



APPROVED MINUTES
(edits were made at October's board meeting)

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

In Attendance:, Gabe Epstein, Chris Kask, Katherine Brandt, Vera Wynn-Williams, Russ Godfrey, Ray Farmer, Chris Bullock, Ed Pullman, Scott Karpes and Pam Loadman

Regrets: Rob Wickson, Trevor Hancock, Irena Jazwinski and, Marcus Fedoruk

1. Approval of Minutes

Moved RG/Seconded SK – Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted

3. Reports

a. Finance – Chris K.

- The Canada Day picnic made around \$10,000 (a few receipts had just come in)
- Increase in revenue was due to the receipt of a \$2500 federal grant and additional vendors from the schoolhouse market
- Chris B. put forward a budget outline for this year's Lights on the Gorge, and requested that the GTCA assign \$300 for this event. Chris K. said that he normally did not approve requested expenditures until a following meeting, but that in this case he would support the request.

MOTION: It was moved by Chris Bullock and seconded by Vera Wynn-Williams that the board approve the \$300 for Lights on the Gorge.
MOTION CARRIED.

b. Membership – Chris K.

- Irena was unable to attend the meeting but Chris noted that the association was down in business memberships and that there was now only one business member
- It was agreed that there should be some outreach to businesses who are involved with the association through the picnic and the newsletter

c. Canada Day – Chris K.

- Chris reported that this year's picnic was a massive success
- There were 65 vendors, 25+ food vendors and all seemed happy with their participation
- Saanich put on more kids' events and Gorge on Art was expanded
- The newly introduced passport was also successful

- The new location for the GTCA tent was considered a success, as more people came by
- The Gorge soccer club took over logistics and did an adequate job but could have used more people to adequately cover the zones
- A new vendor was used for the staging and tents and this worked out well
- Chris thanked Ray and Jayne for hosting the volunteer thank you party

d. McKenzie Intersection/Transportation

- There was no new news on the project
- On issue of transportation, Trevor Hancock had circulated a letter from the Better Transit Alliance to the Prime Minister and had asked if the GTCA would endorse the letter.

MOTION: It was moved by Chris Bullock and seconded by Russ Godfrey that the board endorse the letter from the Better Transit Alliance. MOTION CARRIED.

e. SCAN/Council – Scott

- Scott attended the SCAN meeting on behalf of the GTCA
- There was a presentation from the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. They have renovated the Nature House and can host events for up to 75 people. They are also raising funds for the boardwalk by selling sponsorships for \$800/sheet. The new boardwalk would have a 75-year lifespan.
- SCAN has begun work on the development permit issue
- Vera noted that Saanich covers Canada Day liability

e. Land Use Committee/Developments – Gabe

- **Portage Rd** – Russ reported that Ian Sutherland is going to Council on Sept. 11 to ask for the rezoning. Russ noted that he has toured the site and that Ian's plans are to build two modest family homes with high regard for the natural space including treating water. Russ noted that there was an argument that these houses are a partial replacement for the four homes that were demolished for highway construction. He noted that there was some strong opposition to this development from PISCES. Russ would be attending Council and would state the GTCA has **no opposition** to the rezoning. (The board had previously discussed this issue at length)
- **Albina** – Russ reported that the development which proposes knocking down several rundown homes and building a 55+ rental apartment building with a live-in caretaker. He noted that this type of housing was desperately needed in the neighbourhood. Saanich is demanding the development have 1.8 parking spots per unit, thereby necessitating underground parking. Due to this additional expense the developer is asking for an additional floor.
- **472 Dupplin Road** – Was not discussed as it is not within the GTCA boundaries.
- **Austin Ave** – Was a request for a panhandle lot. The deadline for comment had passed so Gabe would follow up with Rob to see if this development had been dealt with.

- **Nigel Valley** – For info only as the development is long term project and not within GTCA boundaries.
- **Wastewater Pipeline** – This is an issue affecting the neighbourhood so the GTCA had been asked for a rep. Russ, Katherine and Pam volunteered to act as reps.

4. Parks

a. Gorge Park Community – Gabe

- Garden fundraiser will be held on Sept. 30th. The open house will feature plant sale, BBQ and music.
- Other methods of fundraising for the gardens included Fairway Community Card and Bottle Depot. Gabe distributed detailed information on how to support the gardens with through these initiatives.
- Gabe noted that they were having some issues with someone showing plants into the toilet and plugging it up.
- He also noted that there was some theft of produce from the garden.

b. Gorge Creek Sewage Dump

- Scott reported that there had been a sewage spill into Gorge Creek (located in Kinsmen Park) this past summer which had caused the cancellation of the Gorge Swim Fest.
- At the time it was thought the spill was caused by an RV dumping sewage into the stream.
- The problem now seems to be ongoing and it is suspected there is some type of sewer leak and Esquimalt is looking into it.

c. Fish Fence

- The cut to DFO for fish habitat education was rescinded, as a result of strong lobbying from Dorothy Chambers
- There were issues with fish theft and the locks were broken so Ray had worked with Dorothy to design a new tamper proof cover.
- The fish fence needs lots of work and Dorothy is willing to fundraise but has asked for the GTCA to process donations. Chris K. agreed to do this.
- It was suggested that the GTCA should donate to the fish fence. Chris K. would get more information and bring it to the next meeting.

d. Gorge Park Clean Up

- The cleanup was scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd from 9 to noon
- Scott, Ray and Ed were helping to organize
- Vera agreed to do a promotional poster

5. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- The deadline for content was September 30th
- Vera requested that if anyone had story ideas to please forward them to her
- It was suggested that the newsletter could feature significant homes (it was noted that this information was in Saanich's walking tour brochures)
- The board agreed that the newsletter should focus on the uniqueness of the neighbourhood

b. Websites/Social Media
No report

6. Gorge Bridge Signage

- Vera reported that Saanich had worked with Richard Bouchard to produce an interpretive sign for the Gorge Bridge and they were no looking to install the sign and have an unveiling. They were looking for a GTCA rep at the event.
- It was noted that this was not a GTCA initiative but it was project that the GTCA was happy about.
- Gabe and Scott might attend on the behalf of the GTCA
- Once a date was set, the board would be informed

7. Transition Planning – Gabe

- Gabe reported that he, Scott, Vera and Ed had met to begin the transition planning process.
- Gabe had conducted a short survey at Canada Day and was planning to get feedback from board members, former board members and other community members.

8. Nail, Bail & Sail – Scott

- This is an FYI to the board and is not a board initiative
- Scott, Jack Meredith and Fred Haynes were working on this event
- This event would be run in conjunction with World Ocean's Day
- The event involves teams building and racing a "boat" in two hours
- The boats would launch from the beach
- Home Hardware has come on as a sponsor

Next Meeting Board Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2017
Place: Pearkes