

Hillside - Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting
6 March 2017
Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
901 Kings Road

Draft Minutes

1. **Welcome and Introductions. 17 community members, councillor and city staff**
2. **Approval of Agenda (Chair)**
3. **Review and approval of February 2017 meeting minutes (Chair)—to be done in April.**
4. **Traffic/Transportation Concerns in Hillside-Quadra (Jacqueline Weston, Assistant Director of Engineering, Transportation, City of Victoria)**

Ms Weston made a brief presentation, including information from the NAC-initiated traffic survey in 2013 (with an update on improvements since) and then opened for questions and concerns. She mentioned potential ICBC investment in improvements (traffic lights) to the intersection of Cook & Kiwanis with a potential design in 2017 and construction in 2018 (?) and VicPD enforcement of speed on Hillside.

The community expressed concerns about cut-through traffic in every area of the neighbourhood, often at high rates of speed. Speed on streets, both residential and arterials, was also mentioned. There were questions about the crosswalk upgrades as regards to cyclists. People also commented about the difficulty of crossing some off-set streets on a bicycle. Pedestrians noted issues with the phasing of traffic lights. Drivers noted issues with the phasing of lights that made left turns difficult at some intersections. **(please see complete list of concerns and remarks at the end of the minutes).**

Ms. Weston will follow-up with NAC.

5. **Community Check-In - an opportunity to share ideas and concerns (All)**
 - **Root Cellar:** What's happening with 1120 Hillside, the proposed Root Cellar? Yvonne has been in communication with the property manager about a temporary use permit for a daycare. Councillor Isitt is not sure if they still have legal non-conforming status since the property has been inactive for some time. **Action: Yvonne** to email property manager for an update.
 - **Parked Cars:** residents have noted insured cars parked on the street indefinitely. There is no framework to demand removal. Non-residents are also parking in the neighbourhood and then commuting otherwise to work. One resident suggests a Park & Bike in the Root Cellar parking lot.
 - **Vehicle noise:** loud souped up vehicles are being noted. (this is a police issue)
 - **Community Garage Sale (and Dump Run)** 2500 block Graham, May 7th. Another resident would like to do this on Vista Heights too. Gary mentions this would be an ideal use of a My Great Neighbourhood Grant.
 - **Block Watch:** a plug for the service and getting to know your neighbours.
6. **City Hall Update (Councillor Ben Isitt & City of Victoria staff liaison Gary Pemberton)**
 - Gary would like to organize a **Find It/Fix It walk** in May. This is based on an idea from Seattle's Department of Neighbourhoods

- **My Great Neighbourhood Grants**—terms are being revised to include neighbourhood projects, neighbourhood diversity, education and tactical urbanism
- **Home Renovation Rebates & Heating Oil Tank Replacement Incentives** are now available. See Victoria.ca/sustainability for more information.
- **Growing in the City** a new map of possible locations for community gardens has been published and the application process is open for new community gardens.
- **Councillor Isitt** mentioned the possibility of traffic calming pilots; small expenditures could be included in this year's budget allocation. If the pilots are done now, the neighbourhood would have two years of potential data before the local area plan update process.
- **Garden Suites proposed bylaw**—councillor Isitt does not support. It would remove the need for rezoning, and neighbourhood input.
- **Questions** from residents:
 - I. **Street Cleaning Fee Inequity:** has any consideration been given to examining this inequity? Answer: not at the present time.
 - II. **Water Rates—Urban Gardening:** resident states the current rates do not support urban gardening. Councillor Isitt says rates are calculated yearly. There are no meters on sewage or rainwater. The option of rates based on winter use is being examined as are the rainwater fees. A resident points out there are no rebates for owners who had previously installed impermeable paving.
 - III. **Backyard Composting**—there is no incentive for people who do not use the city collection of kitchen scraps. Councillor Isitt states it is hard to make exceptions to the existing fee structure. Engineering is currently reviewing the waste collection system (including kitchen scraps).

7. HQNAC Priorities for 2017 – building on input from the January brainstorming (All)—deferred to April

8. Land Use Update (Jenny F.)—deferred to April

9. Major City of Victoria initiatives—Engagement Roadmap, Parks Master Plan, Create Victoria, Visual Victoria (Janis)

- **Get Engaged With Your City**—a workshop and open house were held February 18th by the City of Victoria Citizen Engagement department for feedback as to how residents wish to be engaged with the city for major projects in 2017/2018. A report will be prepared for council and a timeline issued. **Janis attended.**
- **Parks Master Plan**—a draft report comes to council in March
- **Create Victoria (Arts and Culture Master Plan)**—open house March 4th at City Hall; online survey to complete by March 31st. Pop-ups to take place in March/April; draft to council in June. We have invited Create Victoria to contact the Quadra Village Day committee for a community booth. **Janis attended the Open House.**
- **Visual Victoria (Public Realm Improvements and Wayfinding)**—the phase two report will be published soon and an open house scheduled to solicit feedback.

10. Issues update—garden suites policy, draft financial plan, Summit Park Management Plan

- **Garden Suites Policy** guidelines and draft bylaws to be presented at the committee of the whole March 9th; a public hearing is scheduled for **March 23rd**. Community Association Land Use Committees met with staff January 16th—concerns were expressed about removing the need for garden suites to be the subject of a rezoning. Under the new bylaw, authority for approval is to be delegated to staff. Community members may speak at the public hearing.

- **2017 Financial Plan (Budget)** NAC submitted a letter of thanks to Mayor, Council and senior staff for the \$1.48 M of infrastructure investment budgeted for Hillside-Quadra in 2017. These include crosswalks, sidewalks, sewer (and more).
- **Summit Park Management Plan**—the original plan from 2012 indicated short, medium and long-term projects prioritized according to urgency. Most of the short-term improvements have been completed. There are some medium-term (five to seven years) that have not yet been scheduled. Could Gary Pemberton contact the Parks Department for an update on work that is scheduled for 2017 and 2018? **ACTION: Gary Pemberton**

11. Community news, business news (All)

- **Daycare Group**—Yvonne M is proceeding with work on establishing a daycare in Hillside-Quadra; there is a Facebook group for interested parties.
- **All Wheels Park at Topaz Park**—two separate groups are working on an all-wheels park; Tara from the QVCC is part of a skateboard park group and Yvonne has started a group to advocate for a bike part at Topaz. Both have meet with staff from Parks and Recreation. Janis will connect Tara and Yvonne. Tara would like to come to the April meeting.
- VCAN meeting March 15, 2017
- DBAC meeting March 20, 2017

Reminder: Support the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee by becoming a member

Next NAC meeting: April 3 2017 at 7:00 p.m., 901 Kings Rd.

To join the Hillside Quadra email list and receive weekly updates contact nag@quadravillagecc.com. Contact the Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee at nag@quadravillagecc.com.

Traffic/Transportation Questions & Concerns from Residents and Remarks from Ms Weston (in bold).

- Hillside/Graham is a cycling route, where would the car traffic go?
Intersections need to be upgraded; this is the heavy cost of improvements to the network. The crosswalks are being improved so they are ready to go.
- Prior is already busy but what will happen when the Root Cellar opens
Traffic calming must be considered over an area so as not to create problems elsewhere
- Jackson close to Tolmie is already a busy street; it's wide and people speed, even though there are a playground, daycare, park and church in the vicinity; now there is a proposed development (in Saanich) at 3200 Linwood (at Tolmie) that will impact not only parking but traffic. Could this be an area with a 30 km/hr speed zone.
- I live on Market and bike to UVic. Will the upgraded intersection at Cook/Haultain have signaling that is appropriate for cyclists
Yes, the intersection is being upgraded with a special traffic signal phase for cyclists.
- I work from home (on Vancouver Street) and since 2013 the cut-through traffic (from Bay towards Kings) has increased three-fold and the speed is high. Not sure what the answer is.

- Can you comment on the Kings Road bike lane.
It will be a protected lane.
- 2500 block Graham. The street is full of young families, there is also a daycare and it's the cycling route. Residents would be willing to be part of a traffic calming pilot.
- (another resident) is not a fan of speed humps on bike routes.
We are looking at pilots with temporary speed humps.
- Supports comments about 2500 block Graham. Also, the crosswalk at Graham/Bay Street is signaled but is still dangerous. Residents remark it is still quite dark.
- How would data be collected for traffic calming
There is the physical collection of data with counters but also with volunteer neighbourhood observers.
- Glasgow is also used as a cut-through (from Cloverdale to Finlayson). Please ensure data collection is done during peak times (not during off hours or the summer when school is out). Also, why could residential areas not have 30 km/hr speeds?
- Vista Heights speed bumps have greatly reduced traffic and speed.
- Phasing of many lights does not allow pedestrians to cross safely. Blanshard & Hillside is of particular concern to the older residents who live at the Wellesley but there are others. The absence of a left turn lane on Finlayson westbound at Quadra means that often only one car can turn--and, on the yellow-almost-red light, at that.
Money needs to be invested throughout the city to look at the phasing of crosswalk lights and left turn signals.
- Speed at the corner of Kings/Graham is excessive. Resident has had (parked) car mirrors clipped on numerous occasions. Would a roundabout work?
- Resident commutes by walking, daily, on Hillside towards the Hillside Mall and remarks there is no enforcement of speed on Hillside. Has also remarked there are several count-down timers at intersections/crosswalks (Hillside/Cook, Bay/Cook and Hillside/Doncaster) that are not predictable, which could, potentially lead to accidents.
- Tolmie and Rutledge—the speed on Tolmie makes it dangerous to turn left from Rutledge. Parking on Tolmie further complicates the issue. Some of the street is yellow-lined but people use that area as a drop-off zone for the condominium buildings across the street in Saanich.
- Crossing Finlayson on a bike at Jackson or Fifth is challenging, as is Bay and Graham because the crosswalks/crossings are off-set.
- All the streets need to be looked at (for traffic calming) it's a significant initiative.
- People speed on Tolmie because they are already going 50/60 on Blanshard, and on Quadra the speed has just gone from 40km to 50 so when they turn off those streets onto Tolmie they don't slow down.