

Victoria West Community Association Board Minutes-DRAFT
Public Meeting Tuesday, September 28, 2010

In attendance: Nan Judd, Audrey Whittall, Grant Keddie, Mike Medlin, Michael Hawkins, Jodi Watson, Diane Carr, Bernie Gaudet, Louise Wood.

Regrets: Jo-Ann Youmans, Joy Illington, Megan Parrish, Patti Parkhouse.

Commenced 7:05pm

Approval of meeting minutes for July 6, 2010 without any changes.

Additions to the Agenda: Jane Baigent to speak about Place-making meeting.

1. President's report (Nan sitting in for Jo-Ann)

Recap of summer activities:

- biweekly meetings of the committee of the whole developing policies and procedures, discussing purchase of furniture, equipment, hiring of centre coordinator
- community centre renovations during August that included painting, extensive cleaning, stripping of floors and re-polishing,
- hired centre coordinator Suzette Delmage who then began organizing programs and planning for the grand opening.
- It was noted that Suzette has done an excellent job starting from nothing and putting together fall programs for the centre. Suzette is the only staff person. There is a part time person now helping. This is a lean operation currently, but more programming will happen with support and input from the community.
- Jo-Ann thanks in absentia the volunteers who made the opening day a success, and to the city for renovations and funding support.
- The centre is seeking a volunteer coordinator (i.e. a person responsible for coordinating volunteers).
- The board will be meeting this week for a strategic planning session to determine the course of the next two years.

Question from the floor regarding what has been done in the building since the Y left , and a request to post this list on the website:

- deep cleaning to most rooms
- general repairs and maintenance
- stripping floors
- sound baffles removed from gym because they were retaining moisture and causing musty odour.
- Equipment purchase:
 - phone system, computers for staff, internet and Wifi set up, PA system, projector and screen.
 - Office furniture, tables and chairs for the centre, sports equipment, picnic tables, BBQ.
 - Funds have been maximized, as all purchases were made after extensive bargaining to get best price. A number of assets came from the closure of Queenswood.

Question from the floor about allowed uses of kitchen:

- the kitchen can be used for classes, demonstrations and communal cooking, but not cooking for the purposes of selling as it is not a commercial kitchen.

2. New member applications were read and approved.

Suzette (centre coordinator) sent a request by note that people pay for courses when they sign up to avoid having to cancel courses for lack of enrolment. Also, there is a recreation survey available at the front table.

Diane Carr moved that we send out this request and the survey to the public as soon as possible. A survey could be set up with an on-line host such as web monkey. Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: Mike Medland

- Through the summer although there were no programs running, the association was spending on the development of the programs and acquiring the equipment needed to run the centre. September will see the first program revenues.

- Cleaning contract

- Joy researched the best cleaning contract and proposes the following:
That the board enter a 6-month contract with Wendy Cairns of Servisafe Janitorial Ltd to provide cleaning services, all equipment and LEED approved cleaning supplies for 5 days a week, 6 hours a day. Contract to be renewed in 6 months, pending our City grant and passing inspections by city. Wendy has been cleaning the building throughout the renovations and thereafter has done excellent work.

Motion to accept this contract carried.

4. Agenda addition: Craigflower Place-making and Road Improvements Meeting: Jane Baigent

- After 4 years of community planning, the city implemented community input with the Craigflower road improvements.
- A display will be set up in the fireplace room on Wednesday October 6.
- There is some discussion about the moving of parking places in front of the Spiral cafe to allow more community space.
- Introduction to long term “place-making” starts at the October meeting
- Place-making is defined as using common spaces for people things and community-building.

5. Parks Report: Jodi Watson

- Parks master plan is still on hold till the draft OCP (official community plan) is finalized in December.
- Cecelia Ravine has a park plan, Vic West parks are still pending
- Alston and Langford boulevards—parking on the boulevard led to degradation and then the city paved over it. Community wants more say in how the city proceeds in such matters.
- Selkirk trestle lighting proposal-- Red 7 Services are proposing to donate lighting of 24 lights, 24 hours a day. Lights are at 20% in the dark and are activated to turn on fully with movement. Not all members are in favour of this proposal, as there has been no reports of problems on the Selkirk Trestle at night, and there may be interruptions to fish and wildlife patterns. Consultation with the community is pending.
- Tree appreciation day in Banfield Park on November 7 with plantings of native species.
- City had planned to grass over flower beds in front of the centre but the community asked them to plant native shrubs instead. Currently the plot is full of weeds.

6. Harbour Report: Audrey Whittall
 - rezoning of the Crown water lot approved by city council on September 7 reduces the lot about 40%. Feasibility for the proposed mega- yacht marina is still unknown
 - An aeronautical study released by Save Victoria Harbour is being examined.
 - Two judicial reviews of the proposed use of the harbour are gathering information and will likely continue for some time.
 - The Harbour committee will participate in the Malatest research study.
 - Boats on the Gorge: zoning laws for effluent don't apply to that area, out of transport Canada's jurisdiction. There are some zoning mechanisms available to city, and the police are following up. The presence of boats, including derelict ones, is drawing a lot of complaints from citizens.

7. Land Use Report: Bernie Gaudet
 - Edward and Alston resident applied for rezoning to divide the lot
 - letter sent to the city outlining reasons for opposition to the pending approval of the previous PSC Foods lot on Esquimalt Rd for a BMW car lot. Reasons included the non completion of the OCP, that this is a potential walking corridor to downtown, that it conflicts with the green vision of Dockside Green, that it marks the entrance to our community, among other reasons.

8. Communications Report: Louise Wood
 - a separate page has been set up on the website for the community centre, which Suzette is now managing.
 - There was a request from the floor to move the visioning session information from the main site onto the community centre page.
 - There was some discussion about what types of topics should go onto the “hot topics page” with some wanting only controversial topics or issues the community association takes a position on, and others suggesting all current topics, controversial or not.

9. Gardens: Patti Parkhouse absent, but Nan thanked her and helpers for creating another successful corn roast.

10 Announcements:

Craigflower Place-making and Improvements Open House, Wednesday October 6, 7 – 9pm in the Fireplace Room at the community centre.

Next Public Meeting: Oct 26, 2010 7pm

Minutes: Louise