

Victoria West Community Association
General Board Meeting
Tuesday March 29, 2011
7:00 pm

Present:, Nan Judd, Bernie Gaudet, Mike Medland, Audrey Whittall, Marne Jensen, Rueben Bronee, Grant Keddie, Mark Fournier, Megan Parrish, Jack Meredith, Louise Wood and Joy Illington.

Regrets: Jo-Ann Youmans.

There was a presentation by City of Victoria, Transportation section staff on their plans to install a new crosswalk in the 100 block of Wilson Street to connect Vic West Park with Westside Village. Questions and comments were welcomed. A further discussion developed about street parking restrictions and Jack Meredith, Chair of Transportation Committee made a commitment to discuss this aspect and other issues further with the Transportation staff with maps of the neighbourhood so that an overall strategy that met the needs of residents could be mapped out.

The Agenda was approved with the correction of which person was presenting Committee Reports, and the addition of two items for information: Selkirk Trestle Lighting Report from the CRD and the renewal of the contract with Servisafe Janitorial Ltd.

The Minutes of Jan 25, 2011 were corrected in Item 3 Treasurer's Report to read that the *capital* grant from the City is now largely spent or allocated- not the *operating* grant. For clarity's sake the minutes now also read that we do expect to receive the standard *operating* grant that pays for the janitor service and the coordinator's wages. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Grant and passed.

1. Old Business:

There was no old business.

2. Business from the floor:

There was no business raised from the floor.

3. President's Report:

- The President introduced the officers and Chairs of Committees as appointed by the Board of Directors on March 15,2011. They are as follows: Nan Judd, President; Megan Parrish, Vice President; Mike Medland, Treasurer; Joy Illington, Secretary; Bernie Gaudet, Chair of Land

Use Committee; Audrey Woodall, Chair of Harbour Committee; Rueben Bronee and Louise Wood, co-chairs of Communications Committee; Mark Fournier, Chair of Community Centre Committee; Jack Meredith, Chair of Transportation Committee; Marne Jensen, Chair of Parks and Environment Committee; and Grant Keddie, Chair of Community Projects and Capacity Building Committee.

- There was one new member application from G. Golightly and on a motion from Joy, that membership was approved.
- The President noted receipt of a report by a contractor made to the CRD on the proposal to light the Selkirk Trestle. The contractor had recommended against the lighting of the trestle for various reasons, most to do with safety and deterring lingering at night. A short discussion ensued with comments from the Board and from the public attending the meeting, with a consensus of opinion agreeing with the contractor's recommendation.

4. Contract Renewal with Servisafe Janitorial Ltd.

Joy Illington informed the Board that a 6 month contract approved in 2010 that went to March 31st had a renewal clause for a further 6 months under the same terms that was conditional on two items. The first was that the City perform an inspection of the premises, and that inspection had been done and was positive, and the second condition was that the Association received confirmation that the operating grant which pays for this contract was going to be renewed. The City had confirmed this to the Treasurer. Accordingly the contract would be extended for a further 6 months to September 30, 2011.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mike Medland referred to a written report previously tabled with the Board on March 15th. He noted that the fiscal year of the Association runs from November to October so that we are 4 months into our fiscal year 2010-2011. He referred to the operating grant from the City which the Association has received one third of at the end of March and will receive the remaining two-thirds at the end of July. He noted the Association is running at a slight deficit now, given the lag in receiving the operating grant, but upon questioning, advised that with continued revenues from programmes and being prudent with expenditures, the deficit will not continue to the end of this year. The current budget had not taken into account revenues from the Y after-school programme (\$800/month) after June of 2011, but the Y has just advised that they will carry the programme forward through to June 2012.

A motion by Marne to receive the Treasurer's Report as verbally presented was passed.

6. Report from City Hall:

Councillor Marianne Alto reported on her interest in the views of the Vic West Association on the lighting of the Selkirk Trestle as the City had just received the contractors report to the CRD as well. The federal funding Agreement for the Johnson Street bridge replacement was signed just before the federal election was called so construction may occur as early as this summer.

Finally, she mentioned that no new developments have occurred at the City with respect to the proposed development of the marina on the north side of the harbour and it is unlikely that there will be any further decisions forthcoming until a new federal Minister of Transportation is named.

7. Committee Reports.

Land Use Report: Bernie Gaudet reported that a news item mentioning Bayview's interest in finishing off the Round House may result in an invitation to present to the Committee. Work is proceeding with Lot G at the Railyards- this is a commitment from last year and this is the phase that may involve the community gardens.

On the point about the proposed Johnson St. bridge construction, there has been a longstanding request from the Board to involve the Association in the design plans for the elimination of the S curve and the land use planning for the land around the bridge. This seems to have been overlooked and the Councillor committed to follow that up so that the Association can be involved before June 2011.

The Association also has an interest in any building to accommodate a train passenger station in Vic West, whether or not it is in the Round House. The Councillor mentioned discussions at the City recognizing the need for a mass transit option to take people from the train to the city centre.

Finally, the Official Community Plan was mentioned and there will be presentations at the Centre on May 7th. Members are invited to join this Committee.

Harbour Report Audrey Whittall noted the recent announcement that the developer of the proposed mega-yacht marina and local First Nations have entered into an Accommodation Agreement is a requirement for the First Nations traditional territorial interest in the sea bed. Approvals have not yet been granted by the federal government under the Navigable Waters Protection Act, by the province for a license of occupancy on the Crown water lot or by the City for a building permit.

The Harbour Committee continues to express concern to the Province and the City about the need for Bylaws to be adopted which will effectively deal with derelict vessels in the harbour.

The James Bay Air Quality Report notes that air quality in the Songhees is adversely affected by the cruise ship industry. Both the GVHA and the VEHS

have air quality on their list of management priorities for the next quarter. The cruise ship industry should be encouraged to commence using lower sulphur emission fuel commencing with the 2011 season, rather than waiting for compliance with recently passed guidelines requiring use of such fuel by August 2012.

A motion was made by Audrey that the Association correspond with the Ministry of Environment and VIHA requesting that the Songhees area in Victoria West be included in all future monitoring of air quality. The motion was passed.

Communication Report:

Louise Wood and Rueben Bronee led a discussion about whether to spend \$80 to add more mailboxes to the website for Director's to use or whether to improvise a g-mail solution as a transition to a better host site. The latter was preferred. The co-chairs have discussed an improved web site, different ways of communicating with members including use of social media tools and an electronic newsletter as opposed to a print newsletter. Members are invited to join this Committee.

Community Centre Report:

Mark Fournier noted that this is a new Committee and will be involved with fundraising for improved programming at the Centre, with governance of the Centre, and to ensure that the priorities and needs of the community are reflected at the Centre. An update was provided in response to a question about a Volunteer Coordinator-a person was selected but subsequently received a full time job offer so this volunteer position is still unfilled. Members are invited to join this Committee.

Community Projects Report

Grant Keddie reported that the Committee has held planning meetings to hold a community picnic in Banfield Park for the Vic West Festival on May 14. A description of proposed activities for children and adults was given. The next meeting is April 4 to which an event planner has been invited. All ideas and volunteers may contact Grant at gkeddie@telus.net

It was noted that the cultural series of talks raised \$370 for the purchase of a screen to be used at the Centre.

Parks and Environment Report

Marne Jensen expressed her strong interest in having parks be celebrated and be publicly known and welcome to be used in the neighbourhood. Members are invited to join this Committee. It was noted that two organizations previously funded by the CRD have lost their funding- the Gorge Waterway and Friends of the Gorge and this heightens the need for this Committee to be active.

Transportation: Jack Meredith mentioned the recent history of the placemaking event as having a positive effect on road, bike and sidewalk construction planning. He would also like to reflect the interests of the neighbourhood in

longer term planning – including one mentioned by Transition Victoria where VanCity is prepared to fund 5 pilot projects as neighbourhoods look at integrated planning for energy, water use, food security, waste reduction and transportation uses. The deadline for the grant application is April. He moved a motion that he and Patti Parkhouse will look further into the feasibility of Vic West applying to be one of the pilot projects, and asked for the Association’s support in making the application if the benefits were apparent. Motion approved. Members are invited to join this Committee.

8. Announcements

- A Town Hall will be held at the Centre on Thursday April 7 at 7pm where the Mayor and Councillors are prepared to discuss the current and future budget challenges.
- The Official Community Plan will be noted at the next Open Board meeting on April 26 at the Centre at 7 pm. and an Open House full presentation will be made at the Centre on May 7.
- The Vic West Fest will be held May 14th 10am -2pm at Banfield Park

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm

Next Public Board Meeting is April 26 at 7pm at the Centre