

Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 19, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm **Location: Zoom**

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the homelands of the Coast Salish and thank the Lkwungen (Songhees) and Kwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations for sharing land on which we live, learn work and play. Hay'sxw'qa si'em!

NAC Executive Board Members: 5

DBAC Board Members: 0

QVCC Staff Members: 0

Number of Community Members: 13

Minutes by: John Hall

Meeting started at 7:00 PM

Agenda

1. Welcome, territorial acknowledgement
2. Agenda approved as circulated
3. Minutes approved as posted
4. Summit Noise - Michael Barnes update (3 updates)

CRD report (Michael Barnes)

Michael reported that the installation of the sound attenuation kit has been delayed, as it was not received due to COVID-19. The kit is expected to arrive in the third week of May. Once installed, the intent is to have the physical engineer return to perform decibel testing in the same locations as was previously done.

Development/implementation of a joint CRD and community plan for monitoring mitigation measures (Kathy/Laura)

Kathy thanked Michael for his report and noted that given the nice weather the noise is back. The community would like to be involved in the testing as we were not previously involved. Ideally to expand the testing so as to better document the impacts across the community. Laura reiterated the request for community involvement in the monitoring program so we all know what was done. A key question is when to monitor: At a certain temperature? Upon report of noise? Concern that past monitoring did not capture peak sound times. We were interested in some community monitoring - who is hearing what, where and when - rather than decibels. The tests in the report by the CRHD were done in the night in September, well after the peak times. Thus there is a concern that this may be a poor comparator in terms of whether the noise attenuation works. There was acoustic testing prior to construction. The load on the air handling chillers could only be done at 60% capacity so it did not emulate the noisier situation the community experienced.

Michael: He is open to doing additional testing at the request of the community, to

capture different locations or conditions.

Comment: Kathy reiterated that it is not just the volume but also the tone. There are a number of community members who are ready to work with Michael and his colleagues. Did he have a suggestion as to how to do this?

Michael: He said to email him with the request for testing and he will respond, letting us know if it is possible, and considering what the engineer recommends.

Comment: An issue is to test outside of peak traffic times. There is an aspect to the testing that if a tone is detected a value is added to the decibels.

Question: Jon asked if there would be another test prior to installation and a test at peak times? Can more than one test be done in a day?

Michael: He reported that it would depend on the availability of the engineer. Their industry standard is to be able to isolate the sound from other sources.

Community questions and input

G. finds there is no communication within the community. She has not yet connected with Kathy or Joanne.

Kathy welcomed her and anyone else who is interested in joining.

Councillor Ben Isitt invited everyone to contact him directly regarding general noise issues like this that are community wide.

Laura pointed out that there may be time for a pre-installation reading.

Michael thought that was a good idea.

Rowena noted that she had heard the attenuation kit will only take the high end down not the overall noise.

Michael though the kit would dampen all noise.

G. lives opposite the hospital and hears the noise 24-7 so she will start making her continuous monitoring notes.

Michael left the meeting.

5. Topaz Dog Park Agility improvements (Maggie Collins)

Topaz Park has been remediated in the last few months. She is hopeful that a natural dog agility course using readily available park materials can be built. Maggie shared her diagram. She previously got direct feedback and suggestions from other dog owners. It was suggested that it should be a closed dog park so as to prevent dogs running out to the children's playground or the street. Another suggestion was to install lights, because in winter it becomes dark at 4:30. There should be signage that this is for dogs not kids, as it will look very attractive to kids and this is a play area for dogs not kids. Currently the park is not usable due to the presence of human excrement which can make dogs very sick. So the park has to be cleaned up. Please contact Maggie to make any suggestions as to what you would like to see.

Rowena clarified that Gary Pemberton was informed of this suggestion and he offered to

include this in the park improvement plan. We have until June to loop into that process. Gary would be a good staff contact at the City of Victoria.

Gary will try to set up Maggie with the correct people.

6. Artificial Turf Replacement Project update

Lorraine Skinner attended an online workshop. The designer discussed accessibility for players, coaches and attendees. The designers and city paid careful attention to the field light so as not to shine on the neighbours. Lighting on the path to the washroom will be enhanced. The old field will be removed and recycled, and the new field will be made from recycled tires.

7. Quadra Village Day update

Barb Clausen is involved in this year's Quadra Village Days, encompassing a weekend, the next week, and the following weekend, for a total of 9 days this year. School kids and the general community are encouraged to make a scene that can be displayed in a local store window. An item from each scene will be part of a scavenger hunt. There will be roving musicians. Check out the website at <https://www.qvcc.ca/quadra-village-days>

8. Upcoming CALUCs: 3117 Blackwood, 1022 Summit Thursday April 29 7pm

Jon Munn reminded people about the upcoming community land use meeting and CALUC for two properties. 3117 Blackwood is to be a duplex with two suites, and 1022 Summit is more of an internal renovation to create three units.

9. Comfort Inn Housing 3020 Blanshard update from Meeting (Rowena Locklin reported)

There were concerns about Muncy Place (previously the Comfort Inn) which has been bought by BC Housing and provides temporary housing. Adjacent neighbours reported spill-over activities in Topaz Park, and graffiti. The Community Liaison Officer and Councillor Alto were part of the meeting. The next move would be to get more direct membership on the committee from local residents. There is a goal to have improved accountability from BC Housing and more direction from local neighbourhoods on issues.

Comment: An adjacent resident is interested in joining the committee.

10. Updates from Council Liaison Ben Isitt/ Neighbourhood Coordinator Gary Pemberton

Gary reported that there will be a Community Virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 21, concerning community emergency preparedness. Grants are open, and those that are ready are considered on a monthly basis. There is a placesaver on the "Have your Say" button on the City of Victoria website which outlines a template with proposed neighbourhood boundary adjustments. Hillside-Quadra will not have a boundary adjustment.

Ben agreed with Gary that no boundary changes were identified for our neighbourhood. Homelessness is impacting the city, and a number of councillors voted to return to enforcing the 7 am to 7 pm camping ban in parks. Sheltering is not permitted at Summit or Topaz parks. Bike lanes are heating up in other neighbourhoods. The Vancouver St bike lane is almost complete. There has also been work on Topaz Park relating to the reactivation of SJ Willis as a school.

A developer, Aryze, has asked to build a playground and gardening boxes, which the city will allow if NAC and DBAC are in agreement. Ben is willing to host a meeting in the coming weeks to discuss this. He called for suggestions.

Rowena suggested a bit more time before the meeting date as it is not easy for NAC to reach out to the directly adjacent neighbours.

Ben thinks a minimum of two weeks from today. He will try to deliver hand bills to adjacent neighbours and residents of the new Aryze building. Ben asked if there were any objections to proceeding with a community engagement in two weeks on Monday, May 3. None were expressed, and several voices agreed that this sounded like a good idea.

11. Community Updates

Announcement that Victoria Academy of Ballet is hoping to move in to the renovated Quadra St location at end of May. They will be next to the old San Remo restaurant.

12. Questions regarding 1022 Summit Rezoning Proposal

No questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm