

Victoria West Community Association
Board Meeting Minutes
May 26th, 2009

Present: Board members Jo-Ann Youmans (Chair) Bernie Gaudet, Mike Medland, Audrey Whittall, Louise Wood, Diane Carr, Grant Keddie, Michael Hawkins, Patti Parkhouse, Nan Judd (Recorder) and City of Victoria Councillor John Luxton

Regrets: Jody Watson, Charlene Simon, Jane Baigent

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

1. Approval of minutes April 28, 2009:

- Item #6 amended to read: "Motion to include some of the **core principles** in a letter to the City."

Moved by Nan Judd, seconded by Mike Medland, to approve the minutes as amended.

Carried

2. Approval of agenda:

Moved by Nan Judd, seconded by Mike Medland, to approve the agenda as circulated.

Carried

3. Business arising from the floor

- Michael Hawkins reminded the board and members of the presentation on sustainable and affordable housing, featuring a guest speaker(s) from England (Simon Mitchell & Stuart Woodward) on June 1st from 10 am – 12 noon at the Empress Hotel. Contact Michael for further information.
- Andrew McKinnon from Dockside Green announced there would be open houses showing 5 different suites in the new phase of the project on Saturday May 30th and Sunday June 1st.

4. Old business

- Committee terms of reference approval deferred to June 30th meeting.
- Visions map: discussions still in process.

5. Y update: No report

6. President's report:

- The Needle Exchange Committee has not met for 2 months; however, the Site Selection Committee has met and discussions are ongoing.
- CAN: No report

- New members: The following were approved for membership:
Arianne Truong, Janice Abe, Linda Matterson, Gerry Karagianis, Michele Buchmann, Nina Velasquez, Joyce Elliott., Norm Quail, Carolyn Morris, Jennifer Ellenton, Susan Harrigan-Shust, Hemp & Company (one business membership)

Vice President's Report

- The revised Constitution and Bylaws were distributed and members were invited to attend a town hall meeting on May 12th to discuss and give input into revisions. Several board members and no regular members attended the meeting. The final draft will be circulated and an extraordinary meeting called to approval the revised Constitution and Bylaws on June 30th at 7 pm, prior to the regular monthly meeting.

7. Treasurer's report

- Mike Medland presented the report noting changes to the format. Any outstanding obligations not included in the statement should be identified immediately to Mike.

Moved by Mike Medland, seconded by Grant Keddie, to receive the Treasurer's report as circulated. Carried.

8. Report from City Hall

- John took the community's concerns about the approach from downtown to Vic West along Esquimalt Road expressed at the association's last meeting. He advised Council that calming strategies will be needed in any new development as the "S" curve is anticipated to be removed with the replacement of the blue bridge. The new bridge is anticipated to be constructed on the north side of the existing bridge to allow uninterrupted traffic flow through the two year construction. Several concepts for the new bridge are being considered and will go through a public process before the final selection by Council.
- Bridges Park will be completed with completion of Lot E of the Railyards development. The unfinished portion of the Galloping Goose Trail will be completed with Lot G. John will advise Council there is an appetite to have the park project moved forward.
Mike Medland raised a concern about the lack of process around the Railyard's variance application to decrease the number of parking spaces in the next phase. John responded that a public hearing will be initiated when the Committee of the Whole recommendation about the variance gets to Council.

Moved by Grant Keddie, seconded by Mike Medland, that the association write to Council recommending that as the Railyards development has not met its' former obligation to complete the Galloping Goose no further development permits should be approved until the work is done. Carried.

- John will look at past council meeting minutes to determine when deferral of park the Goose completion was approved by council.

- Trees are not been planted on the new portion of the Tyee Road centre median to avoid underground utilities. It was pointed out that this is in conflict with the Association's prior understanding of what would be planted on the median.
- Float plane operators were invited to a public meeting to discuss harbour issues. Harbour Air was unwilling to attend a public meeting, and Council is not willing to attend a private meeting.
- With regards to the proposed marina at Songhees, Council is checking the potential of a public meeting where Provincial and Federal authorities can lay out the approval process required. Federal and Provincial agencies are months away from approval and are willing to hear from the City regarding public interest issues such as riparian rights, public access and view corridors. The City wants to have planning principles in place.
- The house on Craigflower identified by the public as a drug house was actioned by police.

9. *Parks & Environment report:* No report

10. *Food Security/Community Gardens:*

- Patti attended the ground breaking for the edible garden at City Hall.
- The community is reminded that there are edible plants growing in Banfield Commons and are there for harvesting.

11. *Transportation report:* No report

12. *Harbour report:*

- Activity on harbour issues in a holding pattern waiting outcomes of meetings of various groups and levels of government.
- There are 5000 -10,000 signatures on petitions to stop the proposed marina development that is currently being monitored by the committee.

13. *Communications report:*

- The new website: www.victoriawest.ca is up and running. It was suggested that a notice advertising the site be included on the VWCA bulletin board at the "Y". Nan will put up the sign used at Vic West Fest
- A meeting of the Board to discuss management of the website is requested by Louise Woods.

14. *Land Use report:*

- The LUC considered a rezoning application by the owner of 424 Skinner (at Russell) to allow a small infill house on the back portion of the property. A letter to the City summarizing comments gathered at the meeting will be drafted and circulated to the LUC for approval prior to being forwarded to the City.
- There was a question of whether the existing house under consideration for rezoning is eligible for heritage designation. John Luton clarified that heritage status is given upon application by the owner.

- At a recent Town Hall meeting, Bernie was impressed by the genuine interest of Council members to fully participate in meaningful consultation process. He feels they are committed to receiving input and collaborating with 3 key stakeholders: the public, staff and council, and to the core value that public participate in the process collecting input in an active, rather than passive way, i.e. participation in the process, not consultation (top down.)

15. Announcements:

- There will be an Emergency Preparedness workshop at the Burnside Gorge Community Association on June 10th from 7 – 9 pm.

16. *Adjournment:* The meeting adjourned.