

GTCA Board Meeting, April 5, 2018, 7pm

In attendance: Gabe, Irena, Chris K, Vera, Arden, Chris B, Elise, Evan, Pam, Phillip, Russ, Scott

Regrets: Katherine, Ed

1. Minutes from Last meeting approved, (Motion by Vera, 2nd by Phillip)
2. Agenda adopted.
3. Guest: Nicolas Denux, President of Castera Investments, Re: Proposal of a 44 unit rental development at 2931/47 Qu'Appelle St.
 - Castera has built 5 buildings in the last 5 years, (Langford, View Royal, Nanaimo.)
 - They build to hold/manage these rental buildings themselves.
 - 1 unit will be a 3-bedroom, 4 units will be 2-bedroom/den
 - Mostly 1-bedroom suites, range in size from approx. 500-650 sq/ft
 - 58 parking spots, including visitor spots.
 - Will have onsite Bike storage
 - Will apparently be pet friendly
 - Discussion about architectural features, some openness to change of colours/texture.
 - With the use of CMHC 'Rental Construction Financing' and by way of a community amenity contribution, the developer is considering making suites available at an average of 10% below 'Market Value' for the first 10 years. (This is a grant from the Federal Government. Developers must meet certain requirements; Energy efficiency requirements, Accessibility requirements and, provide rental affordability criteria for a 10 year minimum.)
 - After the developer left the meeting, the Board decided that it did not support the use of the above mentioned CMHC deal as a form of community amenity contribution- and would discuss other options to suggest. The Board was, however, generally supportive of this project initiative.
4. Introductions. As this is a newly elected board, (with some returning and some new directors,) each of us gave a brief overview of themselves, their interests, experience and hopes for involvement on the board.
5. Reports
 - A. Finance: (See Chris Kask's report.)
 - B. Membership: Recent membership drive (Newsletter Insert) seems to have done some good. At present, we have 150 individual memberships and 2 business memberships. Some discussion about how to grow this was had.
 - C. Communication: Newsletter Deadline is April 30th. The board decided unanimously to remove directors' personal emails addresses from the newsletter and use only the GTCA email address in the published newsletter.

The GTCA Website is long overdue for replacement. Some initial work had been done on this. Evan Leeson volunteered to utilize his expertise to help finish the process of building a new platform.

Would like to build a 'communication team' (more to be discussed.)

Boxes of information (from Rob) have been collected. To be sorted, thinned, and delegated accordingly.

- D. Board transition: As with the 'communication team', we would like to build more 'teams', each with a Director 'plus' ('plus' being more people from the community.) Establish a volunteer call out list to use as needed. Have teams focus on projects. Find ways to integrate new board members and also enthusiastic community members. We may want to put together an 'Incoming Director' "package" to make it easier for new directors to 'plug in'. (See 'Proposal for the GTCA' draft document for more info.)
Some discussion of the role of the 'Immediate Past President'.

- 6. A. Governance: SCAN: Gabe is the GTCA rep, Vera is the alternate. Saanich Staff/Council: Time to start building new relationships, make council aware of new board and roles.

B. Developments: (see guest, item 3 above.)

C. Boulevards/Parks/Waterways: Gabe was on CBC this morning re: Cuthbert Holmes Park and ongoing concerns over camping/sleeping/garbage in the park. Vera and Gabe met with Saanich Parks prior to this. Keeping the pressure on for this issue as we have deep concerns that the ecosystems of the park are in danger. At this time, Council is working on new legislation that is intended to help (with regard to 'chattel' left in Saanich parks) but we are concerned that this will not solve the issue. Vera and Pill working on presentation for council.

Gorge Park Cleanup is April 21st (Gabe/Scott to talk to Ray and clear up any missing details for a smooth transition.)

Tree planting discussion was passed for now due to time constraints.

D. Transportation: (Nothing at this time.)

E. Art/Culture/Celeb. Canada Day meetings already on. Russ will work with Ray, Rob and Saanich on Music in the Park. More to come later.

- 7. A. Saanich Environmental Awards: Board would like to nominate Julian Anderson. Some have already nominated him through individual applications.
- B. Canada 150 Time capsule. They are looking for items to add. We suggest a few of our newsletters and Can Day Picnic brochures.
- C. (This item was passed for now due to time constraints.)

D. Elise was curious about Gorge History tours/walks. Dennis Minaker still does 1 or 2 a year and, in the meantime there are self guided tours with use of pamphlets distributed through Saanich. To be discussed further.

E. Nail/Sail/Bail event is happening this year, as part of World Ocean's Day at Esquimalt Gorge Park, Saturday June 2.

F. Craigflower School is rumored to be closing. Some concerns over what could happen to the land. (As a side note, Elise reported (after the meeting) that SD61 is apparently working with local First Nations to integrate this school with Shoreline Middle School at a new building on the Shoreline site. The Songhees and Esquimalt Nations have expressed strong interest in the location due to past burial grounds/village site being here.)

8. Additions to Agenda:

A. Gorge Waterway Park, Iconic 'Chain-link' Fence is apparently to be replaced over the next few years. Some concern that it remain somewhat iconic in style.

B. Parks has plans to clear out some of the invasives on the hill in Gorge Park (along Tillicum Road.) Some hopes that this will lead the way to there being a 'connector' path through this area to the corner.

C. and D. Ran out of time here. To be addressed via email, Gabe.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm, moved by Russ, 2nd by Chris K.
Minutes completed by Scott Karpes.