

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**MINUTES**

**Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Sept 12th 2019**

**In Attendance:** Gabe, Vera, Chris K, Scott, Phil, Russ, Pam, Irena, Paul, Chris B.

**Regrets**: Arden, Evan, Katherine, Elise, Jon, Lewis, Ed, Rob

**Guest:** B.J. Wilson

**Guest Presentation:**

Stan and John Sipos, as well as Liz, from Cielo Properties came to discuss preliminary plans for the old Bingo Hall property behind the Royal Bank and between Burnside and Tillicum.

* Soil testing has been completed.
* Looking at plans for a mid-rise, rental building and a pedestrian/transit friendly project.
* As part of plan, Saanich would move the roadway ‘inwards’ to accommodate up-to-date bike paths, green-space and sidewalks along the perimeter of the project.
* Early design plans show two larger buildings, 5 storeys, wood-frame construction on a concrete podium. (It is noted that the OCP allows for up to 8 storeys.) Main buildings are ‘L’-shaped with a courtyard in between them. There are commercial spaces and some townhouses included in the proposed design.
* Parking is aiming for 1:1, (Something like 210 units. About 275 parking spots, mostly underground, for residents, visitors, and businesses.)
* We enquired about whether there’d be any 3 bedroom units (there is a shortage of these in the region) and discussed building texture/character to go with its height.
* They are seeking rezoning (not for height, but for density) and hope to perhaps start building in about a year.

1. **Agenda Adopted.** Phil motion/Chris K. seconded. (All in favour.)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from June 2019 meeting.** Paul motion, Russ seconded. (All in favour.)

**Reports & Updates - Board:**

1. **Finances:** See report submitted by Chris Kask.
2. **Membership:** See Irena’s report. 178 individual members plus 4 organizations (businesses).
3. **Communication:**

**A.** **Newsletter** content due Sept 30th, aiming to be out mid October. (Hoping to get the winter issue out a bit earlier than in past.)

**B.** **Website** is up and running, good feedback so far. Still room for content to be added. Confirming that membership fees can be paid via the website.

**C.** **Brochure** To be considered at a future meeting

**D.** **Banner** To be considered at a future meeting

1. **Board Organizational Review:**
2. **Working Groups:** Gabe is aiming to get these groups organized and to facilitate first gatherings by end of the month (or soon thereafter).
3. **New documents** -- ‘*Roles and Responsibilities’* and *‘Procedures and Practices’*-- to be developed prior to 2020 AGM.
4. **Future director recruitment:** Looking to add more diversity to the board.

**Board Activities – Current and/or New:**

1. **Gorge Park Community Gardens:** Still waiting to hear back from Parks re: the lease renewal agreement. Upcoming celebration planned for Sept 22, 1-3 at the Gardens.
2. **Green Spaces and Waterways:**

**A. Boulevards**: Donna Roth (and Pam) has been doing a lot to keep the Boulevard Brigades going. Pam organizing a meeting the week after this meeting. In related news, re: the astroturf at Burnside/Tillicum, we have let Saanich know that we are not in favour of such measures.

**B. Parks**: The recent tours of Cuthbert Holmes Park, and the new landscaping along the Mckenzie Interchange Project, have made people hopeful. There were some campers recently removed from CHP but nothing like last year, before the bylaw changes and enforcement.

**C. Gorge Park Cleanup:** Coming up, Sept 14th. Posters have been put up and the event has been posted to our Facebook page.

**D. Gorge Park:** Saanich Parks is planning some minor improvements around and close to the parking lot in hopes of detering undesirable activities and to perhaps deter overnight parking. They are also considering parking time limits (as the Board had suggested in the past) and discussing the use of gates that will be locked overnight. The majority of the Board was in favour of some kind of time limit being applied to the existing signage (which, at this time, only says no overnight parking.) Parks is also trying to organize help for these overnight parkers and the regular tent campers by way of BC Housing and associated non-profit organizations. The regular open drinking and smoking that goes on at the picnic tables in the park is an issue that bothers many. Gabe to correspond with Parks to express our concerns.

**E. Gorge Waterway**: There is still one boat anchored in the Gorge, near the point. Seems to be quite a long process to get them to move.The iconic white chain-link fence has been replaced/updated and painted over during the summer.

1. **Building Developments:**
2. No action on the Tillicum Centre (Montana’s Restaurant) file. Looking like nothing will happen for quite some time.
3. Re the Tillicum/Albina/Obed bundle of properties that are for sale: A Vancouver-based developer is considering purchasing the site with an eye to constructing various types of rental buildings on it. Gabe/Vera to set up a conference call with them.
4. **Mobility and Transportation:**
5. PISCES has some concerns around safety at Esson/Admirals, looking for our input. Gabe still waiting to hear back from them after their wider consultations with others.
6. **Art, Culture & Celebration:**
7. **Music in the Park:** At Rudd Park, 20th August -- was a success. Lots of dancing and fun had. Some concerns that the Music in the Park events have no on-site recycling options.
8. **Lights on the Gorge:** Kay is still organizing. Need someone to organize food/drinks as Deb has stepped down from that task. Chris B. to ask Bakeology for support.
9. **Public art:** Conversation delayed till next meeting.

**Reports & Updates – Saanich:**

1. **Saanich Community Association Network:** Gabe missed the last meeting - no report.
2. **Saanich Council:** Draft Uptown Douglas St Corridor plan. Planners are hoping to attend our NEXT meeting to present to us. (Update: Presentation confirmed for October meeting.)

**Reports & Updates – Projects Beyond the Board:**

1. **Gorge Waterway Initiative:** Phil wants to pass the task of being the GTCA representative on to someone else. In the absence of a representative, might we get updates via Dorothy?
2. **Improving Access to Gorge Waterway**: No report over summer.
3. **GT Refugee Sponsorship Group**: Work ongoing. Looking for more monthly subscriptions. Please consider donating.
4. **What’s Next - a GT Climate Crisis Action Group**: Scheduled meeting was delayed due to recent flood (broken pipe) at Pearkes. Now rescheduled for 6 October.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:05pm. Moved by Phil, seconded by Gabe

**Next Board Meeting**

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

**Date: Thursday, 10 October, 2019**

**Place: Pearkes Recreation Centre / Lam Room**