

# Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee

## Meeting Minutes: 22 February 2022

This meeting was held online

### Emergency Preparedness

Tanya Patterson (City of Victoria)

The presentation focused on the four steps to emergency preparedness:

- Know your risk
- Make a plan
- Prepare an emergency kit
- Get connected
  - Sign up for Vic-Alert using the Alertable App at [victoria.ca/Vicalert](https://victoria.ca/Vicalert); this is different from the provincial Alert Ready

Sources of information: [VictoriaReady.ca](https://victoriaready.ca); materials also available at Crystal Pool and City Hall

Contact: [emvic@victoria.ca](mailto:emvic@victoria.ca) 250-920-3373

Discussion:

- Emergency C-cans are available for each neighbourhood and include blankets, tarps, generators to set up shelters, but no food or water. Emergency support services volunteers, fire trucks, and emergency program staff have keys.
- Possible to volunteer (ahead of time) to assist during emergency
- City is planning three 'connect and prepare' engagement sessions during next year
- City can deliver a similar emergency presentation to apartment buildings

### Summit Noise Update

(Byron P., Stop the Summit Noise)

- City of Victoria voted on February 10<sup>th</sup> to remove the exemption for health facilities from the noise bylaw
- More work need to ensure the revised bylaw captures the persistent nature of the noise rather than only its decibels
- Success in addressing the noise may come down to enforcement. The bylaw must be responsive to complaints rather than to measurement. It must provide criteria with respect to measurement e.g., time of day, location
- The review may lead to other changes in the bylaw to address the Summit noise issue

### Evergreen Terrace Redevelopment

(Jon M., NAC)

- DBAC and the residents of Evergreen Terrace (ET) received a notice of redevelopment
- DBAC convened a meeting with ET residents and separately met with the consultants to the redevelopment project
- Engagement will start with ET residents, then expand to the broader community
- Engagement may start in April and may be possible at the May NAC meeting

### Comfort Inn

(Rowena, NAC)

- Community advisory committee hasn't met since December
- BC Housing has not responded to inquiries

## City of Victoria (CoV) Update I

(Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison)

- My Great Neighbourhood grant program opens in April. It will accept proposals every month. Successful proposals can receive funding in about six weeks. Send ideas to Gary Pemberton.
- CoV will host engagement sessions on traffic calming, with a panel presentation April 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sign up on the CoV 'Neighbourhood' page
- CoV has completed engagement on Neighbourhood Led Action Plans:
  - One resident can start such an action plan
  - Nine-step guide available online; see 'Neighbourhood' page on CoV website
  - Such plans focus on improving social capacity

Discussion:

- A tree on Graham Street was removed; how can residents find out what will replace it?
  - G. Pemberton will contact park planners to find out more. Residents can also contact parks department directly through [victoriaparks.ca](http://victoriaparks.ca)
- What projects are in scope for Neighbourhood-Led Action Plans?
  - See the online guide. As it is important that the neighbourhood support the proposed action plan it might be helpful to survey neighbourhood to identify priorities.
  - Up to \$5k available for community engagement

## CoV Update II

(Ben Isitt, Counsellor-Liaison)

- B. Isitt: meeting with BC Housing for first time; key principles include no net loss (deep affordability); retain range of unit sizes; hope to see expansion of deeply affordable units; want to retain in public ownership; pursue community assets on public lands including below market housing; de-commodified housing
- CoV budget process is almost complete. B. Isitt did not support the proposed budget as not enough resources are devoted to social justice vs. policing of marginalized persons. Positive elements in the budget include: increase in base funding to neighbourhoods e.g., 50% increase to DBCC; inflationary increase in grants to community centres; community garden grants.
- Budget includes progress on traffic safety in Hillside-Quadra. The pedestrian crossing at Blanshard and Topaz is going in soon and will be similar to the crossing at Blanshard and Kings.
- NAC is invited to identify additional safety needs.

Discussion:

- Why is there no discussion of co-operative housing for Evergreen Terrace?
  - Most co-op housing in Canada was developed in the 1970s and 1980s. There is no path to re-establish such a program and BC Housing does not have a co-op housing model
  - CoV is facilitating a municipal co-op housing strategy. CoV is willing to provide assistance with financing and finding land. Potential partners exist.
  - Co-op housing provides security of tenure and a sense of ownership.
- What is the rationale for market housing at Evergreen Terrace?
  - B. Isitt will find out more when he meets with BC House.
  - The neighbourhood can indicate that it prefers that any increased density be earmarked for affordability. Many other sites are available for market housing.
- Will there be a bike lane at the new Topaz crossing?
  - Tolmie rather than Topaz is the 'official' bike route connector to the Galloping Goose. B. Isitt has also endorsed completion of the Kings connector to Government Street.
  - B. Isitt will look into potential plan for the Topaz crossing
- What potential is there to include other facilities (e.g., school, library, green space) in the Evergreen Terrace redevelopment?

- Important for community to think about neighborhood amenities and provide recommendations from the beginning of engagement

### **Victoria Community Association Network**

(Rowena L., NAC)

- VCAN will discuss proposed letter from Hillside-Quadra, Fernwood, and North Park neighbourhood groups to determine neighbourhoods supporting the letter regarding retention of affordable housing

### **Land Use**

(Jon M., NAC)

- 1212 Vista Heights
- Rezoning for cannabis retail at Quadra and Tolmie does not require input from the CALUC. If residents are concerned we can ask the proponent to come to NAC for a second time

### **Meeting adjourned**

**Next Meeting:** 22 March 2022