

GTCA Board Meeting

February 3, 2011

Attending - Rob, Sue, Warren, Chris, Scott, Harry, Gabe, Virginia, Ray, Trevor, Katherine

Guest – Camela

Regina/Tillicum lights have been changed recently. To be added to agenda.

Agenda and minutes of January meeting accepted.

2) a) i) Financial statements for January presented to board.

ii) Picnic statements made about \$5000 last year's picnic. This year's budget based on last year's.

\$7,000 grant from Saanich includes \$ from SunFest and allowance for event insurance.

Chris has forecast higher revenue from vendors this year based on poor weather and lower turnout last year. Expenses forecast for this year is the same as last year. 'Profit' comes from our labour (Pancake breakfast, set up and tear down, etc.) Chris will write cover letter to go with financial statements going to Saanich to explain this source of 'profit'. Rob and Chris will speak to Council regarding this event and the annual grant application.

Outstanding matching grants – need to submit a report to substantiate grant for Gorge Park planning event (Jan 22). Saanich Parks is interested in helping fund a project for the park. One idea is for a series of interpretative signage for Gorge Park. Can utilize model used by Gorge Waterway Initiative for their signs. Harry is writing follow-up document for Gorge Park planning workshop.

Motion to submit financial statements 'as printed' carried.

b) Membership about 50 current members as of today.

c) SCAN - Saanich's proposed Environmental Development Permit Area Draft Guidelines, were discussed at length.

d) Council – Saanich Finance committee met last week. Rob attended and spoke to several issues – Dysart will get sidewalks – from Gorge to Cuthbert Holmes; intending to complete sidewalks along Admirals to Cowper. More \$\$ will be required for Craigflower bridge. Bridge is not in as good repair as originally thought. May need to be replaced. Saanich may work on Admirals Road as well if bridge needs to be replaced. Rob spoke to council about Gorge Park. Need to visit that park with Saanich staff and view it from capital investment point of view.

Whittier Ave development will be covered at council next week. This project has been around for a long time. The proposal is now for 14 units instead of 12. Revised architecture plan is better suited to area than previous design.

e) Dean Murdoch is new chair of Healthy Saanich. He is very interested in environment, food security, sidewalks and making community sustainable. Parks and Rec has a survey on-line for input for improving rec centres and parks.

Warren gave update on Gorge Waterway Initiative. CRD is looking at possibly reducing GWIs mandate to only covering sewage and outfall. GWI will have this issue on their next agenda.

3 a) Newsletter - deadline is February 15. GWI is Local Hero. Sustainability is focus of next newsletter. Ray will include self-addressed envelopes for membership drive as insert into newsletter.

b) Website – Jordan Letcher (sp?) is our new volunteer working on website design. Initial work and link have been sent to Chris. This project is ongoing. Jordan knows we'd like to have it to unveil at AGM. Facebook page will be done at the same time. Discussion ensued around access to website for input. Initial position is that website should have manager(s) who will make decisions regarding the website and what will be posted or not.

c) community bulletin board – stay tuned.

d) 'Kenji' - a conversation – This was initiated by e-mail contact from a Gorge Tillicum resident who indicated he had difficulty understanding how to engage with the GTCA. Discussion about how to engage more community members. After some discussion it was decided that we don't need to change how we are working in this area. Public can contact us and if they want to speak at the meeting, they need to get on the agenda.

4 Transportation – Gorge Park – preliminary drawing for changes to Gorge Road between Tillicum and Harriet shown at Gorge Park event. Streetscape and revised entranceway for park included in drawing.

Traffic calming measures (soft traffic humps) to be constructed for Walter, Vincent and Davida. Ker Street may also be included in this project. This project is budgeted for this year when paving season starts (after March).

Regina at Tillicum traffic light has changed (pedestrian controlled – flashing red on Tillicum). Sue has letter from Paul Butterfield at Saanich explaining the changes that can be used as article for newsletter. Sue will forward letter from Butterfield to the board. Sue is interested in starting up North-East Gorge/Burnside transportation committee.

5) Gorge Park Visioning Exercise/workshop: 30-35 people present including Saanich staff and Dennis Minnaker (local historian). Harry is compiling report from event based on Arden's notes. Security, signage, boat access, pathway that connects to Gorge Waterway park were all part of the discussion. Problems at Millgrove and Wascana, possibility of community/commons garden, etc. Parks staff noticed poor state of some paths. Scott reminded board of importance of writing letters.

Gabe and Ray will to start up sub-committee for Gorge Park. Guideline will be workshop notes as well as other documents

6) Picnic committee - Feb 15 7.30 will be first picnic meeting. Any additional helping hands, ideas will be appreciated. Harry has already applied for federal funding.

7) Music in the Park – Rob will send information around again. Saanich wants someone from community association to take part in these events. Harry will get date for February meeting.

8) Development updates – RioCan – this coming year is looking better for this project. EY (Burnside/Tillicum) has all their documents in to Saanich. Just needs underground wiring report. Proposed project at Admirals/Gorge has no action lately.

Property at Maddock and Albina for sale (3 lots) - company looking at buying these property to develop for entry level condo complex – approx 21 units. Developer does not think there will be any variances required. They are hoping to have drawings/ideas ready for end of month (February). Waiting for rezoning permission before purchasing. Rob will meet with developer.

9) Affordable housing Project – Rob is still looking for speaker.

10) AGM planning - March 31.

Meeting adjourned 9.00