

Hillside - Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting

October 3, 2016 at 7 p.m.

901 Kings Road (enter by the glass door on the left)

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was attended by 6 community members, City of Victoria staff Gary Pemberton (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator) and Councillor Ben Isitt.

2. Approval of Agenda (Chair)

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of September 2016 Meeting Minutes (Chair)

Meeting participants approved the draft minutes.

4. Topaz Park Planning

At the September 22nd meetings of the committee of the whole and city council, councillors voted to have staff proceed with work to remove the tennis courts at Topaz Park and to grass in the area. In addition, they approved funding for a Topaz Park Improvement Plan. Engagement with the community will begin in early 2017.

5. Community Check-In

- What can HQ-NAC do to increase engagement among residents of the neighbourhood? (Barbara)
- The City of Victoria has a vision for the community that includes growth. In regards to updates to the neighbourhood plan (local area plan--LAP), what did we need when the plan was drafted in the mid-1990s and what do we need now? What do families need? What is the plan for 951 Kings Road (the site of the former Blanshard Elementary)? (Jennifer)
- Find an electronic version of the last LAP and host it on the website and e-news. **Action: Janis**
- Can we start work on the LAP now (it is slotted for 2018 in the City of Victoria process) so that it is neighbourhood-led? (Leni)

6. City Hall Update (City of Victoria staff liaison Gary Pemberton and Councillor Ben Isitt)

- My Great Neighbourhoods Grants have been allocated—there were 22 grants for \$97,000. There will be a 2nd intake in the spring—it would be interesting to see proposals for playable spaces and celebrations.
- Gary attended the PlaceMaking Leadership Conference in Vancouver
- Building Resilient Neighbourhoods network has received funding from the City of Victoria. (Hillside-Quadra sent a proposal in 2013 and was 2nd in line for a project before funding ceased). **Action: Janis to follow up with Building Resilient Neighbourhoods**
- CoV passed the Cannabis Related Business Regulation Bylaw at their meeting September 22nd. A rezoning process will need to be implemented (slated to be in place in late 2016/early 2017)—rezonings would be referred to the CALUC for comment but would not need a community meeting. Businesses cannot be located within 200 metres of one another.
- Visual Victoria (Public Realm improvements for downtown and wayfinding for the city) has begun. At the current time there are no plans for individual meetings with community associations. People can drop in to City Studio (742 Johnson Street) on Thursdays between 3-5pm. There will be another public meeting in November. **Action: Janis to write a letter to VCAN partners—**wayfinding represents great potential for neighbourhoods.
- The storm water utility bills will be issued in October. CoV is taking suggestions concerning the utility. **Action: Janis to ensure NAC letter has been received by the City of Victoria**
- Leaf pick-up dates for Hillside-Quadra are November 28th and December 26th. Residents can also phone-in for pickup. Leaves must be in clear compostable bags.
- The storm sewer improvements planned for Wark Street between Hillside and Market will now

take place in 2017.

- Pandora Street bike lane construction begins. Part of #Biketoria
- There is a list of tree removals per neighbourhood and Gary will forward for Hillside-Quadra. Post to e-news.
- City of Victoria passed a bylaw reducing the minimum size of housing units.
- Sidewalk on Wark Street—there is no plan for an improvement of this sidewalk when the storm sewer work is done. Councillor Isitt suggests writing a letter requesting funding through the \$250,000 Accessibility Fund (Building and Infrastructure Reserve) since it is, at the current time, impossible for someone with limited mobility to use either the north or south sidewalk without descending from the sidewalk into the street. This sidewalk is a candidate for development cost charges (in his opinion) since it could serve the residents of the care home being built at 955 Hillside (access through SJ Willis land to Topaz Park). **Action: Janis to write letter.**
- There will be an engagement strategy for the Topaz Park Improvement Plan
- The CALUC process review will be presented to council soon.
- Fernwood and North Park are interested in working together on their LAP updates.

7. VCAN update (Barbara W)

All neighbourhoods have concerns about sheltering in parks. There was a presentation on PlaceSpeak (an online engagement tool).

8. Report from Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee (DBAC) (Lenny H.)

The next DBAC meeting is the AGM on October 19th. After that monthly meetings will be the 3rd Monday of the month.

9. Greenspace/Parks updates

Councillor Isitt is currently working on obtaining a licence of occupation for the greenspace at 950 Kings for a possible community garden. Currently the land is owned by the CRD.

10. Correspondence

Letter from Lorne Carnes, Cridge Park Rescue Group, advocating for a parks zone. (This issue came up in discussions in Hillside-Quadra when the Official Community Plan was updated in 2012). When will the Parks Master Plan be presented to the community? Were the Friends of Summit Park (FoSP) asked to participate in the public engagement? Janis attended one group session on behalf of HQ-NAC.

11. Elections for the Executive

The following individuals were nominated. Laura Taylor, Jenny Fraser, Janis La Couvée, Barbara Wiggins, Maggie Birkett and Jon Munn. All agreed to serve. Names will be forwarded to the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee (our neighbourhood association and society that runs the Quadra Village Community Centre) for approval at the AGM.

12. Reminder: Become a member of the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

13. Close of meeting: Next NAC meeting: 7 November 2016 at 7:00 p.m., 901 Kings Rd.

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