Innovation District” related proposals at our northern border.

12. Municipal Alcohol Policy – Staff provided update on progress on the policy with request from council on direction on several items at daytime Council 09 Dec 2021. Much time spent reviewing context and suggestions to expand the scope of the policy. Work will continue with direction given from council on all items brought from staff. No new information on this file to date.

13. 1244 Wharf – Salient Group – Heritage Alteration Permit and Rezoning File for exterior alterations (changes to existing windows and addition of new windows, changes to entrance door locations, building material changes, and an addition of a new rear balcony). Concurrent Rezoning File: REZ00739 concluded with approval to add hotel use. Status: Review of Revised Plans 24 June2021.

14. 450 Swift St. Craft Beer Market Victoria Harbour. Liquor License Application. Notice of Application to combine two existing Liquor Primary Licences into one Liquor Primary Licence and Change Hours of the resulting Liquor Primary Licence.

15. Combine the two existing liquor primary licences that currently total 315 persons to one licence. Two liquor primary patios are proposed of 80 persons and 75 persons from the existing 315 persons to be licenced on the patio under the liquor primary licence Align the liquor primary hours with the existing approved food primary hours: 9.00am – 1.00am, Monday – Saturday and 9.00am – midnight Sunday. New Liquor Primary would run from 9AM – 1:00AM every day, aside from Sunday which would be 9AM-MIDNIGHT. Current Liquor Primary runs from 11:00AM – MIDNIGHT Monday-Sunday. Letter Sent December 29th.

16. 27-560 Johnson Street. Artemis Whiskey Bar. Extending Liquor License Hours.

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

17. 910 Government Street. Axe and Grind. Liquor License Application.

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

19. 854-880 Pandora Avenue (**NORTH PARK**) - Townline Development

A twelve-story building with a varied unit mix of apartments and townhomes, including: 36 studio units (28%), 24 one-bedroom units (19%), 15 one-bedroom + den units (12%) , 51 two-bedroom units (40%) , Two three-bedroom units (2%), Large podium-level indoor/outdoor space with varied programming tailored to the needs of the building and its residents, Rooftop lounge and outdoor social space. The project constraints are approximately 7,100 ft2 of ground-floor commercial space. Density of 4.5 FSR.

This is a development occurring in North Park, but is right on the border of the Downtown Neighbourhood. The project is not yet on the Development Tracker. The NPNA has invited the DRA to attend a CALUC meeting dated February 28th, at 6:30PM, in the BOSA Building Community Room at 1008 Pandora/1025 Mason Street.

Archived or Inactive or Cancelled

1. 1.Zoning existing City parks as parks. Why has the City not committed to this? What can our committee do to advocate for protection of these community amenities? Discussed at 06 July 2020 DRA LUC meeting.
2. Develop a draft doc outlining guidelines for Heritage Corridors as referred to in the OCP, and as relevant to Fort St, etc. Discussed at 12 Aug 2020 pre-CALUC meeting. Quinn is reviewing supporting docs.
3. Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing – City-led initiative to consider an application to amend the Land Use Procedures Bylaw to delegate development approvals for non-market affordable housing to the Director of Sustainable Development and Community Planning in all Development Permit Areas. Additionally, Council is considering an application to amend the Zoning Regulation Bylaw and the Zoning Bylaw 2018 to establish a maximum floor space ratio for qualifying affordable housing developments. Approved at Public Hearing on 14 Apr2022.
4. Neighbourhood Boundaries – Non-statutory public hearing at Council 27 Jan 2022. City proposal to change boundaries between Downtown and Fairfield to include DCAP plus other lands outside DCAP. DRA board and LUC sent letters not supporting change as proposed. LUC posited suggestion that only DCAP area should be considered for inclusion in Downtown but nothing else. Council amended the motion as advised by LUC and approved. Will come to Statutory Public Hearing as some changes require OCP amendments. Status: Report to Council on 17 Feb 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 2023

1. Recent activities:

Queer Open Stage: Approximately 40 people attended the April 20th edition of the open stage. Singer-songwriter Tasha Cadence was the featured act and other performances included poetry, beat boxing, storytelling and music.

Jane's Walk: Dianne Flood led a walking tour of the Downtown neighbourhood on May 6th as part of this annual festival of free, community-led walking conversations inspired by Jane Jacobs. The tour was attended by 12 people.

2. Upcoming activities:

Queer Open Stage: The May 18th event will be the final open stage of the season, as we will take a break for the summer with the intention that we will start up again in September. The featured performer for May will be non-binary fiddle player and vocalist Q.

Go By Bike Week: We will have a presence at the Celebration Station taking place on June 2nd at the GVPL's Central Branch. In addition to promoting the DRA and our events and encouraging attendees to sign up for our mailing list, we will be giving out free bicycle-powered smoothies.

Upper Fort StreetFest: The DRA is acting as a Community Sponsor for this free block party being hosted by the Downtown Victoria Business Association on Fort Street between Vancouver and Cook on June 3rd. CEC member Trish is organizing a *Dogs of Downtown* photo booth and we will also have our new giant Scrabble game set up for attendees to play.

Music in the Park: The first event in our series of free summer concerts in Downtown Parks will take place on June 28th in Cridge Park. The concert will be an unofficial warm-up for the Pride Festival (which starts the next day) and will feature artists who have performed at the Queer Open Stage, including musician Marina Avros and poet Jeremiah Gittens. We have secured a small grant for the concert from Coastal Community Credit Union and submitted a grant application to CRD Arts & Culture for the entire series, which we should hear back about before the end of this month.

Submitted by:
James Davis
Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator

Report on VCAN – May 2023

Information and Education-

VCAN had a presentation by Heather Murphy on the work of Neighbours in Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN). The purpose of the presentation was to help neighbourhood associations know about the work of this non-profit and how they can connect with those who are working to support unhoused neighbours.

Leslie Robinson, a community tenant rights advocate. Leslie shared her experience as a tenant explaining that they had been involved as a tenant rights advocate for fifty years and were employed for 20 years in legal clinics and as a member of tenant associations. They have lived in Victoria since 2017 and have been on the Renters' Advisory Committee for four years.

Tenant concerns are not well represented on neighbourhood associations. On the VCAN call, only three of the 16 participants were renters. In most CALUC processes, the interests of tenants do not have priority. Most new rental buildings going up Downtown will not be affordable for those who are mid-to-low income. Support by NAs of the needs of tenants is needed. Renters make up 60-70% of the residents of many neighbourhoods. There was recognition that the problem is not just a municipal one. Communities like Oak Bay and Saanich need to provide more housing assistance.

Suggestions included creating a sub-group through VCAN to increase advocacy across neighbourhoods.

Community Mapping Project-

The Terms of Reference for the Community Mapping project were accepted. The TOR will function as a working template to move this project forward.

The cost of the project was discussed with agreement to look for additional sources of funding outside of the City. Budget discussions at the City level are closed for this year and it was felt that the City has already established their Parks Priority Plan and were in the process of costing that work out. This project will need funding from foundations or environmental organizations to move forward.

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

There has been little progress on the group's request for washrooms on the 900 block of Pandora.

Island Health has asked for an extension of the inhalation site on 926-930 Pandora. Construction has been delayed on the new site and the Wellness and Recovery Centre is now expected to open late Fall.

Hours at Our Place have been reduced because of staffing issues. Formerly the hours were 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Currently the hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There has been an increase in cleaning shifts on the 900 block. SOLID is providing support in addition to the work done by the OPS, Our Place and Island Health. Congregation Emanu-El has a contract for clean up on Sunday mornings.

There was discussion about the ground level space at 930 Pandora and concern about the lack of consultation between the neighbourhoods and City staff.

Future of Tiny Town – As other sites open, residents of Tiny Town will be moved elsewhere. The question of what to do with the Tiny Town units has not yet been determined.

Negotiations are in progress for the amalgamation of First Metropolitan United Church with Broad View United Church which is in Saanich. First Met no longer has the financial or human resources to maintain its buildings. The brick heritage building, attached office wing and church hall will be sold.