



P.O. Box 44152
VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

GTCA Board Meeting via Zoom - 10 September 2020

Minutes

Present: Chris K, Chris B, Gabe, Katherine, Vera, Pam, Erica, Sharifa, Paul, Arden, Irena, Arden
Regrets: Phil, Russ, Scott, Ed, Larry

Board Operations

1. **Agenda review** -- Adopted
2. **Financial Report:** Canada Day 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions; the income from membership and donations is reflective of that. Community Gardens revenue has been maintained through membership and the plant sale did well. Expenses down - also related to Canada Day picnic cancellation. See report for full details
3. **Membership Report:** 96 members (76 renewals, 24 new, 1 business). Numbers reduced from previous years; membership often renewed at Canada Day.
4. **AGM:** Were hoping to find location where we can be physically distanced and maintain COVID-19 restrictions / guidelines. Vera hasn't found a location that will accept a group of 40-50 people. This is consistent with most of the other CAs. Will need to use a virtual platform to meet and obtain a quorum. Will do only mandatory business and the election. Paid up members only will be invited - i.e. those with membership paid up 30 days prior top AGM. Voting and getting onto the zoom meeting will present challenges but executive will determine a method. (e.g. Could count "no" votes instead of "yes" votes). Gabe proposed 15th October. Agreed by everyone. Suggestion to buy membership to Zoom that will allow more meeting time (greater than 40 minutes). All approved.
5. **Newsletter** – current issue is out – although late due to COVID-19. Will get back on regular schedule: next one is planned to go out early November, then February and June. Content for October newsletter by October 5th. Ideas: McKenzie Interchange updates? Surplus newsletters: Previous discussions have been to have a box in the library or in Pearkes. Gabe/Scott will ask permission from these locations. Chris K will get a quote for a box and then approval for cost by board.
6. **Development Updates:** Requests from Saanich for Board comments on 630 Gorge Rd West, Harriet & Obed, Earl Grey daycare expansion - Gabe will send requests to Board for commentary. No news on Earl Grey & Gorge development. Vera has applied to be on the Saanich Housing Strategy Task force with Saanich and has been approved. First meeting on 24th Sept.
7. **Gorge Park:**
 - a) **Meeting Report:** Gabe received an invite to meeting with Saanich Parks and Saanich Police (and Pacifica Housing and the Province) to discuss current status. See previous email with this information. Feedback from Board: Bike patrol is back. Police are pouring out alcohol. There are still RVs in the parking lot – one has been there for years. Police are reluctant to tow away a "home" and seem to be tolerating people living there. 3 parking spots (west side) are being eliminated during the upcoming permanent closure soon of the west entrance to the parking lot.
 - b) **Annual Fall Cleanup:** Saanich has been providing garbage bags for park users to help keep the park clean. Parks department also continuing maintenance work in the park. Because there are guidelines to be followed for

COVID guidelines for group gatherings, and because we may not get as many people out in current environment, Gabe put forward the motion to wait until the spring for next clean up: approved

8. **Working Groups:**

- a) Art, Culture & Celebration – no report. Questions from board: Is there interest for more art on Gorge Waterway? Or does this attract more people/parking and create a “destination” – this warrants further discussion. Other areas of our neighbourhood could also be upgraded with art. Burnside murals have also been discussed by this group. We can apply for Saanich grants for art. Chris K can help with this.
- b) Green & Blue – ask for \$200 for spring bulbs to put into boulevards and traffic circle: Approved
- c) Buildings – meetings will hopefully get up and running soon. There are a couple of new people in the neighbourhood who have expressed interest in joining this committee.
- d) Mobility & Transportation – No report. Board questions: can the committee discuss number of lanes needed on Gorge Bridge?
- e) Process review: Gabe would like small group to discuss Board and working group processes and how these might need adjusting amidst the pandemic and bring back suggestions to full Board. Gabe will send out an email to ask for volunteers.

9. **Lights on the Gorge:** proposal by Gabe to cancel for this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Approved.

Other Reports & Updates

- 10. **McKenzie Road Intersection:** Saanich News has a couple of recent pieces about the berm use and about graffiti on the sound barriers. The portage inlet group (PISCES) has been advocating for changes to the Esson Road / Admirals intersection to prevent the sharp right turn from Admirals onto Esson.
- 11. **Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN):** meeting via Zoom. GTCA representative has not participated lately. Gabe will send notes/minutes as he receives them.
- 12. **Saanich council & staff:** Vera has been accepted to be on the Saanich Housing Strategy Task Force. The provision of temporary permits for farm stands, and the legalisation of garden suites, will be coming up at Council soon for final approval. (Update: They were approved.) We have previously sent letters to Saanich containing the Board’s comments on both these items.
- 13. **Canada Day:** This event has an uncertain future due to the current restrictions related to COVID-19 and we may have to redefine how we celebrate Canada Day. Chris K will still apply for the grant – which can be turned down if we don’t need it/use it.