

Victoria West Community Association
Public Board Meeting
Tuesday Jan 25, 2011
7:00 pm

Present: Jo-Ann Youmans, Nan Judd, Mike Medland, Audrey Whittall, Diane Carr, Grant Keddie, Michael Hawkins, Jody Watson, Megan Parrish, Louise Wood and Joy Illington.

Regrets: Bernie Gaudet, Patti Parkhouse,

There was a presentation by CRD staff on the CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy with an overview of the initiative and how input can be provided by groups and individuals. For more information www.crd.bc.ca/sustainability

The Minutes of Nov 30, 2010 were corrected in the section about the Harbour Report and were then approved.

The agenda was approved with the addition of two items: support for the commuter rail link, and the Vic West Fest.

1. New Business:

- Annual General Meeting

Nan referenced that notice had gone out to the membership of the AGM on Feb 22, 2011 with a "save the date" reminder. She reported that the Nomination Committee had solicited candidates to stand for election. Four new people were introduced as candidates: Rueben Bronee, Mark Fournier, Marne Jensen and Jack Meredith. Eight current members of the Board were introduced as candidates: Nan Judd, Mike Medland, Audrey Whittall, Grant Keddie, Megan Parrish and Louise Wood. Given that there are about 425 members in the Association- 42 people are required to form quorum.

- Vic West Fest

Nan reported that the Fest will be held on May 14th. This festival has had food, music and presenters in the past. Nan invited participation from the audience to suggest presenters and themes. Volunteers are invited to help with planning and carrying this community celebration forward.

- Commuter Rail Bridge

A member of the public raised the issue of community support for financial help from the provincial government to pay for a rail crossing as part of the Johnson Street bridge construction, from the beginning of the project. Others commented that with leadership candidates in both political parties, this was an excellent time to ask for commitments to this project.

The City Councillor noted that the cost estimate was \$11M for construction of a rail crossing over the bridge now. The City is supportive of a rail crossing and has written to the premier's office and the Ministry of Transportation and 12 candidates to request financial support for this. If the rail crossing is not built now, it is estimated that costs will at least double.

Motion proposed by Grant: that the Victoria West Community Association write to the provincial government to request financial support to pay for the construction of a rail crossing over the new Johnson Street bridge, consistent with the regional transportation plan. Motion carried.

2. The President's Report

Jo-Ann Youmans noted that the Association is close to signing the operating agreement with the City. She noted recent events at the Centre included a Christmas party and that the Fireplace Room had received a generous donation from Brian at Rona Hardware of a fireplace. She encouraged people to register for the Centre's Spring programs- now listed on the web site. www.victoriawest.ca

New Members applications from Sandra and Ted Kurvers, Ritchie Baggs, Kim Carver, and Marlena Turner were received and approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Mike Medland reported that the *capital* grant from the City is now largely spent or allocated. The next operating grant payment will not be until March so we will have two months of reserves to see us through. He responded to a question about the City grant by saying we do expect to receive the *operating* grant to community centres that helps to pay for the janitor service and the coordinator's wages.

4. City Report

Marianne Alto will be the new City Councillor liaison. She reported on some very preliminary interest in the Point Hope Shipyards in developing some further lands, possibly enclosing more of its' work in the future. There are on-going discussions about potential renovations (upgrades) to the Bay St bridge once there are sufficient funds, there are RFP's for initial assessments and design proposals of the Johnson St bridge, and she reported on current budget discussions at the City with the goal of restricting a tax lift to less than 4%.

Craigflower Road is on schedule, but rain gardens may not occur.

5. Communications Report.

Louise noted the new sign outside the community Centre. She showed a couple of examples of a prototype of a newsletter that the Association could produce with Community Centre news and local events.

6. Harbour Report

Audrey gave a status update on 4 issues: derelict boats in the Gorge waterway, the stormwater inspection system that prevents contaminants from being flushed into the Gorge waterway and surrounding marine environment, the proposed mega-yacht marina on the north shore and the Transport Canada safety management study for the Harbour Airport. Bylaws are needed to provide municipal and regional governments with the authority to force removal of derelict boats.

7. Parks and Environment Report

Jody noted that although the City has opted not to extend a contract with BC Hazmat Management Ltd, it simply indicates that City employees will now be doing the inspections to ensure that standards against putting contaminants into the storm water system are being followed.

8. Land Use Committee Report

No report was provided in Bernie's absence.

9. Community Gardens

In Patti's absence, there was a reminder that because the Rayn or Shine community gardens spaces are full for the 2011 garden year already, people on the waitlist and those interested in growing food or supplying land for gardens can meet one another through LifeCycles program www.sharingbackyards.com/ Jo-Ann noted there was a project that the Association had endorsed with VicWest Elementary to greenscape the area behind the School with the help of a grant from Sutton Realty. Volunteers are asked to help.

10. Announcements

Jo-Ann Youmans was thanked for her 13 years of involvement with the Association- a decade of which was as President. There is no question that the Centre would not be operating as it currently is without her leadership. She received the applause and gifts with characteristic modesty and commented on the hard and rewarding work that had been accomplished to date, all with the help of the community.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm

Next Public Board Meeting is the AGM: February 22, at 7pm at the Centre