

## **VWCA BOARD MINUTES, April 27th, 2021 (DRAFT)**

**7:00 P.M. Held virtually**

*With humility and gratitude, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather as guests is the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the Lekwungen, also known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt nations.*

Attendance: Justine Semmens, Mike Medland, Dar Purwall, Laura Tate, Amanda Allan, Kent Verge, Veronique Plante, Patti Parkhouse, James Munro, Reinhard Trautmann

Regrets: Alyssa Beurling

Guests: Matt Landry (Grace Lore, MLA Office), Julian Daly (Our Place), Leah Young (Our Place), Murray Langdon (Our Place) Sharmarke Dubow (City of Victoria), Michael Hill (City of Victoria)

### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Adoption of agenda**

**Motion:** *Moved by Justine Semmens that the April 27th, 2021 VWCA Board Meeting agenda be approved. Carried.*

### **3. March 30, 2021 Board meeting minutes**

**Motion:** *Moved by Justine Semmens that the March 30th, 2021 VWCA Board Meeting minutes be approved. Carried.*

#### **4a. Matt Landry, Constituency Assistant to Grace Lore, MLA, Victoria-Beacon Hill**

- On May 5th 2021, 5:30-6:30PM there will be a town hall with Grace Lore and David Eby on housing related issues. Participants can ask questions, share concerns, and engage with the province.
- Question: Would the MLA office consider extending the meeting time, time frame only allows for 45 questions? Response: Not at this time

#### **4b. Murray Langdon, Director, Community and Stakeholder Relations, Corporate Communications, BC Housing**

- Info session for catherine street finalized  
<https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/victoria-865-catherine>
- Russell Street Residents are beginning to move in.

Question: What is the schedule for establishing the operator for Catherine St.  
Answer: Request for Proposal Process, it will be live in the coming weeks and then adjudicated. BC housing will come back to the community once they have an operator.

Question: Shouldn't there be community consultation before launching RFP?

Answer: Community consultation is currently happening and will be shared. Designs will be shared as they develop. Specific engagement around design was done in Nanaimo.

Question: Security concerns were raised at the Russell St. Meeting, do you have any updates?

Answer: Met with individuals in the community, got feedback and ideas. Neighbourhood walk arounds with concerned individuals. Working with the city to secure security funding.

Question: Does BC housing have funding to enhance security?

Answer: Don't provide funding to problems that haven't yet happened but will monitor the situation.

#### **4c. Julian Daly, CEO of Our Place; Leah Young, Director of Housing and Shelters, Our Place**

- Connecting with lots of people in Vic West, 5 meetings in 7 days.

Questions: What is going to make Russell St. different then the Pandora St Shelter.

Answer: Pandora is a drop-in centre. "My Place Shelter" on Yates is what Our Place is hoping for for Russell St. High expectations of behaviours in spaces, little control with what happens on the street. Working to address issues outside and make it less intimidating. Design and staffing measures to ensure people aren't gathering outside the building.

Question: What services do you offer at your shelters?

Answers: Addiction services, meals, employment services, needs plans with individuals. Other services will be offered through Island Health and volunteers with Our Place, including members of the Vic West Community.

Question: Why are all these services concentrated in Vic West and not the rest of the CRD.

Answer (Julian): Unsure, but anyone is welcome to come for a meal. Our Place hopes that people won't notice they're in the community because it's working so well. Our place will do everything to manage issues quickly and efficiently.

Answer (Sharmarke): Priority is to house people. BC Housing selects sites and the City works closely with them. City is committed to housing people but other municipalities are not quite as willing.

#### **4d. City of Victoria Reports:**

##### **A. Sharmarke Dubow (Councilor Liaison, City of Victoria)**

- Positive experience working with Our Place.
- Money added to affordable housing reserves to leverage provincial and federal funding. Accelerate housing strategy to make housing more affordable.
- Community associations will receive 1.5 million dollars to help build back.
- Sharmarke will be conducting a site tour at Russell St. tomorrow.

Question: How does the BC Housing project fit into the Vic West Community plan.

Answer: Question for BC Housing at the town hall. Agreement between city and province to act immediately to house people.

Question: What can be done about noisy vehicles in the neighbourhood.

Answer: No answer at the moment, but will check with city staff.

Question: Did the city council object to not following the OCP with BC Housing?

Answer: Cannot speak on behalf of council, priority is housing people and supporting people. Some of the Russell street project will come to the VWCA CALUC but paramountcy was evoked on Catherine.

Question: Timeline/plan for remediating Vic West Park?

Answer: Unsure of answer, will confirm with staff.

**B. Michael Hill (Community Development Coordinator, City of Victoria):**

- Fencing is done at the Basketball Courts and we're still waiting on the playground.
- Supportive housing is an emergency situation, rather than an incremental.
- Council is committed to develop a plan for dealing with social emergencies in the community in an effective way.
- Transition for camping to housing strategy.
- Official Community Plan update is just starting.
- Placemaking toolkit coming soon.

**5. Executive reports:**

- President: Justine Semmens

**Draft Grant Approval Policy:** In response to a desire to improve the internal process for seeking the endorsement of the VWCA Board as a not-for-profit granting partner, the VWCA executive recommends that the VWCA Board of Directors adopt the attached policy. The policy would apply both to applicants from projects and committees internal to the operation of the VWCA as well as those applicants from the community. The intent of the policy is to ensure that applicants have appropriate grant crafting support from staff, to ensure that anticipated in-kind requests can be reasonably accommodated by staff or VWCA resources, and ensures that the VWCA Board or VWCA Executive acting on behalf of the board has a reasonable amount of time to consider the endorsement or partnership request.

- Ad hoc committee will be formed to discuss. Potentially Laura Tate, Michael Hill, Patti Parkhouse, Mike Medland, Johanne Thompson
  - Maybe get in touch with other associations to discuss the process.
  - Raise the issue at VCAN tomorrow evening.
- Vice president: Laura Tate
  - Met with Nicky Macdonald (Federal Liberal Candidate) - Asking questions about process and number of units. Nicky is concerned about Russell St facility advocating for security measures. 60-70 people to many. They are encouraging a neutral facilitator, not set up by BC Housing.

- Secretary: Dar Purewall

**Applicants for VWCA membership:** Geoffrey Corbyn (Catherine St.), Ian Young (Bella St.), Tara Hearn (Bella St.), Irene Price (Songhees Rd.), Jacqueline Walter (Belton Ave.), Genevieve Grant (Russell St.), Amanda White (Wilson St.)

**Motion:** *Moved by Dar Purwall that these applicants for VWCA membership be approved and received into the membership roll. Carried.*

- Executive Director: Johanne Thompson
  - Still waiting on license to occupy at Sherk St. site - won't be able to move in until July 1st at the earliest.
  - All adult programs are cancelled - notice from VIHA to cancel last week
  - Daycare was closed due to a covid exposure event.
- Treasurer: Mike Medland

**Motion:** *Moved by Justine Semmens that the VWCA board receives the February financial statements. Carried.*

**Motion:** *Moved by Justine Semmens that the executive reports be received. Carried.*

#### **6. Director and Committee reports:**

- **Mike Medland (Finance):**
- **Patti Parkhouse (Food Security):**
- **Alyssa Beurling/James Munro (Land Use):**
- **Kent Verge (Governance):**
- **Veronique Plante (Projects and events):**
- **Amanda Allan (Transportation):**

**Motion:** *Moved by Justine Semmens that committee and project reports be received. Carried.*

#### **8. Announcements**

#### **9. Adjournment**

**Motion:** *Moved by Justine Semmens that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.*