

Victoria West Community Association Board
General Public Meeting

April 26, 2011

In attendance: Mike Medland, Megan Parrish, Grant Keddie, Rueben Bronee, Jack Meredith, Nan Judd, Mark Fournier, Audrey Whittall, Louise Wood and Bernie Gaudet.

Regrets: Joy Illington, Marne Jensen, and Councilor Marianne Alto

Commenced 7:05

Presentation from the City of Victoria on the draft Official Community Plan (OCP)
Kristina Bouris and Cameron Scott came from the city to talk about the OCP which they are now bringing out to the community for feedback.

How to provide feedback by June 10

- open houses including VWCC May 7 and downtown
- written submission by email, as a community association
- online survey

The fundamental focus of the plan is land use management and transportation.

Questions from attendees arose regarding the lack of a new neighbourhood plan for Vic West, concern that village centres are centered around shopping malls, Victoria as a learning centre has not been identified, encouraging food production, height of buildings on Esquimalt Rd up to 21 stories. Presentation lasted one hour with healthy engagement from those present.

Meeting begins 8:05 pm

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- a. Changes to the agenda
 - no report from Marne Jensen or Marianne Alto
 - Add agenda item for communications

Motion to approve the agenda: Rueben Bronee

Motion carried.

- b. Errors or omissions from minutes of March 29
 - request from past president that chairs be identified by name in reports
 - naming of committee members: Rueben's name misspelled.

Motion to approve amendments: Mike Medland

Motion carried.

- c. Old Business or business from the floor, none

2. President's report: Nan Judd

- a. Operating agreement returned from the city, board has approved so agreement will be in place

3. Secretary's Report not given as Joy Illington is away.
 - a. New member application Valerie and Kevin Sheppard on Wilson St. Motion to approve application: Megan Parrish. Motion Carried.
A question arose about the welcoming material offered to new members. A new member spoke and said that she received a "lovely welcoming letter" with her new membership.

4. Treasurer's report: Mike Medland
 - a. We are running slightly ahead in terms of revenues to the centre but that doesn't take into consideration summer programs
 - b. We received the grant from city for salaries for cleaning and staff for the first four months of the year, and will receive funding for the rest of the year in July.
 - c. We still have some capital for spending.
 - d. Rentals have been good, ie advanced poll this past weekend, inquiries are up regarding facilities.
A request from an attendee was made for a list of purchases the centre made since opening to get an idea how the money was spent.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report: Bernie Gaudet.
Motion carried moved to approve this report.

5. Communications report: Rueben Bronee and Louise Wood
 - a. Reuben presented the VWCAs new Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Motion that the board approve the release of social media platform (Facebook and Twitter): Louise Wood
discussion to the motion:
Patti – requested that any info regarding launch to go onto Vic West Fest poster be submitted in the next few days
request made that policies be in place before others start posting to Facebook.
Rueben to create an info package on guidelines of posting for board and staff.
Motion carried

 - b. Sign on front of the building: Nan
We need to find a solution to front wall as the city's plan was rejected by board in December. City considers a sign as potentially harmful to the brick, so they would prefer painting over the brick or attaching a sign just over the Y sign.
There was some urgency to have the sign done by Vic West Fest, however the majority was in favour of taking the time to plan the sign (and the surrounding wall) as a feature of the community. There was also some discussion of changing the existing logo or creating a new logo for the centre.
Louise presented a few possible alternatives to the current proposal for the sign.
Discussion to form a task group to create sign: branding, placemaking, identity
Nan will email city to hold off until a plan is in place. In the meantime the communications committee will form a task group.

6. Transportation: Jack Meredith
 - a. E&N rail coming through community but no plan for signage
 - b. Tyee and Wilson traffic still cutting the corner
 - c. Johnson St bridge and Vic West entrance
 - d. Crosswalks at Raynor and Coventry are not controlled, they are lighted only. This causes concern regarding safety.
 - e. There is also visibility issue re the red light in front of the community centre, cars frequently go through it.
 - f. Traffic circle at Catherine and Bay not well received
 - g. Kimta Rd potential for extra traffic once E&N is completed
 - h. 30km zones being ignored, no traffic calming suggested
 - i. speed indicators coming
 - j. city will try to remove machinery and add turfing of boulevard before Vic West Fest

6. Community Projects: Grant Keddie
Vic West Fest planning going well.

7. Food Security: Patti Parkhouse
 - a. new plot in front of centre, plan to plant it at Vic West Fest
 - b. request from Vantreight farms to set up food box program, would like to set up a drop off centre for their boxes. They need a formal agreement, and request that the board review the request.

8. Community Centre: Mark Fournier
Contacted architects to do an occupancy capacity assessment for the centre.

9. Land use: Bernie Gaudet
 - a. Re: OCP. Bernie proposed a motion that VWCA draft a letter with community concerns from the last land use meeting and tonight's comments regarding the OCP. Bernie is in favour of having a formal discussion with city regarding our concerns. Motion carried.
 - b. Rezoning at 720 Pine Street, city is recommending against it proceeding. The opinion of the community was generally favourable but one neighbour was opposed due to perceived negative impacts on view corridors.
 - c. Dockside, Railyard and Bayview, have been invited to provide an update to community on plans. Next update of Bayview will be at next land use meeting on May 17.

10. Harbour: Audrey Whittall
 - a. Audrey moved that the VWCA provide logo to go on the Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society website. Motion passed. Audrey to send the address to the communications committee so they can forward the logo.

11. Motion to receive committee reports: Megan Parrish. Motion carried
12. Announcements

- a. Next meeting May 31
- b. Open house at the Centre on the Official Community Plan May 7 10am-2pm
- c. Vic West Fest May 14 in Banfield Park and at the Centre: 11-2
- d. Vic West Art Quest May 1 – 30, opening May 13.

Adjournment 9:25.