

Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee (NAC)

4th April 2016 at 7 p.m.

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

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions. 14 community members in attendance. 6 guests. Laura T chair.
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of March 2016 Meeting Minutes
4. Guests

a. **Victoria Police Department (Terri Healey, Community Resource Officer and Sergeant Colin Brown).**

CRO Healey is one of 4 CROs—3 full time positions (2 are job-sharing)--working with the neighbourhoods of Fernwood, James Bay, Fairfield and Hillside-Quadra. Most of her time is spent between Fernwood and Hillside-Quadra. In her experience, the residents of Hillside-Quadra are pro-active in problem-solving and dealing with issues as they come up. Homelessness and addiction are two of the top issues. She has been working closely with the businesses along Quadra Street, CDI College and the Quadra Village Community Centre.

Sergeant Brown answered some of the questions the HQ-NAC sent in advance of the monthly meeting.

- Where does Hillside-Quadra rank in terms of crime statistics? Hillside-Quadra is the 5th most populous out of 24 neighbourhoods and ranks 7th in calls for service. It's important to note that a call for service does not necessarily indicate a crime. Sheltering in parks generates a large number of calls for service. People are active in reporting policing concerns.
- Sheltering in Topaz Park? The park is multi-use and VicPD does not support entrenchment of those sheltering in the park. The challenge remains that there is nowhere for people to go. There are currently fewer people sheltering in the park due to the tent city at the courthouse.
- Speeding enforcement? Currently the main arterials (Bay, Blanshard, Cook, Hillside) are the focus of enforcement—both speeding and impaired driving. There has been enforcement of school zones near L'École Quadra School. The 2600 block of Quadra (Quadra Village) is harder to enforce with the limited lane space and might actually create a hazard.
- Will there be foot patrols in Hillside-Quadra like downtown? Sergeant Brown's believes foot patrols would be a benefit on Quadra Street (in the Village) and suggests that when there are calls for service, CRO Healey could co-ordinate with beat and bike patrols to increase visibility of VicPD.

Policing is statistics driven and VicPD relies on the community to report their concerns—be sure to phone or go online and report (suspected drug deals, trespassers, suspicious persons, graffiti--pictures can be uploaded). Check CrimeReports (via the VicPD website) for an interactive map with crimes in the neighbourhood. CRO Healey works Tuesday-Friday and welcomes calls (and e-mails).

- b. **Yew Street crosswalk (Bronwyn Crowder, City of Victoria staff)** An opportunity to learn about the proposed design for this new crosswalk, provide your feedback, and help to refine the project.

Staff presented the design which includes pedestrian activated lights. Residents had comments about the lack of sidewalks into the park and the need to use the parking lot—this is problematic, especially with children. It was also noted that bushes hide the crosswalk signs on the light poles (at certain times of year). There is confusion on the part of drivers when cyclists are exiting the parking lot as to who has the right of way due to the fact the parking lot exit and entrance are close to the crosswalk. Some of the sidewalks surrounding the crosswalk are very narrow. Further comments can be emailed to staff.

5. Community Check-In

- Is it time for residential only parking signs on Vista Heights—residents have noted cars parking for the day (before heading in to work). **Action: Gary Pemberton**, staff liaison will look into the process for requesting this.
- Demolition of Topaz Park tennis courts. A resident brought forward extensive information from City of Victoria websites and documents regarding budgeting for tennis court improvements. A 200 name petition was submitted to the CoV in September 2015 encouraging the City to maintain the courts (which were in a state of disrepair). Now, suddenly, with little warning, on April 1st there is notice that commencing April 4th the tennis courts are to be demolished. What is the rationale and what can the community do to ensure that a valuable community asset is not lost? Staff liaison Pemberton is not sure of the rationale for the demolition.
- The all-weather field at Topaz is crumb rubber and there have been studies done on the health effects. The new Oak Bay High School field was to be crumb rubber and a decision was made not to proceed.

6. City Hall Update (City of Victoria staff liaison Gary Pemberton)

- The storm water utility enters into effect and the first bills will be issued fall of 2016. One resident has noted the inequity in the street cleaning fee—corner lots pay per their frontage and sideage which can result in vastly different fees for lots of a similar size. There is no relationship between dirt and street frontage.
- The Youth Engagement Strategy has launched and the City of Victoria is recruiting for youth advisory committee members. Youth are encouraged to apply.
- My Great Neighbourhood Grants—the terms of reference and application process are being finalized.
- Growing in the City (on city lands) has begun.

7. Great Neighbourhood Grants (Janis L.)

Learn more about this new City of Victoria grant program. Bring your ideas for projects that would help us shape our community. An opportunity to brainstorm with others in the Neighbourhood Action Committee

- The back of the art school (VISA) is under-used and is crying out for activation. A resident has created a 2-3 page document with ideas for projects—resurfacing of the old basketball court, rain-garden, sidewalk on Fifth, a natural playground, fencing, benches. It may be possible to leverage with other organizations.
- Purchase lady bugs and have a lady bug release party
- Daylighting of the stream that runs through the neighbourhood (or—signage to indicate where it ran).
- Use the strip of land at the front of 950 Kings Road for allotment gardens
- Beautify the road barriers at Kings and Fifth and line up the gap with the sidewalk.
- Beautify the speed bumps on Kings between Quadra and Dowler and find a way to warn drivers they are entering a zone with increased street usage.
- A memorial plaque for the tennis courts.

8. City of Victoria Crosswalk Prioritization Process—at the next meeting

9. Status of Land Use Proposals in Hillside Quadra (Jenny F.) – at the next meeting

10. Neighbourhood Updates (community news, business news) – 10 minutes

- a. Summit Park invasive species removal work party – April 23rd 10 am-noon.
- b. Next NAC meeting: 2nd May 2016 at 7:00 p.m., 901 Kings Rd.
- c. NAC table at Quadra Village Day – May 7th – volunteers needed
- d. A letter is being drafted from VCAN about consultation.

11. Report from Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee (DBAC) - 5 minutes

12. Meeting Close

Reminder: support the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee by becoming a member. To join our email list and receive neighbourhood updates contact nag@quadravillagecc.com. Contact the Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee at nag@quadravillagecc.com.