

DRA Board Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022

Location: ZOOM

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Sandra Severs (President), Doug Boyd, Michael Demakiling, Ian Sutherland, Colby Young, Jordan Royer, James Davis

Absent: Councillor Geoff Young, Dianne Flood

City Staff: Mike Hill

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Sandra called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved. James Davis, the DRA's new Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, was welcomed and introductions were made.

Councillor's Report- Geoff Young

Councillor Young was not able to be present for the meeting tonight.

Downtown Update – Mike Hill

Report attached.

Mike highlighted the items in his report which had been circulated earlier. Among the items raised were city plans for the Neighbour Hubs, one of which is in Crystal Garden. Mike reported that repairs made to the space are almost complete. Questions were raised about access to the space and its role during an emergency.

The *Get Growing* event is scheduled at Yates Street Community Garden on May 21st.

The Governance Review process is underway with public sessions being held at the beginning of May. Mike encouraged DRA input into the process. From our perspective, what challenges have we faced in communication with elected officials and city staff? Sandra, Doug and Dianne are registered to attend the on-line event. Written submissions are requested by May 13th.

Follow-up from the March Minutes:

There were no items for follow up given that the meeting was the first Board meeting

following the AGM.

Executive Report - Sandra Severs

Report attached.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Urban Livability Committee:** Colby has agreed to take on the DVBA Clean and Safe Committee and has been in touch with Jeff Bray. Colby will be attending the System Transformation Working Group on behalf of the DRA.
- **Land Use Committee:** Report attached.
- **Community Engagement Committee:** Report attached. James reported that a concert will be held June 13th on the boulevard east of Cook on Pandora with musician Ann Vriend.
- **Communications and Membership Committee:** Report attached. The newsletter will go out on Friday. Doug and James are finishing up the details.
- **Governance Committee:** No report. Two people have indicated interest in joining the Board. Dianne will meet with them when she returns home from holidays.
- **Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee:** No report attached.

External Meeting Reports

Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN): See Executive report.

Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC): No meetings and no report.

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee: See report.

DVBA Clean and Safe Committee: No report.

Other:

Mike Hill left the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Board continued with conversation about the upcoming municipal elections.

Adjourned at 7 p.m. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.



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Contributing to Reconciliation

On March 24, Council approved a motion to establish an opportunity for property taxpayers to pay a voluntary additional amount with their tax payment to be directed to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations (e.g. 5%, 10%) as a reconciliation contribution. Council previously approved a \$200,000 annual reconciliation grant from the City to the two First Nations on a trial basis for five years commencing in 2022. Voluntary contributions from taxpayers will be sent with the City's reconciliation grant each year.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=78686>

Off-Leash Dog Parks

Council has recently approved two Council member-initiated motions for City staff to report back on the implications and feasibility of two trial off-leash dog parks. One is proposed as an enclosed portion of the east end of Harris Green at Chambers and Pandora. The other is situated over the east end of Royal Athletic Park. Both would be considered for the 2023 budget.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=69a7045e-1013-4a8d-9d3b-226219edb3db&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=19&Tab=attachments>

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=79173>



Community Virtuals

Meet us online for the final Community Virtuals lunch and learn session on Wednesday April 20 at noon. This session will focus on neighbourhood traffic calming – find out how the City considers traffic calming and opportunities for community involvement. Registration is free at victoria.ca/communityvirtuals.

Neighbourhood Small Grant

The Vancouver Foundation is offering \$500 grants for small projects proposed by informal groups of residents. Grants can be used for "...any project that will bring your community together, build community strength and resilience, or tackle social isolation. Some common types of Neighbourhood Small Grant projects include care package deliveries or teaching people a new skill, but there are also many unique projects that don't fall into these categories." For more information, go to <https://neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca/about/>. The application window closes at the end of April 2022.



NeighbourHubs

NeighbourHubs are intended to create public spaces that foster community connection and provide emergency resources for neighbourhoods in Victoria. They can include features like seating, public art, and emergency supplies, offering a space to meet neighbours, and build support networks in the community.



Neighbourhood Staff Contact:

Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

Council Liaison:

Geoff Young gyoung@victoria.ca

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We would like to hear your ideas for designing NeighbourHubs in Victoria. Take the City survey at engage.victoria.ca/neighbourhubs by April 20 and let us know what you think makes a great NeighbourHub. To learn more, please go to [Victoria.ca/preparedneighbours](https://victoria.ca/preparedneighbours).



Garden Grants

Council has approved Growing in the City Volunteer Coordinator Grant and Service Grant Awards for this year. The Downtown Residents Association was awarded a Volunteer Coordinator Grant of \$8,850 and a Service Grant of \$1,000.

The Service Grants will help the neighbourhood support the City's free food seedling and garden materials program, Get Growing, Victoria!, which occurs annually in April, during the seedling distributions throughout the summer, and in October to help winterize residential gardens. The distribution of food seedings occurs over a three-week period in May-June and again in July, each year. Since 2020, Get Growing, Victoria! has supplied over 168,000 vegetable and herb seedings and 344 cubic meters of material to Victoria residents.

This program is operated in partnership with a variety of community organizations who support the delivery of services associated with Get Growing, Victoria! – including hosting neighbourhood distribution days, providing additional gardening materials and support, and providing educational materials helpful for novice gardeners.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=78690>

Inclusion and Equity Survey

We are looking for your feedback on how the City of Victoria can be more inclusive and equitable in our engagement activities. Please complete this survey by Saturday, April 30, 2022. This survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

<https://engage.victoria.ca/all-our-voices>



Reducing Single Use Items

On April 21, Council will consider staff recommendations that a bylaw be drafted to reduce single-use items and encourage the use of reusable products by requiring that businesses. The initiative will require provincial approval and be introduced in phases. Ultimately, businesses would be required to charge a \$0.25 fee for any single-use takeout cup or container with exemptions for free drinks and drink vouchers, hospitals and community care facilities, and charitable food services.

The staff report indicates that Victoria residents throw away over 75,000 single-use items each day. The use of single-use items throughout the community is an unsustainable activity that directly affects municipal services, compromises provincial and regional recycling and composting programs, and harms terrestrial and marine environments. Responsibility for managing single-use items and packaging is an area of shared jurisdiction



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Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

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Geoff Young gyoung@victoria.ca

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between all levels of government. Both the federal and provincial governments plan to take meaningful action in the next year. This provides a clear and consistent direction that allows the City of Victoria to complement federal and provincial initiatives.

Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing

Council has approved an amendment to the Land Use Procedures Bylaw that delegates development approvals for non-market affordable housing to the Director of Sustainable Development and Community Planning in all Development Permit Areas, and an amendment to the Zoning Regulation Bylaw and the Zoning Bylaw 2018 to establish an increase in maximum floor space ratio for qualifying affordable housing developments. The bylaw amendments are intended to hasten the approval process for housing initiatives that address critical areas of need in the City. Projects by non-profit, government or co-op housing organizations will no longer require rezonings or public hearings when they are consistent with the City's Official Community Plan and related design guidelines.

Governance Review Underway

The governance review is underway and we would like your input. Take the survey or participate in a public session (in-person or online options available) to learn about the City's current governance model and participate in a small group discussion to share your experiences and ideas for improvements. We most importantly want your opinions on transparency, accountability and how residents are able to participate in Council decision making.



In Person: Monday, May 2 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Victoria Conference Centre

Online: Wednesday, May 4 from noon to 1:30pm. Please go to the link below to register and complete the survey.

<https://engage.victoria.ca/governance-review>

Strengthening Communities Grant

On April 14, Council will consider a staff report recommending the City apply for a UBCM Strengthening Communities Grant to fund several social wellbeing initiatives. This includes an extension of the Tiny Homes project from its current closure date of September 2022 to the end of March 2023 (\$250,000), as well as the establishment of a "community caretaker" position for the 900 block of Pandora Avenue (\$125,000). The latter would function as a coordinator helping to identify required actions and strategies on the block and building relationships amongst the people and organizations present on the block. The trial period for the community caretaker would help inform possible continuation of the program should funding be available.

Committee of the Whole - April 14, 2022 (escribemeetings.com)



Neighbourhood Staff Contact:

Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

Council Liaison:

Geoff Young gyoung@victoria.ca

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WHAT'S UP AT COUNCIL?

Committee of the Whole (COTW) 9:00 am Council 1:00pm	Council Meeting 6:30 pm
April 7, 14, 21, 28	April 14, 28

Note that you can now attend Council meetings in person.



Neighbourhood Staff Contact:
Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

Council Liaison:
[Geoff Young](mailto:Geoff.Young@victoria.ca) gyoung@victoria.ca

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Executive Committee Report –April 2022

Work during March focused on preparations for the AGM and on hiring for the two contract positions of Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator (NEC) and Land Use Planning Advisor (LUPA).

Contract Positions:

The contract positions were advertised through a variety of channels and applications were received from 13 candidates in total. Dianne, Doug and Sandra interviewed for the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator position and were very happy to secure the services of James Davis who began work April 4th. James has been contracted for 20 hours/week and will focus expanding the profile of the DRA through event planning and social media presence.

Jordan, Ian and Sandra interviewed for the Land Use Planning Advisor contract position and have contracted Daniel Lake to provide 50 hours/month of support to the Land Use Committee as well as work on issues related to Urban Livability. Daniel will begin work April 29th.

AGM:

The AGM was held on March 22nd. Joaquin Karakas provided an update on the Government Street Refresh plan. Notes from the post-presentation conversation were fed back to Joaquin for entry into the community consultation information gathering.

Letter to Council on proposal for off-leash Dog Park:

At the request of North Park Neighbourhood Association, a letter was sent in support of a motion by Councillor Potts to direct city staff to determine whether a section of Royal Athletic Park (the side closest to Cook Street) could be used as an off-leash dog park for a limited number of hours daily. The space would be available until the City produces its Dogs in Parks guidelines.

Green Space:

Sandra met with Downtown resident, Matt Hulse, a lawyer with Ecojustice, who is interested in securing green space in the neighbourhood. Sandra and Matt met via ZOOM with Charlayne Thornton-Joe to talk about possible properties in Chinatown which might be used as park land. Charlayne will be bringing a motion before Council to ask staff to explore the future of the property between Herald and Fisgard Streets at Wharf Street. The property is currently a parking lot.

VCAN:

In response to a letter expressing concern about REITS sent to the Minister of Housing by Hillside-Quadra, Burnside-Gorge, Downtown Harris Green, Fernwood and North Park, David Eby has requested a meeting with representatives of the five neighbourhood associations. That meeting is scheduled for April 28th and will be on ZOOM.

Business Dialogue Series

Sandra attended a presentation by Councillor Potts and Jonny Morris, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association, hosted by the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, on the Peer Assisted Crisis Team (PACT) project which is being funded by the province to provide support for individuals having a mental health crisis. The goal of the team's work is to provide a health response rather than a police response when families or individuals need help. The team is scheduled to be up and running this summer.

Urban Livability Committee Report
Victoria Downtown Residents Association
April 19, 2022

Updates

March Activities

There has been a limited number of activities within the Urban Livability Committee for March. However, the Co-Chairs, Colby and Michael, met to discuss the activities planned for the rest of the year. Both are looking forward to working with James Davis,

the new engagement coordinator, for community engagement activities related to Urban Livability over the coming few months.

Sub-Committee: Supporting the Unhoused - Updates

Neighbourhood Solidarity for Unhoused Neighbours

Colby and Michael will resume attending the bi-weekly meetings when both schedules allow. Michael will also reconnect with Heather Murphy to conduct several Pandora walkabouts.

Coalition to End Homelessness

Colby will attend the Coalition to End Homelessness meetings and represent the DRA. Colby will report to the DRA any relevant updates to the board.

Clean and Safe Committee

Colby will attend the meetings and represent the DRA at the quarterly Clean and Safe Committee meetings.

Sub-Committee: Promoting Greenspace - Updates

No updates to report

Sub-Committee: Enhancing Livability for Current and Future Residents -Updates

No updates to report

2022 APR Project List for Board Meeting

DRA Land Use Committee

15 APR 2022

City of Victoria Development Tracker: <https://tender.victoria.ca/webapps/ourcity/prospero/search.aspx>

LUC: Current

1. 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, but no plans posted on the Devt Tracker as of 15 Apr 2022.
2. 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.
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. Status: Received Revised Plans 14 Apr 2022.
4. 1620 Blanshard, Gateway Green – Tri-Eagle & Jawl Residential – Temporary Use Permit to demolish the two-storey commercial building and provide 62 surface parking spaces. Staff recommendation to decline the TUP. In May 2021 the building on the site was demolished and the property is now fenced off. No other applications or notices have been filed or sent regarding the future of this lot. Status: Property is for sale as of Dec 2021. New information is expected re this property.
5. 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: Application Review by City 05 Apr 2022.
6. 1205 Blanshard/Capital Six – Jawl Properties with D’Ambrosio –Rezoning & Devt Permit applications for 15,792 sqm total/commercial floor area, with an FSR of 5.89:1, 44.35 m/10 storeys, 144 onsite parking stalls, 117 bike spots. Online alternate CALUC meeting

took place on 13 July 2021. Revised plans posted 13 Jan 2022. CALUC letter submitted 01 Feb 2022. Approved to go to Public Hearing at CotW 03 Feb 2022. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 04 Apr 2022.

7. Extending Patio Liquor Licenses through Summer 2022 – To extend “pandemic” patios until 31 Oct 2022 without requiring additional paperwork for operators. Total occupancy for each operation is not being expanded even if there are additional outdoor seats (there is no extension of occupancy while indoor occupancy has been restored). It was noted that it is the jurisdiction of the Provincial Liquor Inspectors to ensure compliance of occupancy limits. Approved by Council on 17 Mar 2022.
8. 1900 Douglas - Citrus and Cane – Change of Hours of Liquor Service for a Liquor Primary Licence to extend licenced service on Sunday from 12pm to 2am with no change in occupant load of 120 ppl. Current hours are from 12pm-2am Mon to Sat and 11am to 12am Sun. LUC letter submitted 01 Feb 2022. Status: Approved by Council on 17 Mar 2022.
9. 531 Yates St – Sonora Bar & Grill Mexican Fusion
 - a. The first application from Sept 2021 was for a Public Participation Entertainment for food primary licence with licenced hours of service from 9AM-2AM Mon-Sat and 9AM-12AM Sun with an occupant load of 130 people including a 14-person patio. The DRA LUC submitted a letter of response. Status: Declined by Council on 17 Mar 2022.
 - b. The second application for a New Liquor Primary Licence to create a dual licence was amended by Council to reduce hours of service from 9AM-12AM Sun-Thurs and 9AM-1AM Fri and Sat with outdoor patio hours of 9AM-11:30PM daily with the same occupancy and that the operation will convert to Liquor Primary only no later than 10PM. Status: Approved by Council on 17 Mar 2022.
10. 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: Application Review by City 10 Mar 2022.
11. 780 Blanshard/ BC Power Building – Reliance Properties – Rezoning to construct/add an 18-storey tower (17F residential + 1F amenity) above the existing 4-storey heritage registered building (hotel) 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. CALUC letter is being drafted.

LUC: Ongoing and Active

1. 1030 Fort – Jawl Properties w Cascadia Architecture – Rezoning and Devt Permit with Variance for a 6-storey (22.28m) market rental project with CRUs at grade and 30 residential units (20 x 1BD+den and 10 x studio) with FSR of 4:1. No onsite parking is proposed (24 req) with 56 bike parking spots (44 req). An online community meeting was held on 31 Aug 2021. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 03 Dec 2021. Revised plans posted to Devt Tracker 09 Feb 2022. Approved at ADP on 23 Feb 2022.

2. 517 Herald St – KILO Architecture/Neurotech 40 – Devt Permit to construct an enclosure at the rear north of the building. Status: With Applicant 18 Feb 2022.
3. DCAP Review – City Staff-led stakeholder engagement process. Ian has outlined many of the DRA LUC concerns regarding gaps and priorities. Draft DCAP Design Guidelines April 2021 circulated by staff on 13 April 2021. DRA priorities focused on livability shortcomings in the existing DCAP including increased tower separation, increased rear yard setbacks, limits to the number of towers per city block and minimum lot sizes for towers. Public feedback closed 07 May 2021. Final Draft and Report to Council was expected in November 2021. Status: Staff provided an update at Committee of the Whole on 17 Feb 2022. LUC letter submitted 16 Feb 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.
5. 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. Proposal includes: 5 & 4-storey podium with 34, 31 and 30 storey towers with an overall FSR of 6.06 (6.18 at 1045 Yates and 6.00 at 900 Yates), 1576 new rental apartments (Studios-3BDRMs), 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 rather than “public plaza” with notation that “Harris Green Public Park is a privately-owned and publicly accessible space.” Daycare at 1045 Yates is proposed at 484 m². It’s presumed that the daycare will be market, not subsidized or below-market.

Advisory Design Panel declined to support on 13 Jan 2021. Approved by 5-4 at CotW on Thurs 15 Jul 2021 to go to Public Hearing if the developer meets several conditions, including, but not limited to: increasing affordable units to at least 15 per cent (with at least 33 per cent during the first phase of development), increasing the number of two- and three-bedroom units, ensuring the public plaza is mostly “park-like green space,” providing five per cent accessible units and securing at least 450 sqm for childcare space. Status: Approved at CotW for Public Hearing on 28 Oct 2021. Staff Review of Revised Plans 16 Feb 2022 but it is uncertain whether the applicant has met all the conditions laid out by Council.

6. 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 space for Daycare.

Advisory Design Panel declined to support on 13 Jan 2021. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 16 Feb 2022 but it is uncertain whether the applicant has met all the conditions laid out by Council.

7. 845 Yates – Chard – Development Permit with Variance application for modifications to the through-block walkway and the terms of the Statutory Right-of-Way. A Variance to the Fence Bylaw is required to increase the height of the gates from 1.83m to 2.59m. Application Received and under Review by City 22 July 2021. With the understanding that there was new information from applicant, it was referred to 03 Feb 2022 daytime Council meeting but was not included on the 03 Feb 2022 agenda. Status: no new information on this application.
8. 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.
9. 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 unit market rental tower with zero vehicle parking and 317 bikes spots on R48 land and located in Fort St Heritage Corridor. Proposed FSR 7.97. The applicant is not proposing to rezone away from the R48 zone but is requesting a height variance. Several setback variances are sought which negatively effect livability. Setbacks have been increased but not yet assessed by the DRA LUC. LUC Letter sent 2 Feb 2020 based on 2019 plan. Went to ADP on 24 Feb 2021. Did not support and noted several design issues. Status: Revised plans posted under Staff Review 11 Jan 2022.
10. 1310-1312 Douglas – Delegated Heritage Alteration Permit – Reviewed by Heritage Advisory Panel on 14 Dec 2021. Request to install an accordion style gate across one of the recessed entryways in response to issues related to social issues/folks sleeping in the alcove, etc. The owner’s representative indicated that the current tenant, concerned for their safety, etc., had indicated that they would move if a solution was not found. The panel referenced the guidelines for fencing, gates, etc. and expressed concerns about the role that these types of interventions play in creating the impression that the downtown is a gated fortress. Staff were asked to continue to work with the applicant in developing a solution that would be in compliance with the guidelines.
11. 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.
12. City of Victoria Noise Bylaw Review – Staff report sharing staff’s preliminary review and seeking Council direction on the next steps. Staff evaluated enforcement challenges and

noise-related complaints at daytime Council 09 Dec 2021. No new information on this file to date.

13. 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. Status: Application Review by City Complete and With Applicant 01 Dec 2021.
14. City of Victoria Noise Bylaw Review – Staff report sharing staff’s preliminary review and seeking Council direction on the next steps. Staff evaluated enforcement challenges and noise-related complaints at daytime Council 09 Dec 2021.
15. Reported on 01 Nov 2021 by Parks Director, Thomas Soulliere, during the 2022 Draft Financial Plan discussions that a deliverable in 2022 by the Parks Department may include the development of a new playground in the Downtown area, although no site has been identified.
16. 1900 Store – Reliance Properties w D’Ambrosio – Rezoning to construct mixed use area to include light industrial, marine related uses, commercial, residential, live/work, arts & cultural uses, etc and new publicly accessible open spaces. 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. Status: No plans have been posted to the Development Tracker (as of 09 Oct 2021).
17. Chatham St/533 Chatham/530 Herald/532 Herald - Development Permit application for a new commercial building. No plans posted online. No information re developer but unless the property has been sold, it stands to reason that the applicant is Chris Lefevre. These properties were originally approved for the residential building referred to as Iron Works 2. Posted on the Devt Tracker 25 Jun 2021 and Application Review by City as of 20 July 2021.
18. 700 Douglas, Bus Depot – Bosa with James KM Cheng – Rezoning to construct long-term rental with ground floor commercial. Staff review of revised plans completed 4 Oct 2019 and remains With Applicant. A CALUC meeting has yet to take place for this project. There is a Land Use Covenant on property but it’s not clear what obligations are included. Will need to follow up with staff/applicant as this project proceeds. Status: Bus Depot building has been demolished as of July 2021.
19. 1244 Wharf – Salient Group – Heritage Alteration Permit 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.

20. 550 Pandora – Chinese Freemasons Housing Society & M’akola Devt Services with architect Alan Lowe – Rezoning with an OCP Amendment (OCP Amendment not listed on the Devt Tracker) for a 5-storey, 36-unit affordable-housing rental apartment building with 2 ground-floor commercial retail units. Proposed 3.62 FSR above 3.0 permitted with height of 16.17m above 15m permitted. Proposal includes 44 Class 1 bike spots required but not the 6 Class 2. Creation of affordable housing units will be funded by BC Housing but operated by Chinese Freemasons Housing Society. Status: Staff Review of Revised Plans 11 Sept 2020. Pre-CALUC meeting held on 15 Oct 2020. CALUC letter to be written and sent. The 30-day opportunity for public comment opened on Devt Tracker on 07 Dec 2020. City notifications were not sent out in a timely manner to meet the deadline, so they sent out a revised notice and the deadline for public comment was extended to 22 Jan 2021. A member of the public started a petition against this proposal on 14 Jan 21 and has garnered +2300 signatures and counting. Status: Staff Review complete and now With Applicant as of 15 Jan 2021. CALUC letter to be written and sent if project proceeds.
21. 1010 Fort St – Abstract Developments – Rezoning for the development of a 13-storey building with ground floor commercial and 55 residential above with 7 vehicle parking and 97 bike parking spots. Proposed FSR 5.37. CALUC letter submitted 1 Oct 2019. Status: Council on 2 July 2020. Referred back to staff to work with the applicant for possible 6-storey condo that complies with city requirements (heritage, planning, etc) with request from Council to pay the \$250k to affordable housing fund (a commitment made re Bellewood Park project) before 31 Dec 2020 deadline.
22. On 04 Jul 2019 at Committee of the Whole, Council unanimously passed the recommendation “That Council consider as part of the 2020 budget discussions the allocation of some new assessed revenue for parks and green space acquisition and amenities in neighbourhoods where development is occurring.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – APRIL 2022

1. Recent activities:

Franco Fest: We built on our successful relationship with La Société Francophone du Victoria, participating in Franco Fest, the Société's annual celebration of francophone culture and community, held this year on March 19. Featuring French food, musical performances and dancing activity, with a variety of market vendors and several other NGO's. As had been approved by the Board, Eric Buhne was engaged to take on some of the planning and delivery responsibilities for the event.

A big thank you to Doug and Eric who helped me set-up the tent, tables, and the activities — the locally designed postcard for children to colour and plant propagation activities for the adults. And a thank you also to Trevor and Jordan who relieved Doug and me, and to Darragh who finished out the evening with Eric and helped return supplies and equipment to storage sites.

Collectively, we reached out to numerous event goers and shared information about the DRA and issues of importance to downtown residents including green space and community gardens.

Creative re-use: On behalf of the DRA, and as a lead up to Earth Day, on April 6 Supply Victoria delivered a fun and interactive recycling workshop for downtown residents – our first use of the Neighbourhood Hub located at the Crystal Gardens. The participants were lead through the intricacies of basket weaving using old and otherwise to be discarded ethernet cables and took home their finished products and a new-found knowledge.

Despite some fairly wide pre-event advertising, the turnout to the event was lower than we had hoped but we did get positive feedback from among those who attended.

2. Upcoming activities:

Asian History Month: This year's celebrations will be delivered by the Urban Liveability Committee and will feature an in-person version of last year's virtual Tea Party.

Blossom Your Pride: Conversations are underway with Victoria Pride to repeat last year's successful event, held in conjunction with the YSG, in June.

3. City of Victoria:

The application process for the 2022 *My Great Neighbourhood Grants* is now open and opportunities to access grant funds for a 2022 Comedy Night, building on last year's successful event, will be pursued.

4. Welcome Package For New Residents:

DRA promotional materials to welcome and connect with new residents to the

downtown are still in the developmental stage. When the materials are in a final draft stage they will be circulated to the Board for review and comments. First distribution is planned be to residents of newly constructed buildings, with subsequent reach out to all new residents as they can be identified. Volunteers interested in working on this project can contact the Committee chair.

5. Up-coming In-person Committee Meeting

Now that the Public Health Officer is permitting in-person events, a Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m., at the new Neighbourhood Hub. James will be joining us and we hope to do some planning for the summer and into the fall. Although not a legal requirement, we will still be asking for proof of vaccination, so that all members might attend without worry.

Submitted by:
Dianne Flood,
Committee Chair

Communications and Membership Committee Report – April 2022

Update on Committee activities:

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members:**
 - The March newsletter was issued on March 15. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that it was opened by a 41.9% of subscribers, lower than our average of 46.6%. The items most frequently clicked on were the article on the Reliance Properties development at 780 Blanshard and the Share Your Voice item. We intend to put together a newsletter by April 22 and welcome contributions from Board members.
 - An event reminder for the Basket Weaving Event was sent on March 31. It was opened by 51.1% of subscribers.

- **Web site**
 - We continue to add posts to the News page and add events to the Events page of our new website.
 - 583 site sessions over the past month (up 30% from the previous month)

- **Social Media**
 - The number of posts over the past month, and the current number of followers are:
 - Facebook - 19 posts, 898 followers
 - Instagram - 9 posts, 411 followers
 - Twitter - 14 tweets, 1132 followers

- **Other**
 - **6** new members and 6 renewals since the last report
 - 5 new newsletter subscribers since the last report

Submitted by
Doug Boyd
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee

Report submitted by Doug Boyd for the April 2022 Board Meeting

The DRA was invited to send one delegate to represent the association on the newly developed Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Community Liaison Committee (GVHA CLC). I volunteered to represent the DRA. Committee members include representatives from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, CRD, COV, Town of Esquimalt, DVBA, GVCC, Destination GV, Victoria Cruise Industry Alliance, Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society, Western Stevedoring (the company that services the cruise ships), and two community members at large.

I attended the 4th CLC meeting on March 3. Topics discussed included a 2022 Cruise Season Update, a CLC process review and sub-committee reports. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8.

The Transportation Sub-Committee, which I am a member of, met on March 17. The major item on the agenda that is pertinent to downtown was port traffic operations and routing of cruise shuttle busses. Routing has changed from the last year of operation (in 2019) and busses are now routed primarily on Dallas Road, Blanshard Street, View Street, and Douglas Street. Drop off and pick-up location will be along the east side of Government Street, between View and Johnson, which has also changed from the last year of operation. Contact me if you wish to see a copy of the report including the routing map.

The GVHA anticipates 350 port calls beginning with the first ship in two years in a Canadian port which was on April 9. The GVHA is planning a media event for that date.

Please advise me if there are any items you wish me to raise with the committee.