

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**MINUTES**

**Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2019**

**In Attendance:** Gabe, Vera, Chris K, Scott, Irena, Arden, Russ, Pam, Phil

**Guests:** Jon Rathbone, Paul Savinkoff, Lewis Rhodes

**Regrets**: Evan, Katherine, Chris B. Ed, Elise

1. **Conversation with prospective directors.** Casual chat with 3 guests who are considering joining the board.
2. **Agenda Adopted.** (with the addition of item 4j)Arden motion/Russ seconded
3. **Approval of minutes** from September meeting. Vera/ Pam seconded.
4. **Reports and Updates:**

A. Finance: See report submitted by Chris Kask

B. Membership: It’s still early in year yet but Irena reported that we already have 45 renewals, 4 new members and 3 new business memberships. We also have additional donations of $80.

C. Communication:

1. Newsletter: Latest edition is out, lots of positive feedback! New content for next Newsletter is due April 30th.
2. Website: Vera/Brenda looking at this now. Starting to build something on WIX platform. Will have motion for next meeting to approve a budget for up to $1000 to build.

D. Boulevard Trees: Not a lot has happened this fall, a few plantings. Will maybe look at doing something for the Membership booth at Canada Day Picnic.

E. Council: The Albina St project (2900 block of Albina) was passed at council. Also, council has been looking at tree protection -- how to protect existing trees and how to further increase tree plantings through development projects and other means as well as improving the tracking of existing trees. Council also looked at the Bylaw 7753 surrounding ‘Sheltering in Parks’ and made amendments, adding more parks to the list of those where NO sheltering is permitted.

F. Gorge Park - Future plans: Gabe reported that Saanich Parks is planning to do more clearing around the parking lot opposite Orillia St, hopefully improving sight lines and making the parking lot less inviting to long term parking and other less desirable activities. Also, they are going to more work in the areas between the parking lot and the field and more near the corner of Gorge/Tillicum.

G. Building Developments: Home Outfitters is leaving Tillicum Centre, nothing else happening at the Centre at this time.

It came to our attention that a new chunk of land is for sale, in the 3000 block of Tillicum Rd and backing on to two lots of the same block on Albina St. Nothing more is known at this time. The issue of a casino came up as Saanich has opened the door again to this possibility. It is of interest as our neighbourhood is being considered as a possible site.

H. Saanich Climate Action Workshop: Phil and Gabe attended on our behalf. Saanich is apparently on phase 4 of 6 with regard to this action plan. Phil reports that it seems to be a slow process and, in his view, needs to be more ambitious. There is worry that governments everywhere are moving too slowly on this issue.

I. GT Refugee Sponsorship Group: The group now has $30,000 in the bank but is aiming for $90,000. Looking at asking people to commit to monthly contributions.

J. BC Transit Local Area Plan: Survey is online, please give your feedback. Some transit changes are coming to our area.

1. **Planning for Current and/or New Actions:**
2. AGM: Coming up, April 4th! Volunteers are needed for setup, help at membership table, etc. -- directors will be asked to sign up as per the new AGM task-list! The earlier invitation to mayor and councilors will be followed by phone-call reminders.
3. GT Community Design Guidelines: See updated document put together by Vera. (Looks great Vera, thanks!) Some minor edits were made but we will keep the door open to future fine adjustments, as needed.
4. New Working Groups: (See Draft 2 Document) Please give feedback to Gabe so that this can go to the AGM.
5. Strategic Actions document, Draft 4: Review document and give feedback. Will be discussed at April board meeting.
6. 321 Gorge Rd West: Not much has been done on this file for a while. Arden to see about getting an appointment to see the inside of the building.
7. Gorge Park Cleanup, Saturday April 27/19, 9am-noon: Scott to call Saanich Parks, organize them coming. Vera to make poster.
8. Can Day Picnic: Chris K. went to grant night at Saanich and presented the grant application ($7000 requested.) Vendors are already signing up. Committee is looking at the possibility of moving the main-stage to the Gorge/Tillicum end this year. Phil is hoping to add a ‘Green Zone’ portion -- EV Club, solar panels etc. -- with its location yet to be determined.
9. Music in the Park: Aug. 20th, 6-8pm. Russ (with Rob and Ray) starting to organize vendors/band.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:00pm Moved by Scott, seconded by Russ.

**Next Board Meeting**

**Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**Place: Pearkes Recreation Centre**