

Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group
Monday September 14th 7 p.m.
Quadra Village Community Centre – Kings Road
Draft Minutes

- 1) **Welcome to All Present – Introductions.** 10 Community members in attendance.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda**
- 3) **Approval of June 2015 Meeting Minutes.** The minutes were approved.
- 4) **City of Victoria Staff – ~~Local Area Planning~~ Consultation.** consider deleting reference to LAP as meeting covered several topics.
 - a) **Great Neighbourhoods Initiative**
 - i) Overview: ~~Overview.~~ City staff have met with 5 neighbourhoods and hope to finish by the end of September. This initiative seeks to improve the working relationships between neighbourhoods and the City of Victoria
~~—~~ Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning invited those at the meeting to provide their initial thoughts on ‘Early thoughts. What works well and what needs improvement—systems, processes, customer service, structure? She indicated that City. Staff realize councillor liaisons are carrying the bulk of the workload of facilitating interactions between neighbourhoods and staff. Very little of the work of the little of city focuses on specific neighbourhoods, processes is geographic based yet the work of neighbourhood associations is geographically based. In other cities staff ~~teams~~ work in by neighbourhood ~~based teams~~ to address issues (e.g. of planning, transportation and parks ~~{for instance}~~). ~~The City staff is currently researching y are doing~~ best practices research now and will provide a report goes to Council in late October. There will then be an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the report. ~~Janis is this feedback on the report or input to the City? Didn't they ask us to provide further input earlier? This will be feedback on the report.~~
 - ii) ~~—~~
- b) Tell Us About Quadra Village- Current opportunities and issues, current challenges and demands
Issues identified at the meeting:
 - Publicly owned lands the CALUCs have no say over. ~~Cf~~Example: 955 Hillside (the Summit in Quadra Village) and yet their development has impact on the neighbourhood as a whole
 - No park or green space zoning. ~~Cf~~Example: green space indicated on the initial 2012 OCP maps at 955 Blanshard and SJ Willis is in fact owned by other entities and zoning can be changed. Future of those areas could be better defined.
 - Speed on Hillside is one of our key issues. This effects walkability and livability for the entire neighbourhood. It's difficult to reconcile land use with the transportation department.
 - How do schools provide feedback on transportation issues?
 - Highway Access Bylaw has huge implications for our neighbourhood. Traffic from 955 Blanshard will potentially exit onto a laneway and then onto Kings which is designated part of the Cycling Network.
 - Quadra Village amenities (which the neighbourhood paid for through fundraising) are disappearing and not being replaced. These include custom garbage receptacles and benches. Banners did not have a budget for replacement/maintenance. Budgets need to include a provision for maintenance of the assets.

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c) Share Your Experience with the City- City staff asked NAG 'What works well, what could be better?'
Issues identified include:

- Pace of expected engagement/feedback has increased substantially. It's hard to keep up. Sometimes the feedback exists already and there is duplication.
- ~~[I don't understand what this means. This was my comment. It means that sometimes feedback was sought on the issue and it has just been previously solicited and exists already]~~
- Issues overlap from neighbourhood to neighbourhood and some need to be considered in a larger context. Some examples for Hillside-Quadra are: Rifflandia, crematorium at Sands, fireworks (noise) at Royal Athletic Park.
- Limited resources in the Hillside-Quadra community. Time of year has an ~~input impact~~ [impact?] on the turn out.
- There needs to be a "Planning 101" or a "Land Use for Dedummies" in order to engage more people in the process. (Katie Hamilton indicates many neighbourhoods have asked for this)
- Active Living Guide used to include have two pages for each neighbourhood per association. These pages typically featured ~~— which could include~~ the history and issues of the neighbourhood, as well as programs offered
- To get things done, we need to work through our council liaison. Ex: Noise Bylaw amendment, Highway Access Bylaw amendment

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d) Local Area Plans -(Andrea Hudson, Assistant Director, Community Planning described the City initiative to work with neighbourhoods to update these plans.)

- i) What are they and what can they be. The Official Community Plan (OCP) provides is the big picture and the Local Area Plan (LAP) pertains to the individual neighbourhoods. The 2012 OCP for Victoria predicts 50% of growth will happen in the core with 40% of that in Large Urban Villages. Quadra Village is designated a Large Urban Village.
- ii) How ~~will can~~ LAPs be updated ~~they be done~~? Currently the CoV has met with the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood and hopes to have a LAP in early 2016. In October staff will present a plan of action for the completion of the other local area plans. How would Hillside-Quadra like to be involved in the LAP process?

e) Q&A

- The designation of Large Urban Village was imposed on Hillside Quadra with will no consultation with the neighbourhood. It seems that housing is to be concentrated in this village ~~there~~.
- Council approval of up-zoning is an issue. Currently areas (in other neighbourhoods) for 10 stories in the OCP are being spot-zoned at 17.
- Why is the density necessary in the large urban village?
- Our existing Local Area plan may be 20 years old but it's working
- Rushed development is bad development
- Updated LAP needs to have a stipulation that zoning can't be exceeded if an amenity is being taken out of the public realm (ie: green space at 955 Blanshard). There needs to be a formal process attached to this.
- Housing affordability must be maintained. Development often takes affordable, market rent, units out of the inventory. There needs to be an effort to maintain pet and -kid friendly rental.
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5) City Hall Update – Ben Isitt

- **Sheltering Solutions Workshop** is September 16. Ben has been a strong advocate for a solution that includes a tent city "if there was public support". His initial thought was for a series of roving

sites, or 3 sites concurrently, in order to spread the impacts. A report is coming to council October 8th.

- **955 Blanshard, the Summit at Quadra Village.** The CRHD recently announced the awarding of 9 contracts. There is an ongoing commitment to meaningful engagement with the public during the design phase.
- **Downzoning certain lands.** Ben willing to ask for downzoning of [the SJ Willis lands](#).
- **Cycling Network.** There is a possibility of a [new bicycle](#) crossing at Kings Rd and Blanshard.
- **Parks Master Plan** upcoming with consultation from now until summer 2016
- **Grants from City of Victoria (CoV).** New grant intake opens within a few weeks. Budget is \$250,000. In 2015, 49 of 55 grants were approved. Grants should reflect CoV strategic priorities. ~~Where is information about these available?~~ <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/community/city-grants.html>

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6) Greenspace/Parks Update

- a) Petition regarding resurfacing Topaz Park tennis courts.
Ben mentions tennis courts were in plan to be improved two years ago. Jenny to draft letter from HQ NAG supporting this petition.
- b) Summit Park clean up – **November 7th, 10-noon**
- c) Summit Park path construction – update. Open House **October 1st at 7pm** at the Quadra Village Community Centre. The construction of stairwells begins soon and resurfacing of paths will follow shortly thereafter. Work to be completed by spring 2016.
- d) Sheltering Solutions meeting - **September 16th - 6:30-8:30** Crystal Gardens – new time & place

7) Land Use Updates

- a) **955 Hillside** (see above in Ben Isitt's City Hall update)
- b) Upcoming:
 - ~~1066/1070 Finlayson—owners are considering option to create a separate lot which would not involve variances. [please delete this verbal update; information is preliminary; this is not yet 'upcoming']~~
 - 863/865 Villance**—lot is zoned single family. ~~There is -with~~ an existing duplex [on the lot](#). Owners [indicate they](#) wish to obtain legal duplex zoning. No construction is being considered. [A community meeting is planned for October 14th](#).
 - ~~2835-2855 Quadra Street (formerly Quadra Villa). The new owners, Primex Investments are considering a proposal for the parking lot. Former owners had proposed a 34 unit townhouse complex on the site. [Please delete. Nothing formal yet to discuss. Information is preliminary. This is not yet 'upcoming'.]~~
- e) Ongoing:
 - 2560 Quadra Street**—proposal for 4 story, 15 unit rental apartment building will go to public hearing in October. Date to be announced.
 - 2740 Fifth Street**—no news of any current proposals. ~~[this appears not to be accurate as they are presenting on October 5th]. this was accurate at the time of taking the minutes—it's important the minutes reflect what actually happened~~

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8) Neighbourhood and Business News

Cascadia Liquor has applied to extend opening hours to 11pm to match those of Fairway Market.

Banners—a small committee has been working on new banners for Quadra Village, and applied to the City of Victoria for a grant to cover a portion of the budget. Artwork has been chosen and banners will be installed again soon.

Summit Avenue sidewalks—construction of a sidewalk (from Jackson to the park) on the north side of the street begins the week of September 21st and continues for about 7 weeks. City staff will work to minimize inconvenience. The street will remain open.

Evergreen Terrace—BC Housing decommissioned the large playground, due to concerns over safety. There has been no indication as to whether it will be replaced.

9) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Victoria Council: October 1, 7:00 p.m.
- b) Police Board: September 15 5:00 p.m.
- c) DBAC Board meeting: September 28th (?) 5:30 p.m.
- d) NAG: October 5th 7:00. Chair: Laura T. Minute Taker: Jenny F.

10) Reminders

- a) Join the NAG email group
- b) Become a member of the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

11) Close of meeting

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

To contact the Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group send an email to nag@quadravillagecc.com