

Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee Board Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2024, 6:00 pm

QVCC Youth Centre

MINUTES

We acknowledge that we meet this evening on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Esquimalt) and WSÁNEĆ peoples, and we thank them for sharing this land on which we live, learn, work and play. Hay'sxw'qa si'em!

Board Members Present: Cheryl Wolfe-Milner, David Turner, Fapu Duan, Firas Daoudy, Leslie Kenny, Matt Takach, and Frankie Chao

Regrets: Hana Akai

QVCC Staff: Kelly Greenwell, Shavonne Paltiel

Guests: Susan Kim (Council Liaison), Hana Qadaffi (QVCC Equity Committee)

Chair: Leslie Kenny

Minutes: Matt Takach

1. Approval of the Agenda
Moved/Seconded: Cheryl, Frankie
Passed. No Objections.
2. Approval of the Minutes of November 27, 2023
Moved/Seconded: Cheryl, Firas
Passed. No Objections.
3. Agency Report
 - i. Presentation of agency report by Kelly Greenwood (see Appendix for full report)
 - i. ACTION: Board members can fill out the agency survey before the end of February.
 - ii. Urgent fundraising need re: housing coordinator. Full program target still TBD, but approximately \$150K is needed for a fully funded program. We have been doing it for less but it needs more resources to be successful.
 - iii. A reminder that Canada Summer Job positions from the federal government will be decided on soon. If QVCC wants to get summer student positions it would be best to line up a meeting with our MP to make the ask.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - i. Council Update (Susan Kim)
 - i. 950 Kings: CRD hospital board starting to see the writing on the wall that it's not a great site for health facility construction.
 - ii. Emergency funding request for housing position to be brought to Council.
 - iii. Festival grants could be seeing an increase of up to \$100K to the overall budget, to be distributed throughout the city. Request from Susan Kim to write a letter of support for the budget increase.
 - iv. Canada Post update: The office supply place on Quadra would like to host Canada Post but there are issues with access to building and square footage.

- v. It will likely take 2-3 weeks for the emergency-funding resolution for the Housing Coordinator position to make it on the council agenda.
 - vi. Victoria is pushing the envelope in terms of housing requests of the province.
 - ii. CALUC (Community Association Land Use Committee) Meeting, Nov 7, 2023
 - i. Pre-zoning meeting with the community took place on Evergreen Terrace redevelopment
 - ii. CALUC Letter was completed by the outgoing land use committee and submitted to the City. Could be up to a year before the zoning is approved. Next round of engagement will be a public hearing before the final approval.
 - iii. Possible narrowing of Dowler St. will result from the project.
 - iv. Some concerns about the definitions of affordability and the percentage of units that will be defined as such.
 - v. Need to make sure there are services to support the increased density.
 - vi. Evergreen Terrace Tenants advisory committee to meet this month
 - iii. Cloud storage of Board documents
 - i. Some technical and security issues to still overcome, Kelly will report back at the next meeting. Staffing turnover is causing delays.
 - iv. Strategic Planning
 - i. Committee needs to meet, will schedule something at the end of the board meeting
5. VCAN (Victoria Community Association Network) Update
- i. Firas is our appointee to the network. Missed one meeting due to illness.
 - ii. Upzoning by the province created a situation where CALUCs are very much on the outs or at least seemingly. Will CALUCs continue in the future?
 - iii. VCAN lost two of its leaders and is in a rebuilding phase.
 - iv. Now until the end of March is the key time for feedback into the City's process of updating OCP (Official Community Plan)
 - v. An OCP sub-committee has been formed to strategize VCAN involvement. Initial steps are to learn about the new provincial legislation.
 - vi. City of Victoria has an OCP engagement and survey page:
<https://engage.victoria.ca/ocp>
 - vii. Rowena and Jon from NAC are watching the developments
 - viii. Downtown Residents Association hosting a community meeting on the OPC at the Victoria Event Centre. Leslie plans to attend and will report out at the next board meeting.
6. New Business
- i. Board Vacancy
 - i. Keith's resignation created a vacancy that can be filled by Board appointment.
 - ii. Could try and attract someone to serve as secretary
 - iii. We have an interested volunteer who might want to join
 - iv. ACTION: Move ahead with posting the vacant position of Secretary.
 - ii. QVCC 50th Anniversary
 - i. May 7 is the anniversary!
 - 1. Ideas on how to mark the occasion

- a. Acknowledgement at QVD (May 11) with a banner and a table staffed by founding board member Lennie, with invites to an open house.
- b. Tea for staff and key community members
- c. An open house focused on the 50th anniversary after QVD or in the fall.
- d. Could be tied into a future strategic planning consultation

7. Equity Committee Update

- i. Response to humanitarian crisis in Gaza
- ii. Information circulated in advance of the meeting, including statement and letters signed by other organizations.
- iii. Some questions about drafting our own statement:
 - i. Who's the audience?
 - ii. What's the benefit of us doing so?
 - 1. Doing so aligns with the core principals of the organization
 - 2. Many within our network as well as service users are deeply affected by the ongoing crisis and need to see the org recognizing these realities and our solidarity with those suffering around the world
- iv. Statement and update presented by the committee with context linked to Canada's colonial past and tied back to the mission and goals of the organization.
- v. Organization has published solidarity statements on other issues in the past
- vi. Statement should include a call for a cease fire, humanitarian corridors and global solidarity call against genocide. Need to acknowledge what our community members are going through. Support and solidarity with our community is key.
- vii. David drafted a proposed a statement that received positive feedback for the inclusivity of it.
- viii. Suggestion that David's statement gets referred to the Equity Committee for feedback.

Motion: Board asks the Equity Committee to review the draft statement and send feedback back to the board as soon as possible. Board will approve the final statement by email if possible, to not stretch out the length of time to reach a decision.

- i. Moved/Seconded: Matt, Fapu
- ii. Passed. One objection by Frankie

- ix. Discussion about suggested actions that we and our supporters could take to show solidarity in line with the release of our statement.

8. Adjourn

8:39 pm

Appendix 1:

Quadra Village Community Centre Agency Report: October 24 to November 24, 2023

Winter Dinner

Winter dinner was held Dec.21. Dinner was served to 170 guests plus 45 staff/volunteers and 113 people received take-out meals the next day. 61 volunteers contributed over 200 volunteer hours. It was a great atmosphere and I wish to thank our volunteers and staff for their important contributions.

Child, Youth and Family Outreach and Counselling

Cindy Preece has been hired for the Quadra Elementary position until Susannah Mckee's return next school year.

Practicum Students

We have practicum students taking on various roles starting in January from programs like Counselling, Social Work and Child and Youth Care. Thanks to Olive, Celinia, Anik and Jada for their anticipated practicum contributions.

Youth Centre and Programs

A new season of Youth Drop-in, Social Skills, the Crew and Food Skills is underway. A UBC Occupational Health program will be reviewing and making recommendations for youth programs.

Child and Family Programs

Renee Himor has been hired part time to move from volunteer to staff in Early Years programs. A new season of Parent Tot Drop In, Mother Goose, Kindergym and Parent Education is underway.

Community Support Program

A wide range of food distribution is taking place out of the Centre on Tuesday through Thursday. We raised over \$21,000 for the Gift of Good Food (\$20,00 from Norgaard Foundation) and beat Fernwood NRG 4 games to 3 in Dodge Ball to raise awareness about the program. Our Out-of-School Coordinator lifted the entire weight of donated funds in pounds at the gym on Facebook Live.

Facilities and More

Josh Roy will be leaving us as Administrative Coordinator as of January 30 and will help with some weekend and evening rental group support as he is able. My sincere thanks to staff who helped salt and shovel our way to only an hour and 15 minutes of snow closure in the recent snowstorm. The closure related to falling ice and snow in the rear play area and to transit service being cancelled.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Equity Committee (along with Board members and staff) helped distribute surveys at the Winter Dinner. The committee proposes that QVCC make a statement related to Gaza (as per the Board agenda). Jada and Judy have just started attending the Committee. Staff are registered

for an Indigenous Perspectives Society training on Building Relationships with Local Indigenous Communities. This was postponed due to snow but will take place February 2.

Fund Development

- QVCC has made a significant proposal (as invited) to a prominent family foundation. We to have some degree of funding in April.
- We have applied for 10 summer student positions this summer.
- We applied for a \$4500 Festival Grant with the City of Victoria for Quadra Village Day.
- We are preparing a fundraising campaign to save our Housing Outreach program. We have reached out to our Council Liaison and BC Housing to work on short-term and long-term funding strategies.

Staff Appreciation

This year's staff appreciation event was held at Swans on January 12 and included "The Office" style awards, a trivia game about things we never knew about staff and a meal. It was strange to not have to clean up and put away tables and chairs!

Agency Survey

We launched our [agency survey](#) December 21. There are 82 completed surveys so far (46 paper, 26 online). We expect to collect surveys through the end of February. Board members are encouraged to complete the [survey](#) and to share it with people who access QVCC or live close by. We hope the results will be a useful tool for the Board and QVCC program coordinators alike. A staff survey has been prepared and will be launched in March.

Appendix 2: Email Resolution re Proposed Statement on Gaza, February 16, 2024

Be it resolved that the Board recommends that the Centre make public the following statement in response to the crisis in Gaza.

Moved: David

Seconded: Fapu

Results of the vote: in favour: 4; opposed: 3. The motion is carried.

"As an organization that has committed to working towards decolonization and anti-oppressive practices, we are striving to be more alert to the ongoing and escalated violence towards Palestinians and the significant impacts this has on the community we serve here at Quadra Village Community Centre (QVCC). QVCC also understands that Israeli civilians were significantly impacted in the beginning of this war. *We condemn the deaths and appalling suffering of all civilian populations due to violence by Hamas and the Israel Defence Forces. We seek an immediate ceasefire, the restoration of humanitarian aid to Gaza and adequate housing conditions for Palestinians from Gaza. We advocate for the full restoration and continuation of federal government funding to support the Palestinian people of Gaza, as it has been a lifeline for Palestinians. In addition, we advocate that the Government of Canada abide by the rulings and guidance of the International Court of Justice related to its review of the case and the accusation of genocide in Gaza made by South Africa. QVCC is committed to combating the rise of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism that our community may encounter. Our doors are always open for our neighbours, and we will provide empathy and a trauma-informed

perspective along with resources and referrals for those in need. We are committed to supporting and empowering our community during these difficult circumstances.

*We take notice of and mourn with our community the following estimated impacts of the crisis as of January 31, 2024 (as reported by CBC News):

- An estimated 1,200 Israelis and visitors died in the attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023
- An estimated 26,6637 Palestinians and visitors have died and 65,000 have been wounded by the Israeli military response
- Displacement of 1.7 million Palestinians and wide areas of Gaza flattened
- Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians left destitute and supplies of food, water and medicines almost exhausted.

**QVCC is concerned about international displacements, conflicts and harms in general and is here for all of our community regardless of what side(s) of a conflict or war their loved ones may be on. The size of the current death and injury tolls and the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza have led us to speak out at this time.

If you are impacted by the traumas flagged above or those similar, please know that some local resources that you can reach out to include Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees (VICCIR) <https://www.viccir.org/> and Vancouver Island Crisis Line <https://www.vicrisis.ca/>. Also know that you can always reach out to us to seek out the supports that you need.”