

**Minutes of the Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Zoom Meeting of Monday, June 1st 7:00 PM**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
25 participants on Zoom
2. Approval of Agenda (Chair)  
Item #5 was removed as the proponent could not attend. A final item about animating Kings Street was added. Due to time the Community Experience of Covid 19 Check and approval of May minutes were not undertaken.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Chair)
4. Garden at Blackwood at Cook - Zack Simon  
Zack is interested in creating a food garden in the underutilized triangular park at Blackwood and Cook. Though the size is uncertain it would be a significant instillation. The proposal has initial approve from the City's Food Coordinator, so Zack is not working on a plan and seeking our input and approval. A non-profit would need to sign-on for legal/insurance reasons. Once that occurs then Zack will do outreach to the immediate neighbourhood for ideas and concerns and interest, after which a design would be prepared. The garden is not an allotment but rather something similar to the Wark Park food garden or the one near Spring Ridge Commmons in Fernwood. Perhaps native fruit 'shrubs' such as blueberries, high bush cranberries, and complementing native and non-invasive herbal plantings. Zack is seeking a general sense of whether the QVCC might be interested in joining this initiative. In addition to the \$500 Victoria Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grants program grants today a \$5000 City grant opened which Gary announced in this meeting.
- ~~5. 3150 Somerset duplex Niall Paltiel (Tentative)~~
6. Purchase of Comfort Inn on Blanshard for supportive housing  
Murray Langdon from BC Housing joined to give an update. BC Housing announced it was acquiring the Comfort Inn that Borders Hillside Quadra and Burnside Gorge neighbourhoods. The intention is to house some of the most vulnerable member of the Capital Region. BC Housing continues to seek acquisition opportunities throughout the Capital Region. Our Place and Cool Aid would act as dual operators along with VIHA for additions support, in addition there are security services and provision food service. The first phase was to cope with the covid crisis, then a transition to longer term housing, followed by a longer term and deliberate redevelopment plan for future use including engagement with the communities. Current tenants may transition to other housing solutions based on what is available and their needs. The timing for transitions to second and third phases is unclear.

The Chair indicated that he had heard there may be some type of advisory committee. Murray indicated the Community Advisory Committee is a long established practice for BC Housing projects which would also include service providers and stakeholders such the City, police, VIHA, businesses, and various service provides as well as members of the community. This is a venue to provide feedback, share concerns, and express expectations. A member of NAC has already been invited to attend the anticipated June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Kelly asked what allowable uses were permitted within existing zone. Murray was not certain the specific allowable uses but indicated a robust process would be used to understand community concerns and needs.

7. Topaz Park Debrief and going forward remediation  
Murray stayed for this BC Housing related topic. Interest is having the fences down ASAP so that community use can restart. First wave of fencing removed recently. Most of park is still being assessed. A remediation contractor has been identified. The City will determine what remediation is required. Some areas are more impacted than others. Reopening of the northern Gary Oak area. Murray will enquire about the remediation plan and let us know what he finds out. Kelly shared a draft letter to the City from DBAC about key items of community interest in Topaz park remediation and priorities. After some additions it was generally accepted as ready to send
8. LAP/Villages and Corridors Reboot  
Kelly shared a letter from the DBAC board to the City regarding our need to focus on other priorities at this time so a planning process reboot in the fall would be appreciated so as to better engage the whole community. We understand that North Park and Fernwood are drafting similar letters.
9. Missing Middle Housing status  
The status of the City's Missing Middle is unclear as no updates have been seen on the city website.
10. Updates from Council Liaison Ben Isitt/ Neighbourhood Coordinator Gary Pemberton  
Gary announced that the City had launched a \$5000 interim category of Great Community Grants looking at resilience and recovery. Placemaking and block parties are not really possible at this time. Food security is a hot topic and there are ways to apply for funding – front yard, boulevard, or backyard areas are possible. <https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/Neighbourhoods/my-great-neighbourhood-grant-program.html>  
The City is working on guidelines to allow to permit social distancing block party applications.

Ben reported about the recent posting for bids to design a Topaz artificial turf field when other community focussed Topaz improvements were postponed until August. Reports will soon be received to address use of public spaces during this covid restricted time. The City of Victoria is one of the few municipalities to continue though only at distance public participation in public processes.

11. ~~Community Experience of Covid 19 Check in~~

## 12. King Street Animation

There was a meeting today with the City about improving public use along the 950 Kings Street. Some of the ideas suggested were places to sit and eat food from local restaurants and community green space.

Meeting adjourned 9:22 PM