

Victoria West Community Association
General Meeting – October 25th, 2011
7pm - Victoria West Community Centre

Board Members in attendance: Mike Medland, Grant Keddie, Nan Judd, Mark Fournier, Audrey Whittall, Bernie Gaudet, Joy Illington and Louise Wood.

Regrets: Jack Meredith and Rueben Bronee

1. Update on Johnson St Bridge Replacement Project

City staff provided information on the project progress to date, upcoming construction activities, changes to traffic approaches and landscaping possibilities for the resulting park. The slide show is available at www.johnsonstreetbridge.com. There were many questions about pedestrian, and bike access, about bridge height and what would happen if train service or rapid transit was implemented. The main request made to staff was for greater involvement in the actual planning design as the Association wishes to engage and have valuable and meaningful input. City staff were reminded that Mayor Fortin had acknowledged the interests of this community in the bridge right-of-way design. City staff were asked to provide a longer workshop for Vic West residents to provide their input. It was suggested that an overlay be used on the maps so that people can see how the traffic patterns for the bridge will change from the current to the proposed design.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to amend and approve agenda with a date of Oct 25 rather than Sept 27 on it. Secretary's report added. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of September 27th with a sentence about tree fruit picking that was incorrect removed. Motion proposed by Bernie. Motion passed.

4. New Business

Diane Carr reported that an all candidates meeting would be arranged for Nov 8. There are 20 candidates for City Council and four for Mayor. They will be seated at individual tables and can each be asked questions. Diane intends to have some questions already asked of candidates on some of the top issues, with their replies available to people at the door. She was thanked for organizing this for Victoria West residents.

5. a) President's report- Nan Judd

The President reported on the work of the Planning Retreat of the Board and the intention to develop a business plan to support further growth of the Centre from a recreation centre model to one envisioned to be the living and dining room of Vic West.

This is a work in progress so we will soon solicit ideas from the community to help develop the plan.

b) Secretary's Report-Joy Illington

New membership applications by H. Schafer of Regatta Landing, R. and M. Hicks of Songhees Road, and T. Longman of Songhees Road were received. Motion by Joy to accept these memberships. Motion passed.

Tues. Nov 29th the Annual General Meeting will be held to fill vacant Director's positions. There are 3 vacancies and 3 incumbents intend to run again for a total of 6 positions. The membership is currently being phoned to solicit interest.

Interest in Board membership to be sent to Joy at Secretary@victoriawest.ca

c) Treasurer's Report- Mike Medland

The September Financial Report showed that at 82% of the fiscal year, we are at 119% of the budget for program revenues for September, 163% for Centre rental income but we have salaries and credit card fees running over budget. The increase in program cost is commensurate with the increase in program revenue. The Corn roast made revenue of \$808.45 with expenses being \$542.31 for a profit of \$266.14 which will be directed toward general expenses with the intention of contributing it to future events. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Rueben.

Motion passed.

d) Report of City Hall- Councillor Marianne Alto

- Engaging Neighbours Project of United Way will start this fall but will be available for Vic West in the spring. it includes member and Board development.
- Railyards community garden discussion with Patti Parkhouse and Nan Judd present to move concept promised by developer forward to help develop community feel there.

Transport Canada will be asked to give a Harbour Traffic Safety Review report to City Council.

Marianne was asked to look into a 4'5 foot high fence that has been erected along the new bike path along the rail tracks that is impeding citizens from crossing at a certain point. A gate was suggested.

- Open door session (fourth Tuesday of the month, preceding the Association meeting)

6. Committee Reports

a) Communications -Louise Wood

- Design for the sign painted on the side of the building has been confirmed and will be applied soon

b) Transportation Report

- no report in Jack's absence

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c) Community Project's & Capacity Building –Grant Keddie

Grant proposed that the revised Terms of Reference for the Food Security Collective's Project that now include the community kitchen be ratified by a motion.

Motion passed.

Patti Parkhouse gave a brief report on the Grow-a-Row project and suggested that a further report would be available at the Annual General meeting. She also clarified the process should the Food Security Collective add more projects that used the Centre- would be to make a written proposal and add to the Terms of Reference once approved.

d) Land Use Report- Bernie Gaudet

The Land Use Committee meeting of Oct 18 received an update on the proposed International Marina from the developer's proponent Lachlan MacLean.

There was considerable confusion about the original intention of the 1980's for the land in question and a great deal of concern about a comprehensive Harbour Safety Plan for current and future uses. There was continued concern about parking and the residents of Royal Quays do not appear to support the parking model proposed. The City is not making parking the issue now but occupancy permits may be affected by that issue. A letter capturing the comments at the Land Use meeting will be sent to Transport Canada, to the Province, the City and the developer.

e) Harbour Report- Audrey Whittall

The Committee had a presentation on the Harbour Safety Management Plan by Mr. Marsden of Transport Canada. The review is expected to be completed by 2012.

On the derelict vessels issue- a submission went to the City with the Mayor and Councillors all copied. She did not think this would be an election issue but candidates may be asked about their position.

f) Parks and Environment- Nan Judd

A letter was circulated asking for an independent scientific review of waste water management program. There was a suggestion to post the letter on the website with a request for members to provide their comments. Who will pay for the independent review and who is responsible for the review are 2 questions that need responses before the Association is able to develop a position.

7. Next Meeting Date:

Annual General Meeting will be Nov 29th at 7pm.

Call to adjourn at 9:11pm