



GTCA Board Meeting Agenda - 11 February 2021

Zoom meeting

Present: Gabe, Phil, Irena, Vera, Arden, Russ, Paul, Chris B, Katherine, Larry, Chris K, Edward, Pam, Sharifa
Regrets: Scott, Erica

Governance

1. Meetings

- a) Agenda review Adoption: Vera; Second: Phil; all approved
- b) Minutes from the previous meeting – Edits: Walter Park stewards: Anne Genuist and Steve Legg (written previously as Steve Genuist) Adoption: Paul ; second: Vera; all approved

2. Members

- a) Membership expiry date revisited; Board Vote for Option A: 11, Option B: 2, abstention 2
 - a. Option A: Membership expiry date for all members is December 31. Pay at any point in the year. Recommended that membership renewal reminder go out in December each year.
 - b. Motion to modify the GTCA Bylaws to allow for this change to be brought forward to AGM

3. Communication & Conversation

- a) Newsletter: to print February 16, 2021
- b) Website: Vera finalizing the formatting

4. Working Groups

Proposed activity (see proposal document attached)

- a. **Proposal #1: That, except in special situations deemed appropriate by the Board, we consider all external projects -- be they from developers, Saanich or others -- at the Board level rather than through working groups, thereby maintaining the proactive purpose of the latter.** In favor: 10; Abstain: 4
- b. **Proposal #2: That we create vision documents through each of the other working groups, one for each of the current focus areas, identifying (in general terms) what it is we would like and where we would like it. Vision documents would need to be approved by the board.** In favor: 14

5. AGM Planning: Meeting is April 15: notice will go out in Newsletter, members will also be advised by email

- a. Board membership: Gabe will step down as President. Many thanks to Gabe for his exceptional work
- b. Structure: virtual meeting; suggestion to do a presentation or speaker. Gabe will put an email out for ideas/suggestions

6. Participation in Projects beyond our borders:

- a. Considerations for participation: time and energy required; conflicts may arise with other neighbourhoods.
- b. Proposal: The GTCA Board may choose to comment on such projects if they have direct impact on our community. Otherwise we stay removed from projects outside the GTCA neighbourhood. In favor 11 abstain 2

Projects

7. Art, Culture & Celebration

Arts, Culture & Celebration Working Group – Anticipated mural cost \$20,000. Proposals for funding include a GTCA contribution (\$5000), a hoped for Saanich grant (\$5000), local businesses donations (\$3000), and a public fundraising campaign (\$7000).

- a. Motion (Arden): To allocate up to \$5000 from GTCA art fund towards mural. Second (Chris B). In favour: 12, no opposed, 2 abstentions.
- b. Motion (Arden): To create a Go Fund Me campaign to raise \$7000 towards the mural project. Second Chris B. In favor: 13, 1 abstention

8. Buildings (Developments and other building uses)

a) Buildings Working Group – no report. Meeting next week.

b) Development Applications –

- a. Nicole Parker (Keay Architecture Ltd) re 3143 Tillicum micro-units: open house Feb 24th, 6 pm
- b. 630 Gorge Road West townhouses: Saanich Advisory Design Panel feedback: too little landscaping, minimal space for pedestrian safety, feel is too “dense”. The ADP have asked Abstract to come back with changes to address these issues
- c. 992 Gorge Road West: no report

9. Mobility and Transportation

a) Gorge Road W. project – letter sent to Saanich Engineering – has been acknowledged by Saanich but no follow up planned yet

b) Mobility & Transportation Working Group – letter to Mayor and council 15th Dec re: vision for Tillicum Road. Response from Saanich: it has no current plans to make any changes on Tillicum Road. A suggestion was put forward that we source funding to hire experts who can help us create a vision for improvements to Tillicum Road. Talks with Karen Harper regarding connectivity with Esquimalt have been positive. Larry, Vera and Phil to discuss options and bring to Board.

c) Orillia St: Email from an after school program bus driver from Burnside Gorge CA with a safety concern created by parking at Tillicum School. School’s Parent Advisory Council is involved in traffic planning around the school and would like to work independently with Saanich prior to seeking support/involvement by GTCA.

d) Esquimalt Active Transportation Planning: in early stages but the M & T working group will collaborate with respect to Gorge Bridge cycling and pedestrian safety.

10. Natural Areas (Green spaces & waterways)

a) Natural Areas Working Group –

a. Pollinator corridor / habitat project: 5 UVic geography students have signed up to work with us to develop activities in support of this project

b. Walter Park: Pulling Together group / Park Stewards have started removing invasive species.

b) Gorge Park Cleanup: Board recommend waiting on a formal park clean up until restrictions for gatherings due to the pandemic are lifted.

c) Pollinator Meadow: A new meadow in Esquimalt Gorge Park can be used as a model

d) Gorge Creek estuary – Gorge Waterway Action Society working on plans to redesign the estuary

11. Other Projects and Collaborations

a) Gorge Park Community Gardens – no report

b) The Existence Project – presentation was attended by 4 Board members and some community members. Chris to send a link to the recording.

Other Reports & Updates

12. Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) – no report.

13. Saanich council & staff:

- family day weekend event: The District of Saanich is hosting a community art project for Family Day weekend in Gorge Waterway Park
- 3 transportation items at Monday's council meeting - 2 of relevance to our area:
 - AAA cycling infrastructure improvements around Saanich (current phase) and in GT neighbourhood (future phases)
 - BC Transit: Rapid Bus transit routes being developed with minimal stops to increase capacity, efficiency, etc. Stops in GT area are at Tillicum road/Highway, and McKenzie/Admirals/highway.

Move to adjourn: Vera; Second: Gabe; All in favor

Meeting ended at 21:04.