

Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting
04 February 2019 – 7 p m
901 Kings Rd

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Introduction:** 14 Community Members, Proponents,
Councillor Ben Isitt, and Neighbourhood Coordinator Gary Pemberton
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Chair: Jon Munn. Approved: Vincent Gornall
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
4. **Traffic Calming:**

Deb McCarron read the email from Gary Pemberton which advised that there are no updates for traffic calming planned for the area. Following is part of the email received from G Pemberton:
“As you know, council is going to be considering the implications of a number of their draft strategic plan and financial plan items in the month of February. One of these was in regards to traffic calming in Hillside / Quadra. We will be in a better position to understand what makes the final cut and how investments will be funded following the adoption of these plans next month. Until that time, we have no traffic calming planned for the area, outside of works on Vancouver and Graham/5th as part of the bicycle master plan projects.”

5. **Neighbourhood Updates**

- a. 950 Kings Road:
 - Former Blanshard Elementary School site developed with assisted housing at Evergreen Terrace in 1960's. It occurred alongside the Urban Renewal planning that included the bulldozing of residences and the construction/completion of Blanshard Street.
 - 955 Hillside (North half of the former Blanshard Elementary property) was purchased by Capital Region Hospital District (CRHD) for the Summit at Quadra Village Complex Care Hospital. The other half of the former school site (950 Kings Rd) is to be planned with “community consultation” preceding any redevelopment.
 - Currently DBAC is leasing the Quadra Village Neighbourhood Gym for activities of the Quadra Village Community Centre.
 - Consultation promised by the CRHD has not happened. CRHD was mandated by its Board to have planning meetings regarding Evergreen Terrace, SJ Willis and 950 Kings. DBAC invited all land-owners to NAC Meetings to get a sense of how the community can engage in planning, but only the School District and City of Victoria attended.
 - Current uses at 950 Kings are for the Vancouver School of Art in the 2nd floor east wing and Quadra Village Neighbourhood Gym on the other side.

5. **Neighbourhood Updates** (Continued)

Comments Raised:

- Neighbourhood should get the property back.
- Is ownership or good planning the problem?

Response: Isitt says owners (CRD) now have regional goals versus local goals. He suggests that the CRD has a wide view of the plan but Island Health determines their needs and it is CRD's job to finance facilities required by their mandate for health.

- Motion was adopted in the city strategic plan to work with DBAC to expand the community center as it should be a very robust neighbourhood player.
- There is an independent community rally planned for 24 February, at 1 pm, 950 Kings for the following purpose:
“...gathering to show City Council that there is strong community support for the purchase of the Blanshard Elementary site and creation of public space for the community there. We envision a space for community events and meetings, daycare spaces, a library, a neighbourhood gym, and a wonderful green space and outdoor play area for everyone to enjoy.”

The Capital Region (CRHD) Health District has plans to develop the remainder of the property as a mental health facility, mixed housing, and parking. These plans are apparently at the design stage.

Action: DBAC to follow up on letter as resident involvement or planning was promised and not delivered.

Action: DBAC to continue to work to convince Victoria City Council to purchase 950 Kings for the purpose of providing inviting/public green space, a neighbourhood gym, childcare, and neighbourhood priority amenities, such as a library and expanded community centre space.

- a. Crystal Pool – Plans for a new area are on hold as the city is directing staff to look at different locations. Funding from senior governments is uncertain.
- b. Library proposal for Hillside Quadra – Jenn Nielsen who is spearheading the project to bring the library to Hillside Quadra now has over 1500 petition signatures. While she is not being prescriptive in the terms of exactly where the library should go, she is looking for support to place it in our neighbourhood. There was a discussion regarding a site in Oaklands neighbourhood as well.
- f. Childminding – Send childminding staffing requests at least two weeks in advance with a 48 hour cancellation option to Alyssa at cfc@quadravillagecc.com, Alyssa will ensure childminders will be there for the times requested with the understanding that they will be paid for at least 2 hours each unless cancelled with 48 hours.

Action: DBAC to organize information to the community that this timeline is required.

5. Neighbourhood Updates (Continued)

Quadra Village Day - Planning meeting will be held 12 February, noon, at the Quadra Village Community Centre. Folks will be welcomed for the planning process, and always for general volunteers on the day. Call Chloe Dufort, 250 388 7696 ext. 225, or Kelly Greenwell, 250 388 7696 ext. 221, at QVCC. Planning meetings can be changed to suit the needs of the community and planning volunteers.

Comments:

- Concern expressed regarding the date for Quadra Village Day as Oaklands has their event on the same day. Attendance may be compromised.
- DBAC Executive Director says events are morning and afternoon respectively so not necessarily a problem.

6. **City Hall Updates** - Councillor Liaison Ben Isitt and
Neighbourhood Coordinator Gary Pemberton

- a. Isitt: March 14th is the deadline for the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding a Council Motion for community involvement in land use planning for 950 Kings Road. Ben would like to make the case for purchase to buy back the property for community use.
- b. Isitt: Draft LAP Project - A suggestion to develop a draft neighbourhood plan prior to the activation of a formal LAPD process might be beneficial. Funds of \$20-25,000 could be available to hire a planning consultant
- c. Isitt: Sidewalk Upgrading - There is currently a plan for installing sidewalks on Blackwood Street near the Sikh temple at Topaz. Interested parties are advised to make any concerns known now.
- d. Pemberton: My Great Neighbourhood Grants -Twenty-two applications have been approved for the past fall 2018 intake. The program provides grants to help residents animate public space, develop and enhance a sense of community and leave a positive legacy in our neighbourhoods. A community pollinator garden for the Wark Street Park has been approved for this area. The next intake for this grant program opens March 1, 2019
- e. Pemberton: Youth Participatory Budgeting. After a community wide call for steering committee members a diverse team has begun work on planning the second participatory budgeting process. This community led city supported initiative will result in over \$50,000 in funding being allocated to initiatives or projects benefitting Victoria. Stay tuned this spring for a call for proposals. Community voting on the shortlist of proposals will take place this summer.
- f. Pemberton: Traffic Calming – Reiterated the points in his email. See Item 4. Discussion regarding what happened to the prior commitments from the city in respect to traffic calming from past emails.

Action: A NAC member and executive director will write a follow-up letter to the Mayor & Council regarding the past commitment for a traffic calming study.

6. **City Hall Updates** (Continued)

- a. Traffic median at Kings & Prior are almost completed. The yellow barriers are being replaced with a barrier that pedestrians can cross. Consultation with community and Rock Bay Creek Revival have resulted in a much improved traffic meridian.

7. **VCAN-NAC Ratification of Terms of Reference**

VCAN wishes to promote and strengthen the NAC neighbourhoods by providing advocacy on city wide concerns that neighbourhoods have in common. VCAN will focus on 3-4 projects at a time.

The Terms of Reference were received. One or two people wanted to read them more carefully. No objections were noted.

Action: Referred to DBAC for reading and approval.

8. Community Check-In

Concern was expressed that there is a large time gap between demolition of houses for new construction that otherwise could be used for affordable housing. Isitt commented there was a recent resolution adopted by the City last Thursday to tax vacant properties designed to help with this kind of problem.

9 Action Items from previous Meeting(s)

Letter to Mayor and Council re Planning & BC Housing
Kelly Greenwell will write letters.

Reminder: Become a member of the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

Next NAC Meeting: 04 MARCH 2019, 7 p.m. 901 Kings Rd

To join the **NAC email list** and receive neighbourhood updates contact nag@quadravillagecc.com