



P.O. Box 44152
VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7 p.m. Thursday, January 10, 2019

In Attendance: Vera, Katherine, Arden, Rob (Immediate Past President), Evan, Chris B., Pam, Phil, Russ, Chris K.

Regrets: Irena, Scott, Elise, Edward, Gabe

1 a) Approval of minutes. No minutes taken for December 2018 meeting/social.

b) Approval of agenda. Approved—one addition. Chris K. motion, Arden seconded.

2 Reports.

- A. Finance. Chris K. had submitted initial financial statements for 2018 showing that we were in good shape. In response to questions, he confirmed that expenses were down (because of less expenditure on the community garden), and that he wasn't applying for any further grants from Saanich until he received detailed project requests.
- B. Membership. Irena indicated by email that there were 4 new members. The new member welcome mechanism is in place. Several Board members renewed their memberships on the spot.
- C. Communication. Vera indicated that content was needed by the end of January, and the Newsletter would be out in early March. Phil agreed to contribute a piece on Saanich's strategy to address climate change. It was agreed that there would be a piece spelling out the GTCA's approach to, and guideline proposals for, local developments — including reference to the charette. Vera asked Chris B. to contribute a piece on Lights On The Gorge 2018, and it was agreed this piece would include an invitation to join the LOTG coordinating committee. Russ, with the support of Chris B. and Evan, offered to write a piece on the new management at Gorge-ous Coffee.
- D. Developments. Vera reported that there would be an Open House on the proposed development at the corner of Gorge and Tillicum from 4-7 on Tuesday, January 29th, at #203, 300 Gorge Road West (above Gorge-ous Coffee). Vera also indicated that it was unclear whether the Rio-Can development in Tillicum Mall would proceed or not. Rio-

Can Victoria will let us know when Rio-Can Toronto has made a decision on this issue.

3. Initiatives and Collaborations.

- a. Boulevards, Parks and Waterways.
 - i. Cuthbert Homes Park/Gorge Park—banned activities. Vera indicated that there is less camping in CHP at present, but we will need to be vigilant as the weather improves. Gorge Park presents a more serious present challenge, as there is drinking and smoking there every day, all day, a latrine built among the trees, and piles of trash. Suggestions from Board members included a) more calls to the police, b) making the presentation to Council that we had previously planned to do, c) having a meeting between us, the police, and parks staff.
 - ii. Cuthbert Holmes Park—MOTI environmental violations. It was proposed that the Board explore possible responses in consultation with Veins of Life Society and, perhaps, UVic's Environmental Law Centre.
 - iii. Gorge Waterway/ Portage Inlet—Boats. The issue of Saanich's inaction on derelict boats, notably the one off Curtis Point, was introduced. Because the boat owner has been identified, the boat can no longer be classed as derelict and thus picked up by the Veins of Life Society. The question of what the Board might do to persuade Saanich to enforce their own bylaw on boats violating the 72 hour limit was raised.
- b) Community Development guidelines. We agreed to defer this item till the next meeting. Board members were urged to re-read the charrette recommendations before then.
- c) Website. Evan was ill over the Christmas period, and so was not able to work on this.
- d) Canada Day. Chris K. announced that he intended to start the planning for this event earlier, and that Tillicum Mall has indicated that they would like to get more involved with the event. Vera has contact with the Mall. Chris K. will organize a February meeting.
- e) Lights on the Gorge. Chris B. reported on the success of this year's event, reflected in the large number of new people, and families with young children, attending, but pointed out that Kay Stewart withdrawing from her role as co-coordinator threatened the continuation of the event. Suggestions were that a) Kay should write a description of her responsibilities to make targeting a replacement easier, and b) that we might find a Spectrum School intern seeking experience in doing publicity, which has been a large part of Kay's LOTG work. Chris B. will report on the situation after a LOTG meeting in January/February.

4. Other Items

a) February Board Meeting Date. Chris B. appealed to the Board to move the next Board meeting away from February 14. Vera agreed to try to re-book the room for a Board meeting on February 7.

b) AGM Date and Location. It was agreed that April 2nd should be the date for the AGM, and that we should try for VCKC as our venue. It was agreed that we should invite members of Saanich Council, and have an interesting speaker. No decisive ideas on the latter, though.

c) Colleen's SNP Farewell Party. It was agreed that Board members should consider attending the farewell party for Colleen Hobson, executive director of Saanich Neighbourhood Place, to be held on February 2nd.

5. Additions to the Agenda.

Russ argued the need for a flashing light on the crosswalk at Gorge View and Gorge Road West. He noted that the absence of such a flashing light at Craigflower and Coventry resulted in a recent accident.

Adjournment: motion Arden, seconded Russ.