



**DRAFT MINUTES**

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015

**In Attendance:** Rob Wickson, Scott Karpes, Chris Kask, Richard Bouchard, Chris Bullock, Katherine Brandt, Ray Farmer, Wendy Farwell, and Vera Wynn-Williams

**Regrets:** Trevor Hancock, Christine Fedoruk, Marcus Fedoruk and Gabe Epstein

**1. Adoption of Agenda & Sept. 2015 Minutes**

Moved PL /Seconded RB – Approved

**2. Reports**

**a. Finance – Chris**

Chris had emailed financial statements to the board prior to meeting. He noted that:

- The garden was in a slight deficit position
- The 30K in un-appropriated surplus was placed into in GICs in order to improve interest rates (the GICs can be easily redeemed)
- The board members discussed that it was time to look at funding some projects that could improve our community

**b. Membership – Vera (on behalf of Christine)**

Vera reported that she and Christine had met to discuss potential ways to improve business membership numbers by providing them with more exposure. Ideas that were discussed included:

- Creating a section in the newsletter where business members would be listed with a short description
- Giving business more prominence on the new website and on Facebook
- Doing an article in the upcoming newsletter letting businesses know the benefits of membership

The board agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that in addition to the article this newsletter should include a listing of current businesses.

The board also agreed that board members should approach businesses in person. Vera agreed to prepare a one-page document outlining the benefits of business membership.

**c. SCAN/Council**

**SCAN**

**Public Process Handbook** is available for final comments. The document can be found at [http://www.saanich.ca/living/about/get-involved/public\\_participation\\_2014.html](http://www.saanich.ca/living/about/get-involved/public_participation_2014.html)

**Governance Committee Terms of Reference**

- Rob noted that 88% of Saanich residents voted for a citizen led review of the governance structure but Council has handed it over to City Spaces Consulting who have only worked with staff.
- Rob noted that according to Saanich's own rules the issue should be referred to the standing committee, which is comprised of Rob, Colin Plant and Mayor Richard Atwell.

- Rob prepared a draft Term of Reference for review by SCAN which was approved of by 6 of the 9 community associations at SCAN.
- Saanich Council has instead directed staff to use a focus group made up randomly selected members of the Council Advisory Committees (all who were previously approved by council) to then review applications to select a Governance Review Committee. To maintain an air of fairness they will blank out the names of those applying for the SGRC. The terms of reference for the SGRC are to be developed by staff and the consultant.

#### **Staff Recognition and Awards Dinner**

- Mayor Atwell invited the presidents of the community associations to attend and 8 of the 12 presidents attended
- Good opportunity for community associations to get more involved

#### **COUNCIL**

- Council approved Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan was passed by Council
- Douglas Street Corridor Plan terms of reference was passed. Rob noted that Gorge/Tillicum only gets one seat and he requested that he be the GTCA rep and Katherine as an alternate.
- Community Planning Process – Staff made a great presentation to Council however, it was rejected by Council because the current plan was tied to existing funding. Council Requested staff come back with a costed plan on how to do community planning process right
- EDPA will be at Council the following Monday. Staff have been asked to work on a new map

#### **d. Transportation Committee – McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection Task Group**

- The new task group is comprised of Wendy Farwell, Katherine Brandt, Pam Loadman (Committee Chair), Rob Wickson, Ian Sutherland and Tom Morrison
- Ministry of Transportation is having the first meeting of the Advisory Group on Oct. 15 and has only extended three invitations to members of the task force. Wendy, Rob and Ian will be attending this initial meeting
- It was noted that large signs have been installed along the highway which state that the project is too being in the fall of 2016

#### **e. Land Use Committee/Developments**

##### **i. Douglas Street Corridor Action Plan/Burnside Community Planning**

Rob reported that this planning project has begun

##### **ii. Greg Abbott tour**

Greg Abbott owns numerous properties on Albina (beside Fairways) and is interested in building a 3-4 story residential complex. He is offering a tour of another property he has developed at 1216 Johnston Street.

#### **f. GTUF**

- Fall garden tour might not happen this year
- No plans for in person monthly meeting – may become a virtual group which provide support and shares knowledge

#### **g. G.T. Community Tables - Lights on the Gorge**

- Event will happened this year but the date is TBD

### 3. Parks

#### a. Community Garden – Wendy

- Ongoing discussions about bed allocations as there is a waiting list
- Now moving towards having the plot owners take on more of the garden day-to-day operations

### 4. Communications

#### a. Newsletter –Vera/Christine

- Content is still rolling in and the newsletter is on schedule
- Ray looked into the cost of having Canada Post the delivers and the cost is approximately \$.19/newsletter with some minor modifications to the newsletter
- Canada Post delivery therefore is a viable option down the road
- There would be a feature on a local business (Top Shelf) along with a listing of business members

#### b. Websites/Social Media

- Marcus is working on the new website which should be complete in the next month or so (Marcus has emailed a written update along with requests for board member photos)

#### c. Newspaper Supplement

Vera noted that she had met with the publisher of the Saanich News and that they had discussed the possibility of doing a special GTCA insert similar to the ones that the Gordon Head Community Assoc. was producing. The cost of the insert is usually fully supported by the advertisers with the GTCA only being responsible for providing editorial content. Vera suggested that the GTCA trial a newspaper insert leading up to the GTCA AGM. The board agreed with the suggestion.

### 5. Operation Issues

- Christine and Vera were looking into this issue but did not have any recommendations yet

### 5. Housing

- Rob noted that he had forwarded a housing report called *Housing Affordability's Effect on Businesses in Vancouver –The Start of a Conversation* and that Russ Godfrey requested that the GTCA board members review and provide feedback

### 6. Art on the Bridge – Scott

- The artist expects the artwork to be installed mid October

**NEXT BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>**