



Draft BOARD MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Nov.2, 2017

In Attendance: Rob, Chris K., Gabe, Vera, Ray, Scott, Trevor, Chris B., Scott, Pam and Russ

Regrets: Irena, Trevor, Katherine and Marcus

1. Approval of Minutes

Moved GE/ Seconded CB - Approved as amended

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted with additional items

3. Reports

a. Finance – Chris K.

- Revenues were up due to the receipt of \$2500 federal grant for Canada Day
- Newsletter advertising revenue was up slightly
- Canada Day Revenue was up to \$40,000 from \$33,000 last year largely due to strong food sales and the additional revenue from the schoolhouse market
- Revenues from GPCG were down a bit this year, as were expenses
- Revenues for the year will be approximately \$11,000

b. Membership

No report

c. SCAN/Council – Gabe

Council:

- i. The proposed highway berm got passed at Council.
- ii. Governance Review Committee has submitted their report. It has 30 recommendations and there has been some negative reaction to the report. Council has created a task group comprised of 4 counsellors and 4 members from the task group. The governance report is available online

SCAN

- i. There was a presentation by the Greater Victoria Housing Society about the barriers to development.
- ii. SCAN is looking to raise money for the Swan Lake board walk and is looking for donations from the community associations. Quadra and Swan Lake have already donated. Chris K. noted that it has been longstanding policy of the GTCA to not donate to charities, as money raised by the GTCA is for projects in our community.

- iii. With respects to liability insurance, other CA's are looking to the GTCA example on how to avoid the need for insurance.

d. Land Use Committee

- **Nigel Valley** – The zone application is being presented. Rob has a copy if anyone is interested.
- **Uptown Douglas Corridor Project** - This project may be going to Council on Monday. Rob noted that there were reports that Uptown Centre had been sold and that this may affect the housing portion of this development.
- **Amica at the George** - Amica is expecting to have residents moving in next summer.

e. Transportation

- **Moving Saanich Forward/Active Transportation Plan** – There is an open house at Pearkes this weekend.
- **Speed on Gorge Road** – The recent Gorge Road accident, resulting in a fatality, brought to the surface the concerns about the speed on Gorge Rd. east. The board discussed the various issues in and around Gorge Rd including: that it functions like a four-lane speedway, that it is dangerous to bike along that stretch, that the “slip lanes” at the Tillicum Road intersection contribute to the speed problem. It was noted that Saanich’s 30-year plan does not address the immediate concerns on Gorge Road. Chris B. agreed to draft a letter, outlining all the GTCA concerns, and distribute it to the board for review.

4. Parks

a. Gorge Park Community Gardens

- The gardens are breaking even but more fundraising is required. Looking for more ways to make money.
- The GPCG conducted a survey of those involved with the garden and got lots of feedback. Currently in the process of tabulating the results.
- The GPCG committee is looking to increase broader participation so people who sign up for a plot will need to sign up for a volunteer task.
- It was noted that the gardens agreement with Saanich is for the term of 2014-2019.

b. Camping in the parks

- The protest camp raised lots of issues regarding homelessness in the community.
- Rob and Dorothy took a walk through the park and there were 5 camps in squalor.
- Recently there was an incident where a camper was screaming at Dorothy that people at the fish fence were too loud.
- Police had to drag a screaming camper out of the park recently.
- Saanich Police insist that the Court ruling regarding camping in the parks means that they cannot move campers along.
- Chris K. had distributed a document from Guild Yule LLP titled *Victoria (City) v. Adams: A Municipality's right and obligation to maintain orderly, safe and*

aesthetically pleasing public spaces which makes it clear that the ruling DID NOT state that people could reside in parks and build semi-permanent shelters.

- It was discussed that the GTCA should continue to press for enforcement of camping and drinking rules in parks as it had become serious public safety issue for the residents, and advocate for better services and housing for the homeless.
- There was also the issue of a recreational vehicle using the Gorge Park parking lot as a campground. Current rules are insufficient and it was suggested that the GTCA ask for a 4-hour parking sign to be installed in that lot.

c. Boat off VCKC

There is a boat moored off VCKC that appears to be abandoned. Rob had called bylaw who originally said they would take care of it but have not done anything about it. Saanich bylaw seems to be ineffective in dealing with the boat challenges.

NOTE: In the days following the board meeting, the boat sank and Dorothy called the Coast Guard who raised the vessel and towed it away.

5. Communications

a. Newsletter

- Vera noted that Pearkes had decided to discontinue their advertising on the back page and that there was an opportunity to do something different with the back page.
- Ray noted that he would be leaving the board and that someone needed to take over the distribution coordination or consider making the publication digital only. After some discussion, the board decided that the GTCA would continue to print the newsletter but the distribution task may be broken up between a few board members.

6. Gorge Bridge Signage

Saanich had decided not to do an event and would instead be doing an announcement.

7. Transition Planning

- Gabe had conducted a survey of current and past board members to gauge views on the role of the GTCA.
- It was noted that given that this would be Rob and Ray's last year so it was very important to document processes, contact lists etc. so that the new generation had this information. (i.e. what Chris K. had done with Canada Day)
- Gabe agreed to stand as a President for the upcoming year in order to facilitate the transition.

Next Meeting Board Meeting & Christmas Party (Spouses & partners welcome)

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2017

Place: Rob's House