

**Hillside - Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting  
November 7, 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 and Councillor Ben Isitt.

**2. Approval of Agenda (Chair)**

The agenda was approved after re-ordering the items.

**3. Approval of October 2016 Meeting Minutes (Chair)**

Meeting participants approved the draft minutes.

**4. Visual Victoria update (Janis L)**

City of Victoria staff Joaquin Karakas and Michael Hill met with representatives of the Fernwood, Oaklands and Hillside-Quadra neighbourhoods regarding Public Realm Improvements and Wayfinding. (all neighbourhoods were invited). Janis and Leni H attended. The session notes are attached. The budget for wayfinding for the neighbourhoods is \$300,000 over three years. There will be another public workshop on **November 30<sup>th</sup>** and everyone can attend. Generally, neighbourhoods want opportunities to celebrate their unique features and heritage—built and natural.

**5. Building Resilient Neighbourhoods update (Janis L)**

Building Resilient Neighbourhoods is now working with the Victoria Foundation to deliver a Resilient Streets program that will connect people neighbour-to-neighbour in one block or building (vertical streets). They would be happy to chat with Hillside-Quadra about this. **Action: Janis to email re: timeline and deadlines.**

**6. Crosswalks update (Janis L)**

- Construction has begun on the crosswalk at Hillside and Blackwood. A pedestrian activated flashing light is being installed.
- The crosswalk at Hillside and Graham is being recommended for improvements in 2017 with a pedestrian activated signal (red light) as part of the 2017 regular capital program. This will include bike activation. **Action: write a letter supporting the crosswalk improvements at Hillside and Graham**
- Yew and Finlayson—Janis spoke with staff regarding the delay and they will investigate. **UPDATE: Construction has recommenced November 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- City of Victoria (Transportation) will be heavily targeting reduced speed zones in 2017. Ten additional digital display boards are on order and will be placed, on a rotating basis in these zones (3-4 months at a time). They are solar operated and can collect data in real time. There may be an opportunity to request placement on higher speed arterials (like Hillside) and in urban villages (Quadra Village). If it appears after data collection that there is a benefit to the boards, they could potentially be installed as gateway reminders in urban villages

**7. Parks Master Plan**

There are opportunities for input from the public through:

- Survey (open to December 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Pop-Up Park 11am-1pm at Centennial Square November 18<sup>th</sup>
- Open House, Pop-Up Park at Centennial Square November 19<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm
- **Workshop, McPherson Playhouse November 19<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm**
- Response to Parks Master Plan—**Action: letter from HQ NAC regarding Parks Zone?**

## 8. Budget 2017

The draft budget is now online. There is a survey and there will be a Town Hall meeting December 1<sup>st</sup>—it will be live-streamed.

## 9. City Hall Update (Ben Isitt)

- Discussion with Councillor Isitt regarding the proposed Garden Suites policy. The very first garden suite in the City of Victoria was built in Hillside-Quadra. The owners were present and brought comments and their perspective:
  - ❖ The current process may be exacting but a rezoning process is important for without it people's rights are taken away
  - ❖ The policy calls for one level but that level could be really high. Height will be an issue for neighbours
  - ❖ Garden suites impact sound, sun, shade, privacy—they are houses in their own right and built, generally speaking, very close to lot lines.
  - ❖ The buffer zone that exists in Vancouver with laneway houses does not exist in Victoria with garden suites.
  - ❖ The first garden suite was built on a corner lot and the entrance for the suite is off the side street (not through the property)
  - ❖ Services for garden suites are to be underground. In the case of shared driveways this has a significant impact to the adjoining property. Yet, they would not be consulted.
  - ❖ Public input is important—is there a compromise? Perhaps notifying the immediate neighbours.
  - ❖ It should not be a simple staff decision. Councillor Isitt suggests a council decision with some public input (not a public hearing necessarily)
  - ❖ The current process is justified in helping to create a nice neighbourhood.
  - ❖ Is there a possibility of making the applications variances and then there would be a statutory requirement?
  - ❖ Follow up with Jonathan Tinney regarding the consultation with CALUCS (as suggested in the staff report). **Action: NAC to write a letter.**
- Crystal Pool consultation status question (Laura L). Ben--The report with a decision point (refurbish or replace) for council should come back to Committee of the Whole in December or January.
- Wark Street Sidewalks. Send the letter directly to Fraser Work and Brad Dellebuur. **Action: Janis**
- Is it time for a Neighbourhood Traffic Management Plan that would incorporate traffic calming measures with infrastructure improvements? Residents in the 2500 block Graham have been advocating for measures. Residents on Tolmie (between Blanshard and Quadra) report speeding. **Action: Rowena to follow up with Brad regarding traffic calming (he was to provide some metrics)**
- Root Cellar. Nothing new. Action: Rowena to email Ben to ask him to investigate.

## 10. Priorities 2017

Further discussion is needed to identify priorities. One possible priority is to begin work on the update to the neighbourhood plan (scheduled with the City of Victoria in 2018).

## 11. Upcoming meetings

- **VCAN Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>**—Jenny, Barbara, Leni, Janis will attend
- **Parks Master Plan meetings are November 18<sup>th</sup> (Pop-Up Park in Centennial Square) and 19<sup>th</sup> (Pop-Up Park, Open House—10am-1pm—and Workshop—1-3pm).** Barbara W will attend. Other residents are welcome to attend.
- The next **DBAC meeting is November 21st.**
- **Visual Victoria public workshop November 30<sup>th</sup>** at the McPherson Playhouse. All welcome.
- **City of Victoria Budget Town Hall December 1<sup>st</sup>.** The meeting will be live-streamed. People can attend in person or join the discussion on Twitter and Facebook. There is a survey to complete.

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

**13. Close of meeting: Next NAC meeting: 5 December 2016 at 6:30 p.m. for a Holiday Social before the meeting, 901 Kings Rd.**

Join our email list and receive neighbourhood updates by contacting [nag@quadravillagecc.com](mailto:nag@quadravillagecc.com). Contact the Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee at [nag@quadravillagecc.com](mailto:nag@quadravillagecc.com).

## **Visual Victoria: Neighbourhood Wayfinding Session**

### **October 20, 2016 - CityStudio**

- Many neighbourhood maps have been developed and paid for by neighbourhoods. We don't want the community-led maps replaced by City maps.
- We like the London examples, but the design would not fit into a place like (funky) Fernwood.
- Neighbourhoods would like their signage programs to be artistic and different.
- Advertising on wayfinding signs likely doesn't pay enough to be a desirable compromise in many public locations
- Utility box wraps with the neighbourhoods' graphic wrapped onto them communicate to residents that they are in a community, which is good. This can help pull together parts of a neighbourhood that may not share that feeling.
- Community centre programming serves the whole neighbourhood – a greater sense of community identity (through signage and other mechanisms) can help residents look at opportunities within their neighbourhoods.
- Oaklands Community Centre (including the farmers' market) and Haultain Village are important community focal points – appropriate signage on Bay and Hillside would raise awareness about their location.
- Wayfinding tools that would identify all of the village centres would promote awareness and visitation to them.
- Historical walking tours could be anchored in a village centre (e.g. square) and smartphones could be used to navigate around the route. Fernwood has route they would like to develop in the future.
- Greenways, community gardens and important crosswalks could also be identified.
- VicMap is not very user friendly and often does not create the types of printable products that are sought.
- Neighbourhood-led projects are great, but lifecycle costs and funding sources are usually not factored in. This results in the gradual deterioration of the projects (e.g. signage).
- Banners are not recommended, as they require frequent replacement.
- There should be more First Nations sites and language represented in wayfinding signage.
- All of the various wayfinding systems should be integrated.
- Wayfinding tell us how to get to specific destinations, but sometimes it is the route itself. People like to know about and follow peaceful, scenic routes.
- Amenity contributions in neighbourhoods should support wayfinding systems.
- The City's base mapping should be available to community groups who want to build information layers onto them.
- The Active Living Guide could be presented neighbourhood by neighbourhood and include a map showing neighbourhoods and village centres