

Hillside - Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting
9 January 2017, 7pm
901 Kings Road (enter by the glass door on the left)

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions.

12 community members and Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Coordinator in attendance.
Regrets: Councillor Ben Isitt

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of December 2016 Meeting Minutes

4. Land Use Updates (Jenny F)

Jenny provided updates on current proposals in process for Hillside-Quadra.

- 2714 Quadra Street, a rezoning proposal for a cannabis retail outlet. HQ-NAC is not sending comments and invites all residents to do so individually. There are three other retail cannabis outlets in Quadra Village currently. There is a city planner who will be handling all the cannabis rezonings. Clarification is necessary about the 200m limit between retail outlets—does this apply in Urban Villages?

ACTION: Invite the planner to a NAC meeting

- There are pending proposals that can be tracked using the City of Victoria Development Tracker. There is no current news for 3031 Jackson Street, 2835-2865 Quadra (Quadra Villa) and 2648 Graham Street.
<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/planning-development/development-tracker.html>
- There is a meeting January 16th hosted by the City of Victoria to inform the CALUCs of recent Housing Strategy Initiatives—minimum unit size, changes to the garden suites policy and secondary suite bylaw—and the off-street parking review. NAC executive members will attend. City proposal to exempt rezoning for new garden suites and secondary suites from requirement to seek community input.
- NAC executive members will attend a CALUC 101 training with city staff, January 25th.

5. City Hall Update (City of Victoria staff liaison Gary Pemberton)—some information attached.

- The Root Cellar—still waiting for information as to the exact status of this property. The parking lot has been completed but otherwise work appears to be stalled. Permits were issued in 2013 (to demolish two houses on the property) and in 2015 (for catch basins and storm water). The property is a non-conforming use and the owners need to be actively working on improvements.
- NAC has requested a list of city-owned property parcels on School District 61 lands—ie: SJ Willis and Quadra Elementary. **Gary will follow-up.**
- **Request.** Could Gary find out what is meant by “strategic area” since there are implications for density bonuses.
- Free emergency preparedness workshops are offered throughout the year. Check CoV website.
- Dog license renewal now due.
- There is a participatory budgeting exercise planned for January 12th for \$60,000. Jon M will attend to learn more about this process. Toronto and Tofino engage in participatory budgeting--\$450,000 for the former and \$20,000 for the latter.
- The City has posted a competition for an Indigenous Artist in Residence

6. NAC Priorities for 2017 – an opportunity to identify ideas—general discussion and brainstorming

- Take control of the local area planning process (our neighbourhood is scheduled for an update to the plan in 2018/2019) and start working on it at the community level now—a vision exercise
 - Transportation/safety/cycling route—numerous areas in the neighbourhood are identified as problematic including the Finlayson/Jackson/Graham cut through. Note: it is not the only one. **ACTION:** invite the Assistant Director of Engineering, Jacqueline Weston to our next NAC meeting.
- Janis**
- Sustainability and renewable energy—what can we do in our neighbourhood?
 - Transit corridors and the elimination of parking
 - Improvements to the triangle of green space adjacent to Blackwood Park. Could it become a cycling rest stop for instance?
 - Gary P mentioned the Find It/Fix It walks that the Neighbourhoods Department is considering bi-annually for all neighbourhoods—used to identify issues
 - SJ Willis land—who is responsible for clean up? **ACTION:** Gary to find out.
 - Identify land for a community garden. Find out from the CRD (who now has a staff liaison for food strategy) if there are any demonstration projects possible for our neighbourhood.
 - More bike racks in Quadra Village and perhaps incentives from businesses to encourage people to come.
 - There is a Geography 300 class at UVic that is always looking for projects in the community
 - Advocate for city services—ex: library, an integrated planning approach
 - Get more people involved—develop a rack card that lists 2017 Priorities and distribute them.

The above brainstorming can be summarized into several main themes.

- Community planning—start now with a vision exercise
- Transportation safety—traffic calming, cut-through traffic, green transportation (cycling and transit)
- Gardens and greenspace—Topaz Park Improvement Plan, Blackwood Park, a community garden
- Advocating for city services

Further work remains to be done to identify the top actionable priorities and to establish if there are volunteers to help work on those issues.

ACTION: The Draft Financial Plan for 2017 includes several areas of investment in Hillside-Quadra. **Janis** will summarize and send this information out.

7. Neighbourhood Updates - community news, business news

Reminder: Become a member of the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

Next NAC meeting: 6 February 2017 at 7:00 p.m., 901 Kings Rd.

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