



Draft MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

In Attendance: Rob, Vera, Gabe, Pam, Russ, Chris B., Scott, Chris K., Katherine & Ed

Regrets: Marcus, Irena, Trevor & Ray,

Guests: Philip Lancaster, Joe Boyd, Dorothy Chambers & Elise Côté

1. Approval of Minutes from January 2018

Moved CB/ Seconded GE– Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved RG/CB that the agenda be adopted - Approved

3. Graham Lancaster

Graham came to meet to board meeting to communicate his frustrating experience with trying to set up a local business on Burnside Road. Graham wanted to open a gourmet pizza shop in the old Art's Bakery location. It was his intention that this would be take out location and not a restaurant. To his dismay he was told by Saanich staff, that unlike Victoria, there is no retail food category. His only options were to locate in mall/strip mall location (drive-up location C3 zoning) or re-open the Arts Bakery location as a restaurant. However, the second option was fraught with difficulties because having three tables would require the installation of washrooms (no room) and the requirement of 14 parking spots.

Dismayed by Saanich's rules and attitudes, Graham dropped his plans. Graham suggested that to avoid this situation in the future, the GTCA push for a food retail category in Saanich.

It was noted that there were several other businesses retailing food along Burnside but that they were non-compliant.

The board was dismayed by this lost opportunity to create a much-needed local business in the neighbourhood. The board agreed to write a letter to Saanich to push for a food retail category.

4. Reports

a. Finance – Chris K.

Chris reported that he had seen a bump in membership as a result of the email reminder. Chris also anticipated that there would be more revenue from the AGM and GPCG.

b. Membership

Irena had sent in a membership report which Rob presented.

- There were 35 new members

- Facebook had over 1000 likes

It was suggested that every time a member registers, they be sent a thank you from the membership secretary.

Vera suggested that there the GTCA add a flyer to the next newsletter promoting membership. The board approved the suggestion.

c. SCAN/Council – Rob

Council:

- Maddock and Austin developments were both approved.
- Rob pushed Council for solar now instead of “solar ready” developments

SCAN:

- Presentation on parking has been cancelled due to overwhelming popularity and will be rescheduled.
- SCAN will begin to use a cloud server to share and store information.

d. Land Use/Developments

- **Qu’Appelle** – Katherine, Gabe and Rob met with the Chuck Bell, the developer. The project will include townhouses. There is some concern about drainage on the site. The project is looking for new zoning and a parking variance as they are hoping to build 54 spaces for 44 units which is fewer than Saanich currently requires. The building will also be electric car ready.
- **Albina** – This project is still in the works.

e. Transportation

- **Gorge Road Speeds** – This has been an ongoing discussion and the board agreed that the best first step was a face-to-face meeting with Saanich Engineering. Saanich is looking to get input through the Active Transportation Plan. It was suggested that when the time comes a delegation should make a presentation and push for harmonizing the corridors so that Saanich roads do not have higher speed limits than the surrounding neighbourhoods.

5. Parks

a. Cuthbert Holmes

Fish Fence – Dorothy Chambers

- Esquimalt Anglers will take the fence under their jurisdiction so they will provide insurance and apply for grants.
- Dorothy and the fish fence volunteers will continue their activities at the fish fence.
- School projects are on hold because of DFO’s concerns about security and safety at the fence.
- Rob thanked Dorothy and her team for all the hard work at the fence.

Campers in the Park

- Campers in the park are running gas fired generators causing concerns about environmental damage and potential fires.
- It was also reported that there has been an increase in BE's in the neighbourhood and that there is a large pile of stolen goods around the camps. The board expressed dismay that the police did not seem to be doing much about the situation.

b. Gorge Park Community Gardens – Gabe

- The GPCG held their AGM and had a work party
- The organizers are looking for more volunteers
- All the plots are gone and there is a waiting list
- An action plan has been developed which included plans to build a contingency fund and small work teams have been created, as all members must sign up for a team.
- \$5,500 needs to be raised for the gardens
- The website has been redone

c. Sequoia Tree – Austin Ave

- The Sequoia tree, which was hurt by the washroom construction, is recovering and Saanich will repave the surrounding parking to give it more room.

d. Music in the Park

- Music in the park will be held on Tuesday, August 21st. This will be the final concert of the summer.

6. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- Newsletter was in production and would be distributed before the AGM.

b. Websites/Social Media

- No report

c. Drone Footage

- This idea was on hold for the time being

7. AGM

- The AGM has been booked for Tuesday, March 13th in the Lam Room at Pearkes
- It was suggested that Paul Thorkleson, CAO of Saanich, be invited to speak at the AGM

8. Craigflower Bridge Lighting – Scott

Scott noted that there has been an issue about the planned lighting on the new Johnson Street Bridge and its potential for environmental harm. He noted that the Craigflower Bridge also has LED lighting reflecting onto the water. Dorothy expressed concern as the water below the bridge is very shallow and lighting allows predators such as seals to go after fish at night. It was agreed that this was an issue that required more research and investigation.

Next Meeting Board Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018
Place: Pearkes