



P.O. Box 44152
VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10th 2019

In Attendance: Gabe, Vera, Scott, Phil, Pam, Lewis, Paul, Irena, Rob, Ed

Regrets: Chris K, Arden, Evan, Katherine, Elise, Jon, Russ, Chris B

Guests: Larry Scott, B.J. Wilson

Guest Presentation: Alanna Cooke, Saanich Planner, Draft Uptown-Douglas St Corridor Plan. Alanna brought us copies of the Draft Plan and went over some of the details that applied more pertinently to areas that overlap the edges of our neighbourhood. (See documents for more information.)

1. **Agenda Adopted.** Gabe motion/Scott seconded. (All in favour.)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from September 2019 meeting.** Phil motion, Vera seconded. (All in favour.)

Reports & Updates - Board:

3. **Communication:**
 - A. **Newsletter** content is gathered, finishing touches underway.
 - B. **Website** Still room for content to be added.
 - C. **Bulletin Board** needs new locks, missing/stolen, Scott to deal with.
4. **Board Organizational Review - Working Groups:**

Gabe organizing times and spaces for meetings for all groups, about to be launched.

Board Activities – Current and/or New:

5. **Gorge Park Community Gardens:** Garden has been readied for winter, lots of mulch, etc. The Sept/Fall celebration was canceled due to bad weather. Has been some small organizational issues regarding participation levels and getting some of the work done.
6. **Green Spaces and Waterways:**
 - A. **Boulevards:** Pam reported that they had a meeting last week, approx. 9 people, made a plan to cleanup their spaces in prep for Saanich mulching them, some plant changes and new bulbs.
 - B. **Parks:**

Gorge Waterway Park -- Phil reported that there has been someone dumping and adding to a pile of old clothing at a bench near VCKC. Phil had contacted Parks but there are apparently complications. Phil to follow up with a letter.

Gorge Park -- Vera to follow up with Andrew re: our earlier letter of concern regarding activities in the park.

C. Gorge Waterway: Just a heads up -- Te'mexw Treaty and Songhees Nation have written a Concept Paper on Colquitz/Gorge Watershed Special Management Area with the aim to "explore practical, collaborative approaches for protecting and improving sustainability of salmon and herring runs in the Colquitz/Gorge Watershed."

7. Building Developments:

- A.** Habitat for Humanity interested in giving us a presentation and to open the door to more neighbourhood collaboration. Coming to November Board meeting. (*Update: Postponed to 2020*)
- B.** Re the Tillicum/Albina/Obed bundle of properties that are for sale: A developer is considering purchasing the site and has contacted Saanich and the GTCA for preliminary / exploratory conversations. The site currently includes 14 lots (had only been 9 originally). Looking at something like 5 storeys on Tillicum and lower townhomes on Albina. Would like to meet with us.
- C.** Abstract Developments owns the two low rise apartments complexes on Gorge Rd, one near Dysart, the other near Rockwell. They want to talk with us. They're in the early stages of making plans.
- D.** Development Application Procedures: Mt. Tolmie Community Association has drafted documents for their use addressing development application procedures -- they are sharing their work with other CAs, for adaptation and use in their own areas. Gabe suggests we do the same, something that can go hand in hand with our other, recently created, development documents.

8. Mobility and Transportation:

The CRD Wastewater Conveyance Pipe project will begin the task of putting the pipe under the Gorge Bridge next week. Will cause one lane (south-bound) closure and the west sidewalk will also be closed for some months.

9. Art, Culture & Celebration:

- A. Music in the Park:** no report, Russ away.
- B. Lights on the Gorge:** no report, Chris B away. Usual planning is underway. Served notice of intention to present a budget, and request funding, at the November meeting.

Reports & Updates – Saanich:

- 10. Saanich Community Association Network:** Presentation by Mt Tolmie CA regarding their approach to collaboration with development proponents and Saanich. A decision was made to forgo attempts to define Terms of Reference addressing relationships between SCAN/CAs and Saanich.
- 11. Saanich Council:** Accelerated Climate Action Plan -- includes big changes and improvements to: public transportation, pedestrian infrastructure improvements, electric vehicles, removal of oil furnaces, etc.

Reports & Updates – Projects Beyond the Board:

- 12. Gorge Waterway Initiative:** To get updates from Dorothy.

13. **GT Refugee Sponsorship Group:** Work ongoing. Phil reported our refugees have had some issues with their documentation, slowing them down some. The group is planning Fundraising events and still looking for more monthly subscriptions. Please consider donating.
14. **What's Next - a GT Climate Crisis Action Group:** Had their launch meeting, 21 people came out. Starting to get to know one another and beginning to plan participant-selected actions.
15. **Meeting Attendance:** Some concern with low attendance from some directors. Some have been sending their regrets but the concern is that sometimes, lately, we've been close to not having a quorum. Also would be nice to confirm that everyone is reading the meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. Moved by Phil, seconded by Gabe

Next Board Meeting
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Date: Thursday, 14 November, 2019
Place: Pearkes Recreation Centre / Lam Room