



Draft MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Oct.5, 2017

In Attendance: Gabe, Irena, Russ, Ray, Scott, Trevor, Katherine, Chris B.

Regrets: Rob, Pam, Vera, Chris K., Ed and Marcus

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm (Scott doing these minutes on behalf of Vera who was sick.)

1. Approval of Minutes

Adopted with several edits

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted with additional items – 4f and 9

3. Reports

a. Finance

Chris K. had sent out Financial reports earlier along with his regrets, please see those reports for further details.

b. Membership – Irena

There are currently 115 paid members.

c. SCAN/Council – Gabe

SCAN

- i. Presentation by BC Transit / Victoria Regional Transit Commission. As part of their review of services, they are developing a series of Local Area Transit Plans over a number of years -- including Burnside/Gorge/Tillicum this year. The process will involve Open Houses, stakeholder identification and workshops. The first Open House in our area will take place in a converted bus at the Tillicum Centre, from 5:30-8:30 pm on 9 November. The board decided to: (a) invite BC Transit to our next Board meeting (2 Nov.); and (b) to promote the Open House through this edition of our newsletter.
- ii. SCAN is working on a letter to Saanich encouraging the municipality to create guidelines to be used when negotiating community amenity contributions with developers
- iii. A request from Haji (N Quadra CA) that CAs write to Saanich in support of the request from Swan Lake for financial assistance towards the completion of their new boardwalk. Irena will draft a letter for review and the Board will send it.

- iv. Re the SCAN draft letter to the Planning Department regarding Saanich development application processes and the SCAN invitation to CAs to sign the letter: The Board:
 - (a) made some changes to the draft text that strengthened the tone of the letter; and
 - (b) modified the sectioned relating to the Environmental and Social Review. Our edits will be shared with SCAN. If SCAN chooses to keep their present draft, the Board will submit its version independently - with an explanatory cover letter.

Council:

- i. Updating of the GTCA Local Area Plan is scheduled to begin in 2021
- ii. Saanich staff will be studying the feasibility of approving garden suites
- iii. The development on Portage Rd received approval from council
- iv. MoTI plans for a berm in Cuthbert Holmes Park were not approved -- staff were directed to work with the ministry to revise their plans, taking into account the concerns of the community. (The question of whether or not a berm, over and above what exists at present, is actually needed was briefly considered at the Board meeting.)
- v. Council endorsed the Terms of Reference for the updated Saanich Climate Plan: 100% Renewable Saanich. The GTCA is listed as a stakeholder in upcoming consultations regarding the plan and its implementation.
- vi. Within the context of work done on this matter by the CRD, Saanich is considering how a ban on single use plastic bags may be implemented in Saanich

d. Land Use/Developments

- **2870/2874 Austin Ave.** - Application to subdivide (to add a house at 2874) was discussed. The board decided that the GTCA has no objection to this proposal.
- **Wastewater Pipeline** - Russ reported on the meeting he attended regarding the CRD Wastewater plan -- in particular, processes whereby community engagement regarding the construction of the conveyance pipelines might occur. (See the attached notes from Russ) Once project begins, they will have a 24/7 hotline number to call if questions/concerns. Public input meeting to be held in November (date to be set) at St. Josephs. Information will be added to the next issue of the newsletter.

4. Parks

a. Gorge Park Cleanup Report

Ray reported that there was a good crowd - about 40 -- and good work was done. Inviting people via email (in addition to the use of posters) helped bring people out. Scott and Ed have volunteered to coordinate future cleanups (working with Craig/Saanich).

b. CHP Fish Fence

Ray reported that the fish fence is installed and they were just waiting for the rains to return and for the fish to return. Refurbishing the fence will be put off till sometime in the future.

c. Gorge Park Community Gardens

Gabe reported that the Open House was successful, despite a bit of rain, bringing in \$737 and featuring some lovely live music.

d. Upgrade of the Sequoia parking lot on Gorge Road

Gabe reported that the parking lot was damaged by heavy equipment during pump-station/bathroom project. The sequoia tree looked sick from soil impact but seems to have recovered. Saanich Parks is developing a plan for this. As part of this discussion, it was suggested that we, as a Board, collaborate with Saanich in an educational project whereby trees in Gorge Waterway Park are identified through attached labels.

e. Pop-Up Prayer Vigils

The role of Board members, Saanich Police and Saanich Parks -- working with the coordinator of the vigils -- was described and discussed. The goal was to keep the vigil sites (in Gorge Waterway Park and Hampton Park) as clean as possible and to maintain a civil tone throughout. The Board decided to draft a letter to council, copied to Police and Parks, commending both departments for their responsible role in managing issues around the vigils AND urging council to address the question of affordable housing as an urgent matter. This letter will be drafted and shared after the Hampton Park vigil is over.

f. Motor homes in Gorge Park

Irena reported that a small camper has been parked nearly daily and nightly for a month at Gorge Park, despite signage that says no parking after 11pm. There is also a messy camp of a small number of people under the nearby trees that seems to be related. Phone calls to the police non-emergency number were suggested.

A related concern brought up by Katherine, RV parking on her street (Obed near Harriet) and safety concerns as road is quite narrow. Suggestion was to talk to her neighbours and/or call bylaw if the issue continues to be a concern.

5. Communications

a. Newsletter

Vera was away but sent an email report on timelines, etc. Gabe will send Vera two brief items for inclusion -- re the BC Transit and wastewater open houses. Katherine's concerns re parking were discussed with the suggestion that calls to the police were appropriate and that we would not include her suggested reminders re parking bylaws in the newsletter (having already done so in a previous edition). Irena also suggested (and received support for her suggestion) that members receive the newsletter by email -- before it even arrives at their doorways.

Reconciliation story - Scott talked about his conversations with Butch Dick (Songhees) regarding Indigenous history along the Gorge, leading to the article he's submitted for this edition. The discussion moved into one whereby the Board would explore the possibility of further communication and collaboration with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Scott will check with Bruce about how to do this, respecting Indigenous protocols.

b. Websites/Social Media

- Marcus was away so there was no website report
- Scott reported there were 1030 Facebook followers

6. Gorge Bridge Signage

Saanich parks has asked us for an agenda for the unveiling event on 21 October. The Board decided that, as this is a Saanich project, they should take the lead (including defining an agenda). The GTCA would have someone speak at the event.

7. Transition Planning

Gabe reported that the survey of directors, present and past, has gone out.

8. Tree Canopy Workshop

Gabe reported that the organizers of the workshop *The Value of Urban Green Space* invited CAs to "consider supporting this initiative by purchasing individual tickets or a Block of 5 tickets for your organization" -- the Board declined the invitation. Katherine will attend under her own steam.

9. Lights on the Gorge (LOTG)

Chris B reported on plans for LOTG. Russ and Katrinka Karpes have joined the LOTG planning group. This year's event will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

Attachments:

- **Revised minutes from September board meeting.**
- **Russ' report on the waste water meeting.**

Next Meeting Board Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017
Place: Pearkes