

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**GTCA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**FINAL**

**In attendance:** Chris B, Katherine, Irena, Chris K, Pam, Vera, Arden, Russ, Gabe, Arden, Philip, Paul

**Regrets:** Scott, Lewis, Evan, Elise, Jon

**Guests:** Susan Aktarian (neighbour), BJ Wilson (neighbour), Larry Scott (neighbour)

1. **Agenda review** - Agenda approved with addition of Music in the Park - moved by Vera, 2nd by Chris
2. **Minutes** from the previous meeting - Approved - moved by Phil, 2nd by Vera
3. **Finances**: See financial documents for 2019: Formal statements for 2020 AGM approved by Phil 2nd by Vera. Grants are being applied for (Saanich) for Canada Day.
4. **Members**: 1 renewal. Most Board members renewed tonight.
5. **Communication**: Website is up and running. Vera will update monthly so if someone has a change, talk to Vera. Newsletter deadline for content is January 30th, going to press mid-February for delivery early March as AGM is April 2nd. Most common hits on website are Canada Day and other events.
6. **Board Organisational Matters**:
7. Practices for working groups & presentations: Board meetings are open to the public. Working Groups report to Board and are committees of the Board. As such, decisions in the working groups are not made independently of the Board. Decided that working groups are, indeed, open to public attendance but, to attend a meeting, people would contact the chair prior to attending to ensure room in meeting space. Vera to add meeting details to website. Also, include Dorothy Chambers and Julian Anderson on Board meeting agenda on an “as needed” basis to report on Cuthbert Holmes Park and related matters. Gabe will get back to Dorothy
8. AGM planning: Date set for April 2, 2020. Theme is “developments” with a possible panel of speakers. Location: Silver Threads / Les Passmore Centre. Vera suggested we engage the Buildings Working group to decide on a panel and/or speaker. There will be information about current development but there will also be an educational component to describe/teach processes for developments and importance of collaboration with developers.
9. Strategic action planning: GTCA’s position & function in the community and in relation to Saanich: Discussion about boundaries of the Board's operational role within the community. Gabe asked for a small group of directors to consider this question -- Katherine, Chris K, Russ, Arden, and Phil volunteered.
10. **Developments and other building uses**
11. Buildings Working Group report - January meeting was deferred to next week. Last meeting was taken up by Abstract (developer) for 630 and 992 Gorge Road development; proposals for both projects have been submitted to Saanich Planning. The working group will start looking at what types of community amenity contributions we can propose for local developments.
12. Review of current proposals: **Qu'appelle St.** went to council -- praised and approved unanimously as it is rental, CMHC approval for funding. **Harriet and Obed** development -- Gabe asked for an open house from project manager. **630 Gorge Road:** Gabe was interviewed in Dec by Saanich News and was supportive of the proposal. Some neighbours have concerns about the impact of this development. **992 Gorge:** Saanich Planning requesting Board comments by Jan 31. Gabe will wait until we are finished responding to the 630 Gorge project. **3400 Tillicum Road (bingo hall) --** Saanich planning department requesting comments now. Will do so after meeting with the proponent in the near future. **Gorge & Tillicum:** no recent/new discussions regarding this property. **Tillicum/Albina/Obed:**  Potential developer met with GTCA twice. They were to close by Nov 30 but have decided not to pursue plans for this site. **Gorge & Earl Grey:** still for sale. **Tillicum Center towers** behind Kelsey's: no sign of change.
13. Board role in development application process: We encourage public/community input to developers and to Saanich via letters, public meetings, etc. We’ll add a link to the Saanich “active development applications” web page on the GTCA website. Gabe has written a draft discussion document about the development process -- reviewed by the executive so far and coming to the full Board soon -- that can inform our conversations with Saanich and our community and serve as a resource for new directors.
14. **Green spaces & waterways**
15. Green & Blue Working Group - Paul reported: Walter Park working group finished weeding around oak tree, mulch applied, planting will occur with Saanich Parks in next few months. Talked about pollinator spaces and routes and indigenous species planting. Photos taken of Walter Park work sent to Vera for Newsletter. Possible collaboration with the Saanich "Pulling Together" program. Considering creating a handout for people interested in creating pollinator gardens. (If there is a handout with a GTCA logo, it needs to be approved by the Board.)
16. Gorge Park: Need a volunteer to plan a meeting with Saanich Parks, Police and Pacifica Housing to discuss options for the people living in the park. Ed Pullman volunteered to organise this meeting.
17. **Gorge Park Community Gardens**: Gabe reported that the allotment waiting list has 59 people on it. Only 2 people leaving this year.
18. **Mobility and Transportation**
19. Mobility & Transportation Working Group - no meeting December 26th. Next meeting 23 January in the Queen Alexandra room. Agenda; priority setting; feedback from neighbour survey
20. Updating draft letter to Saanich re needed Tillicum Road work
21. **Art, Culture & Celebration**
22. Arts Working Group - Chris B report: did not meet in December. Have produced a lengthy document with ideas for public art within the community. Next meeting January 23 to choose 2-3 ideas to start with. Arden will meet with ReStore on Burnside to see if a mural could be put there.
23. Lights on the Gorge - Good turnout for carol singers. Chris B and Kay will not be coordinating next year and thus new planning team members will be required. Discuss future LOTG planning at a spring Arts Working Group and Board meeting. LOTG planning could potentially be part of the Arts Working Group’s operations.
24. **Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN)** - no meeting in January. Plans to discuss housing and developments over the next year.
25. **Saanich council & staff**:
26. Urban Forest items: Saanich has approved: (i) a Reserve Fund to support the urban forest strategy and (ii) procedures to strengthen the Tree Protection Bylaw.
27. Local Area Plans: Council voted in December to defer further Local Area Plan updates in order to work on the development of a housing strategy. Staff estimated 2-3 years before the process starts up again -- this means the Tillicum LAP update may only take place a few years after that as other areas are ahead of us in line. The GTCA can, however, work on ideas for the LAP review in the meantime. How this might be done will be considered by the same group reviewing the GTCA’s role (see above).
28. **GT Refugee Sponsorship Group**: The sponsorship family is now in limbo with respect to application due to national documentation problems. The group is less than 1/2 way to goal of $100,000. Next steps: continue fundraising.
29. **What’s Next GT**: Meeting monthly; participants are beginning to select activities and are considering the type of support they might need.

**16. Music in the Park:** Russ would like to have this responsibility taken on by someone else. He will go to the first 2020 planning meeting.

**Motion to adjourn**: Moved by Russ, 2nd by Chris B