



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, April 2, 2015

1. Adoption of Agenda & March 2015 Minutes

Moved GE/Seconded CB – Approved

2. Election of Ray Farmer

The election of Ray Farmer was missed at the AGM.

Moved VWW/Seconded GE – Approved

3. Canada Post Mailboxes

Kai Zhang, a resident from the corner of Colquitz and Gorge, came to the meeting to raise concerns about the way Canada Post had informed her about the 48 unit postal box which was scheduled to be installed at that corner. She was very concerned for numerous reasons: 1. There had been no prior consultation; 2. The corner is already dangerous and is the site of numerous accidents; 3. There is a pump station there which is frequented by numerous municipal vehicles; 4. Her residence is a legal triplex and the boulevard area is required for parking.

The board noted that this situation is similar to others in the neighbourhood. While the Canada Post website espouses consultation the reality has been dramatically different in that only homeowners with boxes directly in front of their property are being notified.

Rob advised that Saanich has final signoff on box locations so the best way to move forward was to advise Saanich, in writing, that no consultation was being done. The board agreed to send a letter to Saanich about the postal boxes.

It was also recommended that the homeowner proceed with a complaint to Canada Post, as Canada Post has been responsive to other homeowner complaints.

4. AGM Debrief

- The AGM was well attended with 57 people attending. (20 more than last year)
- Only two Councilors and the Mayor attended. (all newly elected)
- In general people had a good time and liked the opportunity to socialize
- People missed having some type of presentation
- The room was not ideal as the registration table needed to be in the room which made it feel very crowded
- It was suggested that board members could have taken a more proactive role in introducing people
- Ray was thanked for preparing Harry's Sasquatch Award

5. Reports

a. Finance – Chris

- No report
- Chris requested that the GPCG present their operational plan for the year

b. Membership – Christine

Currently there are currently 94 members.

c. SCAN Renewal /New Council – Rob

SCAN is currently working on new terms of reference.

d. West Gorge Transportation Committee – Pam

Rob reported that Fred Haynes invited CARS to make a presentation about speed limits. Rob would be making the presentation on behalf of CARS.

e. Land Use Committee/Developments – Rob

Rob reported that the Christmas Hill Community Association was very concerned about the Environment Development Permit Area (EDPA) which was causing problems in their neighbourhood. Because of the EDPA, homeowners are not able to build decks or landscape their properties. They would like the GTCA to join their petition.

While it was noted the EDPA does affect homeowners in the GTCA, particularly along the Colquitz River, the board did not see the benefit of joining the Christmas Hill petition at this time.

f. GTUF- Gabe

No report

g. G.T. Community Tables - Chris Bullock

No report

6. Parks

a. Community Garden – Gabe

- The fundraiser is scheduled for April 11th. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.
- Five beds have been built and the accessible beds would be arriving soon
- 25 people attended the memorial tree planting
- People can join the GPCG on the GTCA website

b. Cuthbert Holmes Master Plan

Draft plan is now online and includes:

- Decommissioning of many trails
- Removal of the Hawthorn patch
- Education vs. regulation with respects to dogs
- No smoking in the park

7. Communications

a. Newsletter –Vera/Christine

- Deadline for newsletter content is April 30th.
- Would like to profile all board members in the newsletter (need photos from a few board members)

b. Websites/Social Media

- 126 people on twitter.

8. Art on the Bridge

- The selection committee has selected three finalists
- Finalists will present to the committee in April

9. Canada Day

- Strong vendor support (30 artisans & 15 food vendors)
- Entertainment lineup has been setup
- Pump station construction is still in limbo so final site plan cannot be set
- GTCA to follow-up with Saanich re: the pump station construction

10. GTCA Resident Survey – Vera

- Vera suggested that the GTCA look into conducting surveys within the neighbourhood so that the board had a better idea of how the residents (not just members) feel about a variety of issues
- There was general agreement that research was a good idea and that it should be discussed at the board planning retreat
- It was also suggested that UVIC or the municipality could be involved
- Vera to look into some preliminary options and costs

11. Planning Retreat

- Date set for Sunday, May 3rd, 8:30 – 5:00pm
- 12 board members were confirmed for the retreat
- 10 board members would take the boat to Point Ellice

12. Conversation (Amalgamation discussion) – Trevor

- The discussion is becoming a more general discussion on governance and is not just focused on amalgamation
- April 28th there will be a presentation by Mike Harcourt to talk about engaging neighbourhoods