

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 13th 2019**

**In Attendance:** Gabe, Vera, Chris K, Scott, Irena, Russ, Pam, Katherine, Phil, Paul, Lewis, Ed

**Regrets**: Arden, Evan, Elise, Jon, Chris B, Rob

1. **Agenda Adopted.** (one addition, #10 A.)Gabe motion/Chris K. seconded. (All in favour.)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from April meeting.** Gabe motion, Paul seconded. (All in favour.)

**Reports & Updates - Board:**

1. **Finances:** See report submitted by Chris Kask.
2. **Membership:** See Irena’s report. 124 individual members plus 4 businesses. Gearing up for Canada Day.
3. **Communication:**

A. **Newsletter** is out!

B. The new **website** is 70% done and up and running! Vera and Brenda are still working on final additions.

C. **Brochure** still in the works. Not a priority. (Vera.)

D. **Banner**, not done yet, will see after Canada Day is over.

E. **Member Email**: Will do one before summer (Vera). Promote new website, Can Day Picnic, Music in the Park.

1. **Board Organizational Review:** Nothing till fall.

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

1. **Gorge Park Community Gardens:** No report.
2. **Green Spaces and Waterways:**

**A. Boulevard Tree Plantings.** Will add links to new Website. Also, Saanich Parks will be at Can Day Picnic promoting this for us.

**B. Parks**: Big restoration plan starting at Cuthbert Holmes Park. Stewards, Dorothy/Julian, happy with this and it seems to be heading in a good direction**.** This is good news as the park and the river have been taking quite a hit from the McKenzie Interchange project the last two years. A young bear was spotted in CHP in the last week - no recent sightings.

**C. Gorge Waterway Park:** Neighbours of Amica have been complaining that Amica employees are parking in the Park’s parking-lot.

**D. Gorge Park:** Discussion about RV’s parking at Gorge Park parking lot.For over a year now, there has been consistently one RV parked at the park. Now, there are often two and sometimes three parked there. We will talk with police and, if this goes nowhere, we will consider writing Council (Gabe), asking for more action on this ongoing issue. Also concern about the absence of bylaw enforcement regarding drinking and smoking in the park.

**E. Gorge Waterway**: There is still one boat anchored in the Gorge, near the point. Contact Saanich (Gabe) for an update regarding the application of the 72 hour anchoring Bylaw.

1. **Building Developments:** Albina St (Greg Abbott) project has been approved. Qu’Appelle St project in process.Austin andBattleford Rd (small, single-lot subdivisions) proceeding. A few other active files but not much happening.
2. **Mobility and Transportation:**

**A. Parking Concerns:** Katherine brought this issue up, sighting a number of neighbours increasingly using boulevard space for parking, making gravel parking areas, often parking perpendicular to the road. Some share her concern, others not so much. It is a shame that more boulevard space isn’t used for trees.

**B. Albina St ‘sinkhole’:** The sinkhole that first became an issue in the winter (2900 block of Albina St has been closed since) is still ongoing. It is apparently an old sewer line (1940’s) that is in a tunnel and while the pipe is ok, the tunnel seems to be collapsing. Saanich is considering repair options.

**C. McKenzie Interchange:** Letter from PISCES (to Gabe) around safety concerns at Esson/Admirals, looking for our input. We will look at meeting them in the fall.

1. **Art, Culture & Celebration:**

**A. Gorge Can Day Picnic:** Please sign up with the GTCA tent! Dignitaries have been invited to the bike-parade (as usual.) Funding/Sponsors - all good as per usual. Main Stage will be at the Tillicum end this year, and ‘Buskers Corner will move to the Admirals end! No opening ceremony this year. 28 Food Vendors (the most ever!) Saanich Police will be increasing safety measures this year, more road blocking and presence, street blocking, etc.

**B. Music in the Park:** At Rudd Park, 20th August, band to be ‘Arf the Dog’, food vendors, etc.

**Reports & Updates – Saanich:**

1. **Saanich Community Association Network:** Insurance for community associations (CAs) will be $25 more this year - $600. We will support letter requesting Saanich consult with CAs before removing trees on public land in their areas. Also support the draft Terms of Reference document for CAs
2. **Saanich Council & Staff:** Environmental Policy Framework Terms of Reference under consideration (to replace EDPA). After a late meeting, council delayed this till July 8th.

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

1. **Gorge Waterway Initiative**: Phil went. One item: ‘European Green Crabs’ (new invasive species concern) are starting to show up in Esquimalt Harbour.
2. **Improving Access to Gorge Waterway**: Vic West meeting, no one went.
3. **GT Refugee Sponsorship Group**: is presently just $925 short of July 1st deadline. Please consider donating. See Newsletter or website for more information. [Update: Fundraising goal reached before 1 July.]
4. **‘What’s Next’ - a GT Climate Crisis Group**, (newly formed) will have a table at the Picnic. Looking to introduce themselves and invite participation from more neighbours.
5. **Waste Water Treatment Project**: Currently installing sections of pipe in the neighbourhood. Concerns over collateral road damage - traffic circles dug up, etc. Apparently they will be repairing after the work is completed.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:58pm. Moved by Scott, seconded by Vera

**Next Board Meeting**

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

**Date: Thursday, 12 September, 2019**

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