



DRAFT MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015

In Attendance: Scott Karpes, Chris Kask, Richard Bouchard, Chris Bullock, Gabe Epstein, Katherine Brandt, Ray Farmer, Wendy Farwell, Christine Fedoruk and Vera Wynn-Williams

Regrets: Rob Wickson, Trevor Hancock, Marcus Fedoruk and Pam Loadman

Guests: Colleen Hobson, Rob Riddett, Tom Morrison & Alice Cormier

1. Adoption of Agenda & June 2015 Minutes

Moved GE/Seconded SK – Approved

2. Colleen Hobson, Executive Director Saanich Neighbourhood Place

Colleen provided the board with a progress update on proposed daycare at the back of Pearkes.

- SNP has secured 1.25 million dollars and also has a grant application into the Canada 150 Grant program
- SNP is looking to hire someone to do fund development
- In order to minimize impact on the park the building would be positioned to back onto Kerr Ave, partly on the parking lot and partly on the green space buffer
- Saanich is concerned about the loss of 15 park spaces so they are recommending a two-story building
- SNP is hoping to hire an architect next week so that they can have preliminary designs ready for their AGM in October
- This an expansion so SNP will keep their space in Pearkes
- Some of the space in the new centre will be available to the community on evenings and weekends
- Drop off and pick up still has to be worked out but currently most daycare clients walk or commute to the centre
- All childcare rooms would have direct access to the playground
- The centre may be constructed from modular units which would drop the construction time to six weeks, thereby limiting the impact on the neighbours

The board recommend that there be extensive consultation with the neighbours with respects to Saanich's desire to make the building two stories.

Colleen agreed to come back when she had architectural drawings.

3. Reports

a. Finance – Chris

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

- Revenues were up the for year largely due to additional grant revenue related to the community gardens (41k this year versus 31k last year)
- Revenues from memberships and donations were also up from last year
- Expenses at 27k were the same as last year
- The net income sits at around 10k

b. Membership – Christine

- There has been an increase in membership and currently sits at 171
- There are 5 business members
- It was suggested that the board personally approach businesses to increase the number of business members

c. SCAN/Council – Written Report

i. Governance Committee Terms of Reference

Rob has been working with Colin Plant and the Mayor has asked that the board members review the document and send forward any comments. Gabe noted that he was interested in working on this project.

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

- The board agreed to form a Task Group to deal with the upcoming McKenzie intersection Task Group, as it was very important the GTCA have input into this project
- Wendy Farwell would like to represent the directly affected residents whose homes are on Admirals Road
- Katherine noted that there is a Health Impact Assessment Guide and Toolkit available and that she would order one
- Scott agreed to draft a letter to the Transportation Ministry asking that the GTCA be included in the planning of this project
- It was also suggested that the board work with the Mt. View/Colquitz Community Association

e. Land Use Committee/Developments

i. Lowes

- Christine and Rob had met with Andrew Peterson of Lowes and had toured the site
- Lowes is already paying rent and therefore is very anxious to move into the site
- The store will feature lumber and heavy goods on the ground floor and will have lighter goods on the second floor
- There will not be extensive renovations other than newer doors that allow for larger carts and big goods to be moved
- Christine reported that Lowes did not seem concerned about the parking situation however board members noted that the lot can be very full during events at Pearkes and that the existing spots are not designed for large trucks
- They will create a loading zone on the Pearkes side of the store but the large sidewalks will remain
- Christine noted that Andrew from Lowes was willing to answer any questions from board members (see contact info below)

Andrew Peterson, Real Estate Development Specialist, Lowes Canada
Cell: 647-525-3917
andrew.s.peterson@lowes.com

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. Anyone interested should contact Rob.

- iii. **Douglas Street Corridor Action Plan/Burnside Community Planning**
Rob has been involved in this project for many years and is looking for input from the board. The information has been sent in an email and feedback should be sent directly to Rob.
- iv. **Local Area Plan Review Process and work plan**
This would be going to Council on Monday, September 14. Rob would be attending Council.
- v. **Saanich Senior Living (SSL)**
 - Wendy reported that the revised plan for SSL went before Council and was approved
 - Wendy spoke in support of the project and commended SSL for their extensive community consultation and engagement
 - The Hallmark Heritage Society also spoke in support
 - Construction was delayed due to the environmental review however digging has now begun

f. GTUF

Gabe reported that GTUF would be having their garden tour in October.

g. G.T. Community Tables

Lights on the Gorge

- Chris Bullock reported that the group had not met yet but did intend to put on Lights on the Gorge
- Chris Bullock noted that they would be looking for funding and requested that Chris Kask handle the finances. Chris Kask agreed.
- It was suggested that the event move to the other end of Gorge with indoor events held at the School House
- It was suggested that perhaps the bridge lighting could be part of the event

6. Parks

a. Community Garden – Gabe

- All the plots are built and allocated
- The shed and the stone bench are done
- Irwin industries will put up downspouts on the shed
- The summer garage sale raised over \$1000
- Gabe noted that they are now moving towards having the plot owners take on more of the garden maintenance
- Chris Kask requested that the GPCG Committee produce an operating plan for the gardens

7. Communications

a. Newsletter –Vera/Christine

- Deadline for newsletter content is September 30th, production and printing will happen in October with distribution in the first week of November

- Scott offered to write an article about Bruce Campbell and his mudlarking hobby
- It was also suggested that perhaps there should be a feature on local businesses

b. Websites/Social Media

- Christine reported that Marcus was rebuilding the GTCA website
- The new site would include a blog and would be fully responsive (automatically adjust to a variety of devices i.e. mobile)
- Christine requested that all board members forward new photos of themselves.
- The site should be ready for the board to review at the next meeting
- It was agreed the Canada Day site would continue to stand alone and maintain its own Canada Day branding
- Christine also noted that the marketing committee should get going – Chris K., Scott and Vera agreed to be involved

9. Canada Day – Chris Kask

- Revenues were up from 24k last year to over 25k this year
- Expenses were 22k and the net income from the event was \$4300
- The event was slightly busier than last year but the issues with garbage and recycling were resolved because of more casual labour support
- The GTCA received tons of positive feedback at the GTCA tent with many people expressing gratitude for the work of all the volunteers

10. Operation Issues

- At a summer meeting of the Executive there was a discussion about document storage
- Currently paper documents are stored in the basements of board members and this situation needs to be remedied
- Executive is looking at several options for digital storage
- Several Canadian options have been reviewed however they are expensive (over \$1000/annum) while American options are better and much less expensive
- Christine and Vera agreed to investigate whether Google Docs could be an option

11. Art on the Bridge – Scott

- The artist expects the artwork to be installed in early October
- It was agreed that there should images of the artwork in the next newsletter

12. Boats in the Gorge – Scott

- The City of Victoria is pushing to evict all of the boats off of Bamfield Park and some of the boat owners have stated that they intend to move to area around Curtis Point
- Scott recommended sending a letter to alert Saanich that these boats are intending to move to Curtis Point and that their presence their could negatively affect the water quality (sewage release) in what has become a popular neighbourhood swimming area
- The board agreed that the GTCA should be proactive on this issue and push Saanich to ban these boats from Curtis Point

13. Public Process Handbook

- Colin Plant is looking at rewriting this handbook, which currently does not even mention community associations
- Colin Plant is looking for input from community members

14. Saanich Draft 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

- Saanich is seeking input on this document and the deadline is September 30th.
- Members can send comments to council@saanich.ca

15. New Societies Act

- Board members were asked to look at the New Societies Act as it affects how societies are to be governed (a power point outlining the changes was sent to the board by Rob on August 11th)

16. All Candidates Meeting

After a some discussion, the board decided that the GTCA simply did not have the resources to put on all candidates meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1st