



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, May 7, 2015

1. Adoption of Agenda & April 2015 Minutes

Moved CK/Seconded GE – Approved

2. Douglas Corridor Planning

Presentation by Marc Cittone, Senior Planner - City of Victoria

City of Victoria was looking for community input on the vision for the Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood. Located on the boundary of the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood, many of the transportation connections cross municipal boundaries. Marc told the board that there were community conversations planned for May 9th (Burnside Gorge Community Centre) and May 21st (Gabriel Ross – 2500 Rock Bay Ave.) He also noted that there was a survey at: victoria.ca/burnside. Staff would be going to Council in August and they anticipate having a draft plan early next year.

Members of the board had the following comments:

- Area is not bike friendly
- No easy connection between Balfour to Washington to get to Cecelia Ravine Park
- There needs to be better cooperation between Saanich and Victoria
- Traffic speed on Gorge Road is too high
- Sidewalks should be moved away from the curb to increase pedestrian comfort and safety
- Burnside would be good corridor for light rail

3. Retreat Planning Debrief and Next Steps

The board was pleased with the planning session however there was more work to do. Andrew Wynn-Williams had submitted his report and it had been distributed to the board. The June meeting should have at least 30 minutes dedicated to planning and there may be need for an extraordinary meeting in the summer.

4. Reports

a. Finance – Chris

No report

b. Membership – Christine

Christine was preparing for the membership tent at the Canada Day Picnic and was looking for volunteers to work 90 min shifts in the membership tent.

c. SCAN Renewal /New Council – Rob

- SCAN voted on their terms of reference and agreed to be an information sharing organization only.
- Rob spoke at Council and they agreed to delay the building of the pump station on Gorge Road until after Canada Day.

- Oil tanks have been an issue for three years and Dean Murdock and Colin Plant are supportive but things are not moving along. Still need to push Council, Mayor and engineering.

d. Transportation Committee – Pam

Work on Tillicum Rd. south of the highway

Dorothy Chambers expressed disappointment that Tillicum Road south of the highway was not getting the same level of work done as the other side of the highway. She noted people were expecting the streetscape improvements that were promised many years ago.

Rob noted that the whole board shared her disappointment. He stated that he had spoken to Saanich staff and that Saanich engineering considered the paving to be regular maintenance and hence did not see the need to consult or inform the community.

The proposed larger streetscaping project on Tillicum Road (in front of RioCan) was part of an amenities package negotiated in 2009 when RioCan was planning to build the residential towers. However, with that project shelved there is no money coming from RioCan and Saanich has not budgeted for the work.

It was noted that Saanich was in the process of revisiting the area plans however it was now clear that nothing would happen on Tillicum for the near future.

The board agreed that something should be put in the newsletter letting the community know that the GTCA was not advised by Saanich about the repaving project and was shocked at the speed with which it progressed.

McKenzie/Admirals Intersection

It was reported that Mayor Atwell had met with Minister Stone to discuss the McKenzie/Admirals intersection, which is now recognized as the second worst traffic bottleneck in the province, just behind the Massey Tunnel in Vancouver.

Rob noted that the Regional Growth Strategy outlined that any work done on that intersection cannot expand road capacity and that transit, biking and walking must all be priorities. Expanding road capacity would simply increase the demand for housing in the western communities and the road traffic would continue to grow.

The board agreed that the West Gorge Transportation committee name should be changed to the Transportation committee. The Transportation committee would look at issues related to all transportation, which affected our neighbourhood.

e. Land Use Committee/Developments – Rob

Rob reported that there were preliminary discussions happening about a large housing development planned for the Nigel Valley area close to the Saanich Municipal Hall. The project includes many partners including BC Housing and would look at a variety of housing types. It was very early days for this project and consultations would be happening in the future.

f. GTUF- Gabe

No report

g. G.T. Community Tables - Chris Bullock

No report

6. Parks

a. Community Garden – Gabe

- The fundraiser had raised \$5,000
- The irrigation was installed
- There would be 60 beds in total
- The trees had been planted

7. Communications

a. Newsletter –Vera/Christine

- Newsletter would be ready for the first week of June

b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus

- Communications plan would be developed after the Canada Day Picnic
- New GTCA website would also be revamped over the summer

8. Art on the Bridge

- The selection committee had reviewed the 18 submissions and narrowed down the three finalists
- The winner would be announced on May 26th

8. Canada Day

- Planning was going well with strong vendor and artisan interest

9. Tillicum School Pedestrian Safeties – Scott

Scott report that three months ago a meeting had been held with Harley from Saanich Engineering and the school Principal and at that time Saanich Engineering had agreed to add a crosswalk at Orillia and Donald. However, it has not been done yet and Saanich states that, “they will do it soon”. Scott noted that they would continue to request a timeframe from Saanich.

10. Environmental Development Permit Area – Rob

Rob reported that the EDPA continues to be an issue with over 200 people attending a meeting. According to the bylaw homes within the EDPA would have to hire a biologist before they could do any work on their property. SCAN has proposed that Adriane Pollard, Saanich Environmental Services Manager, be invited to a meeting. It was noted that the elected officials have not made their positions known on this issue.

11. GTCA Resident Survey – Vera

This issue was carried over to the June meeting when Trevor was back.

12. Community Aesthetics/Pride – Katherine

Katherine had circulated a draft letter to the board about issues in the community particularly the increasing number of vehicles parking on the boulevard and the visual impact of large recreational vehicles/boats being stored in driveways and front yards. Katherine noted that she had contacted other municipalities such as Oak Bay, Victoria, Langford and that there was a wide variation in how municipalities handled these issues.

After much discussion there was no clear board consensus particularly on the issue of recreational vehicles however there was agreement that existing bylaws should be enforced.

It was recommended that the best approach was to speak directly to the neighbour directly and then if rules were still being disobeyed, a call to Saanich bylaw might be required.

The board did agree that community pride was an area of concern. In addition to vehicles/recreational vehicles, there were also concerns about property maintenance, disrepair and drug houses. It was suggested that the GTCA may provide a educational role by highlighting existing bylaws in the newsletter or through social media.

It was also suggested that a good approach may be positive reinforcement and publicity for neighbours who had done much to improve not only their property but also the neighbourhood. (i.e. people who installed book boxes etc.)