

Hillside - Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting

06 May 2019

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions - 22 people in attendance.
2. Approval of Agenda (Chair)
The agenda was approved as per the posted revised agenda with addition of Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) letter as item #9.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Chair)
The minutes of April 1, 2019 were approved as presented.
4. Presentations and Invited Guests
City of Victoria Staff - Hillside Quadra Bike Connector – follow-up on April 27 walkabout. Sarah Webb and Tim Hewett from the City of Victoria (CoV) came to give a brief background and handout as to where the all ages and abilities cycling network came from, what the current plan and options look like for Quadra Hillside. Timelines and process for next steps were also outlined. Concerns were heard about Jackson cut through traffic being a poor mix for cycling children. Concerns regarding the need for a comfortable and safe design intervention where Graham morphs into Vancouver as it crosses Bay. We should anticipate a pedestrian light and button and reduced lane of traffic around crossing. Questions on how this initiative can support city happiness were answered in part by existing research and the initiative is part of a SFU research project using surveys over 5 years to determine changes in happiness and wellness. General concerns about the volume of morning school drop-off traffic for George Jay and Quadra. The City is looking at traffic calming for George Jay independent of this. In general the City is seeking to move drivers off Vancouver to Quadra and Cook. Concerns from 60 parents and residents about the Fifth street option were presented along with a map. The City also noted that Improvements related to the Topaz option would also fit within the park improvement plan. We should anticipate feedback and design idea later in the year.

A suggestion was made for a right turn only sign around Fifth and Kings dividers.

5. City Hall Update - Neighbourhood Coordinator Gary Pemberton and Councilor Liaison Ben Isitt
Ben gave a brief update/report. The Fifth and Kings dividers will have plantings going in. The new sidewalk along Blackwood 2900 block is underway with a design to save trees. McNair access to Summit and playground is up for work based on the established priority list from years ago - no designs are available yet.

Gary gave an update about neighbour day yesterday. They are looking for ways to expand on this each year and would welcome ideas. The City of Victoria "My Great Neighborhood Grants" have now closed, with 36 applications received, and it will probably be evaluated down to about 24 grants for this half. There will be a second intake of these grants in the Fall. Participatory budgeting closed yesterday. Hope that public voting will occur on car free day.

6. 950 Kings Road Community Hub - Plans have been presented at CRD Housing and Hospitals Committee for 150 units of housing and 50 bed mental health facility

Kelly Greenwall gave a basic overview of recent activities, meetings and media releases. Media coverage was generally favourable to the plight of the neighbourhood. Many people presented on behalf of our neighbourhood at the Board meeting on Wednesday May 1st where the design report was to be received by the Board. The proposal has developed to the point of designs and unit counts and discussion has occurred with Island Health, yet no discussions have occurred with the neighbourhood despite repeated requests. The discussion then widened to those present. There is a lack of trust that future consultation will be meaningful for the neighbourhood. We have been repeatedly told there were no plans. We are unsure of the intent for the mental health facility. The property is zoned for this use regardless that it was actually meant to be a meaningful neighbourhood amenity. It was reported that CRHD did not maintain the current school facility to allow ongoing food support for the neighbourhood. Concern that the land values for school district lands are undervalued and therefore potentially sold at under market rate. The fact that we did not get to create an updated plan and that old (existing) zoning does not protect the public interest. The city should change the zoning as it is not appropriate. This could be done delicately to preserve current use with at least five council votes. No master planning process is being used for our area in spite of considerable large institutional plans. Fix the zoning to protect the current use until the local plan is completed. How will increased traffic flow be managed as it a risk to the children in the community, note that park and community centre is opposite the site. Appears that CRHD did not do an assessment of Oak Bay Lodge and Gorge Hospital, as other owned and developed areas that might accommodate some needs or re-development. There is a sense there is a lack of equity across city, with other areas not doing their part to host these types of regional developments. Historically we were told there was no plan for this site other than a school. The actual zoning did not restrict other uses so this gave a false send of our future.

A subgroup will continue to discuss actions to further our neighbourhood interests.

7. Crystal Pool - City of Victoria is proposing relocation of Crystal Pool to Central Middle School field

There was a suggestion to the pool, and perhaps a library, at 950 Kings! Two sites identified, parking lot across from Royal Athletic Park, or half of the Central School field. City and media focussed on the school field as the preferred option. This would pull an amenity from our part of the city toward other more affluent neighborhoods. Working strongly with North Park around this. Proposal has now been deferred to May 23rd. Council meeting. Allison Ashcroft of North Park has put together a report using publically available data to focus on the equity and social indicators of this plan.

Fernwood Community Association has also agreed to try to keep the pool in the North. The existing site is apparently off the table. Fire station one is too small. Quadra School students would be challenged to travel to a pool if it were farther away. Could consider building the pool on Royal Athletic Park and put that Park on the roof. Franchisee Harbourcats may have a contract that is hard to break. NAC could write to council to ask the pool not move farther away. Sense that the YMCA might prefer to operate a pool in the downtown.

Action to write a letter in support of keeping the pool in proximity to Quadra School and Quadra Village. To be drafted by the NAC executive.

8. City of Victoria Proposal for free transit
Ben noted it has also been described as expanded, electrified free transit for those 18 years and under, and could be supported in part by downtown parking fees. Oaklands has endorsed it. There is a free transit campaign coalition to have free transit for those under 19 by 2020 and for all users by 2022. Seeking neighborhood endorsement to improve transit service levels and reduce cost for K-12 students. Primarily low-income residents who use transit so there is a social justice as well as climate action. Given the number of developments with reduced parking argued by reduced cars it is important to have improved service and enhanced access to transit. Support for eliminating it for youth and developing a plan for other riders. Executive can also pass along for DBAC consideration.
9. Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Letter
Number and frequency of developments that require Official Community Plan (OCP) amendments have drastically increased, as it used to be fairly infrequent and now is much more common. VCAN wishes to present on this point and seeks support from local land use committees. No concerns were expressed about voicing support.

Standing Items

- a. Quadra Village Days

Kelly reported that Quadra Village Day is ready to go. Also the Neighbourhood Small Grants deadline has been extended and they will have a table as well. There may be a crystal pool consultation table. There is a dunk tank with mayor.

- b. Neighbourhood Planning Group – Terms of Reference Update

Ben reported that staff have made some amendments so further drafting, by him and the three land use committees, will occur.

- c. Correspondence

Revised plans for 2566, 2570 and 2580 Fifth Street by Aryze CALUC held 01 May.
1301 Hillside email correspondence.
Hold discussion, re 1301, to next meeting.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Activities
CALUC, 16 May, 2920 Prior, is postponed to a future date.
11. Community Check-In - an opportunity for community members to share idea and concerns (All)

Meeting Adjourned 9:26 PM

Reminder: Become a member of the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

Next NAC meeting: 06 MAY 2019, 7:00 p.m. 901 Kings Rd

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

Childminding is available at the HQNAC meetings on a first come first served basis. Requests and/or cancellations are no longer required. An annual one-time signing of Parents' permission forms is being planned.