

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**Board Meeting -- Meadow Park, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance:** Gabe, Vera, Scott, Chris K, Phil, Arden, Russ, Paul, Katherine, Chris B, Rob, Sharifa, BJ, Erica,

**Regrets**: Pam, Ed, Phil, Larry

**Please note:** Due to Covid-19 and all the required social-distancing measures, the GTCA missed its regular board meetings in April, May and June. (Our last board meeting was Feb. 13/20.) Also, our AGM had to be postponed, as did our flagship event, the ‘Gorge Canada Day Picnic.’

**Welcome new directors!**

1. **Board Operations:**

**Agenda Adopted:** Russ motion/ seconded Paul. (All in favour.)

**Approval of the Minutes from March 2020 meeting:**  They were previously approved, via email.

**AGM:** To be late September.Will be no guest speakers. Aiming for simple and small. Looking for a location -- Vera to investigate school gyms / Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

1. **Financial Report:** (See Chris’s report.)
2. **Membership Report:** (See Irena’s report.)
3. **Communications:   
   Mail Chimp:** We had been locked out of our ‘free’ Mail Chimp account;however Vera and Chris K. have sorted this. Should be able to use again shortly.   
   **Newsletter:** Next issue togo out late summer. Deadline for submissions is July 20th (approx.)
4. **Gorge Park Community Gardens:** During the Covid-19 outbreak, the shed and the toilet have been closed. More recently, the toilet (porta potty) had to be removed. But, during this time people have been gardening by using their personal tools. Also of note are the recent sightings of deer in the neighbourhood. Discussions around fencing options are ongoing.
5. **Development Updates:** Not a lot of news or updates from the several proposed projects in the neighbourhood. Saanich planner Chuck Bell reports that none have cancelled yet. Things still look somewhat uncertain for the time being and we suspect some projects will change. Only time will tell.
6. **Mobility and Transportation:**Albina St. is finally open again (the 2900 block had been closed for over a year due to repairs around a sink-hole.) Replacement of sewer/drainage pipes on Orillia St. are now also completed: Saanich now doing the same on Donald St.   
   Work to underground infrastructure on Gorge Rd. had been planned but now is being delayed. We have concerns on how this will affect the Canada Day Picnic next year.
7. **Art, Culture and Celebration:   
   Music in the Park** (normally in late August at Rudd Park) has been cancelled but Saanich is planning some ‘pop up’ concerts for various parks. There will be no notice given, no date -- meant to be a pleasant surprise but also to keep crowd sizes down.   
   **Lights on the Gorge:** Cancelled.
8. **Community Action Plan:** Gabe suggested that we ‘park’ this plan/process for the time being. (This was a new initiative that had only just begun but, as a broad consultative process would’ve been part of this, it will be difficult to implement due to Covid-19.) We discussed this and it was agreed that we wait till a later time to proceed.
9. **SCAN:** There have been Zoom meetings and check-ins by community associations.
10. **Saanich Council:** No debate (or action/changes) on the ‘drinking in the park’ proposal; it was voted down.
11. **August Board Meeting/Social Event:** Plan to meet socially, outdoors, in mid-August, at a date determined by the weather. Gabe/Vera to let us know.
12. **September 10th Board Meeting:** Hopefully this date will work for an indoor meeting. Will wait and make plans as we get closer to that date.

Meeting adjourned (motion Paul, seconded Russ.)