



MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016

In Attendance: Rob Wickson, Scott Karpes, Katherine Brandt, Chris Kask, Vera Wynn-Williams, Marcus Fedoruk, Pam Loadman, Ray Farmer, Irena Jazwinski Trevor Hancock and Bill Williamson

Regrets: Christine Fedoruk, Richard Bouchard, Gabe Epstein, Chris Bullock,

Guests: Evan Leeson, Dorothy Chambers, Colleen Hobson and Corrine Bains

1. Presentation by Saanich Neighbourhood Place

Colleen Hobson and Corrine Bains updated the board on the progress of the development of the new daycare centre at Pearkes.

- The previous proposal went into the park so the GTCA did not support the building placement and suggested that the centre be moved into the back parking lot
- SNP went to Saanich and got approval to move the building to the parking lot
- Saanich has approved the plan to go ahead with a development permit. (no new zoning is required)
- SNP will keep the board informed as they go through the development process

2. Adoption of June Minutes

Moved RF/Seconded SK – Approved

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Election of Bill Williamson

MOTION: It was moved by Chris Kask and second by Trevor Hancock that Bill Williamson be elected to the GTCA board of directors. The motion carried was carried unanimously.

5. Reports

a. Finance

Chris Kask reviewed the financial statements, which had been distributed to the board prior to the meeting.

- Grant revenue is down from last year but this is due to grants received for the community gardens last year
- Sponsorships for the Canada Day Picnic were up
- Picnic vendor fees were similar to last year even though the ice cream vendor were way down due to the cooler weather
- Picnic supply costs were up due to the purchase of way finding signage, which should last for ten years
- Performer fees were less than in 2015
- The net income for the picnic was \$3,700

Chris Kask explained that he would like to close the GTCA's gaming account which has not been used since he had taken over as Treasurer. The account generated additional and unnecessary paperwork for the association without providing any benefits to the GTCA.

MOTION: It was moved by Bill Williamson and seconded by Trevor Hancock that the GTCA gaming account be closed. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Membership

- No report

c. SCAN/Council – Rob

Council

Trevor and Rob presented the GTCA Homelessness Plan to the Healthy Saanich Committee and the plan was then prematurely brought up at Council. After some discussion it was left up in the air and it shifted back to the GTCA. Trevor and Rob will continue to present to groups and build support for the plan, which advocates that Saanich set up a community based task force, and hire a social planner and a community outreach worker.

SCAN

Rob presented the GTCA Homelessness Plan and there was good interest from the group.

d. Transportation Committee – McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection Task Group

McKenzie Interchange Project

There was a MOTI meeting with the community associations – Richard and Pam attended on behalf of the GTCA.

- In Sept./Oct. they will begin removing contaminated soil, searching for Rock Art, and salvaging plants
- In October there will be a groundbreaking ceremony
- They will be moving the water main from under the highway to Portage
- MOTI was unaware of salmon spawning however there will be a monitor on site but it was noted that this monitor will be provided the contractor
- There will always be a Songhees/Esquimalt archaeological monitor on site (there is a 40k/day fine if the monitor is not on site)
- It was noted that Dean Murdoch stated “Not our land, not our money, does not impact us”
- Rob reported that he met with Federal officials in Ottawa but they all deferred to the Province
- The issue of the parking lot was discussed and it was noted that PISCES does not want the parking lot. Dorothy reported that Burke Road could accommodate twelve spots if there was a small gravel turn around added
- It was also noted that the GTCA supported the transfer of all PCC lands to Saanich – Rob reported that there are many negotiations going on between the Province and Saanich
- Trevor recommended that the GTCA speak to the Environmental Law Clinic to see if there was any possibility of an injunction

Parking

Rob reported that he is still getting many calls about parking issues. Calls are about people parking and then riding their bikes downtown and also about the number of parked cars on the boulevard.

Speeding

- Pam reported that there are many discussions about speed however Saanich is not interested in doing anything about speed
- Pam noted that Saanich may do something on Vincent because there is no traffic circle on that street
- Trevor recommended that the GTCA buy a radar gun so that the GTCA could document the excessive speeds in the neighbourhood. There was no board consensus on this recommendation.

e. Land Use Committee/Developments

- **Qu'Appelle** – Drawings have been circulated
- **Douglas Corridor** – Some consultation was done over the summer and the consulting process is continuing
- **Nigel Valley** – The development right beside Saanich City Hall is moving ahead
- **Earl Grey** – Council is currently passing permits
- **Capital spending for roads and sidewalks** – Rob met with Harley from Saanich Engineering and according to Harley Saanich will try to add bike lanes to Tillicum Road between Burnside and the highway. Saanich was also waiting to see what Victoria was doing with bike lanes on Gorge Road so that Saanich could match what was being done on the Victoria section of Gorge Road.

6. Parks

a. Gorge Park Community Garden

- No report
- b. Management Proposal for Derelict Boats** – Dorothy
- There continues to be an issue with derelict boats and boats mooring in the Gorge
- Currently there is a boat moored at the launch under the bridge and it looks like someone is living aboard
- Saanich is not enforcing the rules and seem to be unclear if the boat owner moves their boat a few feet every 72 hours whether they comply with the rules
- Board agreed that the GTCA needs to continue to push this issue as the problem will continue to grow as the City of Victoria enforces their rules

c. Cuthbert Holmes Park

- There continues to be camping activity in the park and several large encampments were found
- Bike police have evicted numerous campers and Saanich has done some clean-up
- New fish fence sign is in development and should be complete in time for the salmon run
- Biggest issue facing the park is the proposed construction of the McKenzie interchange and its massive impact on the park (Rob had indicated earlier that Saanich and the Province were in negotiations about the park and compensation)

d. Washrooms on the Gorge

- There continues to be issues with the new washrooms on the Gorge
- Toilets do not flush due to issues with the sewage pipes. There is no definite ETA on flushing toilets
- Landscaping is complete but equipment is still around
- Rob has received complaints about the size of the gender signage on the doors. The symbols are approx. 5 feet tall and are very visible to the neighbours across the street. According to Saanich the doors came with the symbols but they are looking at some screening options to reduce the visibility of the symbols.

e. Gorge Park Clean Up

- Gorge Park clean up is scheduled for Sept. 17, 9 am to noon
- Volunteers to meet in Gorge Park across from Fairway

f. 574 Walter Street

- Saanich has demolished the house and cleared the lot
- Rob noted that Saanich had saved some architectural pieces and that some of these pieces were now in his backyard. As per earlier discussions it was hoped that some pieces could be integrated as public art into the park
- The new park will be a natural space, as per the wishes of the homeowner who bequeathed the property, however the park may include a diagonal pedestrian path across the property

7. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- The content deadline was September 30th however content would be accepted until October 15th
- The newsletter is scheduled for distribution in early November

b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus

- Marcus reported that he was working on a new GTCA website based on the Square Space platform
- Marcus would send around a link once the site was ready to view

c. Communications with Saanich Committees – Rob

- Rob noted that there was an issue communicating with Saanich committee members as there was no longer a way to send materials to committee members. The committee chairs, all of whom are city councillors control what information is distributed to their committees therefore committee members may not receive all the pertinent information.
- It was noted that the purpose of the advisory committees was to advise Saanich Council however if council is restricting the information available to the committee members then these committees are not fulfilling their mandate.

8. GTCA Constitution/New Societies Act – Vera

- The board would have to revise its constitution and bylaws to meet the new provincial guidelines. The proposed changes should be approved by the membership at the next AGM.

- Possible changes to the bylaws and constitution could include: the election of directors by the board, required quorums, digital payments and 'signing' officers
- Bill was to take the lead on organizing a smaller meeting and bringing forward recommendations to the board

9. Ward Based Election System – Trevor

- Trevor presented a recommendation for a Ward-based election system and requested that the board approve and make the recommendation to the Saanich Governance Review committee
- The issue was deferred for future discussion because the Saanich Governance Review Committee was not yet meeting and the board members wanted more time to discuss the pros and cons of a ward-based system

10. Saanich Police regarding strategic planning focus group by Sept. 15

- Bill Williamson was approved at the GTCA representative for the Saanich Police strategic planning meeting

11. Shoreline Road Boat Ramp Access

- The board had a robust discussion about the proposed Emergency Boat Launch at Shoreline school
- It was noted that this initiative seemed to have more to do with the Marine Trail proposal than emergency services
- It was also noted that there continued to be issues with boaters going into sensitive areas and that there was a general lack of awareness of the area's federal protection as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Rob noted that this illustrated the need for a Gorge Watershed Management organization

12. "Nail, Sail and Bail" – Scott

- Scott reported that there is some community interest in hold a "Nail, Sail and Bail event somewhere along the Gorge
- This event which held in other communities has team build, sail and race a craft they have created in a couple of hours
- It was suggested that this event may be something that could be added to Canada Day

Next Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday, October 6, 2016
Place: Pearkes Community Centre