

Minutes of the Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting

901 Kings Rd 2 March 2020

1. Welcome and Introductions at 7:02 PM. 20 people were in attendance.

2. The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. The minutes of February 2020 were approved as circulated.

4. Guest Speaker: City of Victoria: Lindsey Milburn and Malcolm McLean

Missing Middle Housing Presentation by City of Victoria planning staff

Here is The City of Victoria [Victoria Housing Strategy](#) and link to the [Missing Middle Housing](#) initiative.

SHE briefly presented an overview of the Victoria Housing Strategy. Examples of city led changes to encourage affordable housing were removing some barriers to secondary suite and garden suite requirements. The focus is currently on renters whose median household income is almost half of the median income for owner households. Focus on increasing supply of rental housing and diversity of types (family housing, missing middle). Rental Tenure Zoning is a new power created by the Province. They seek to establish affordability targets for rental housing. Very Low, Low and medium-low affordable housing are below market rent.

Malcolm gave a brief presentation on the Missing Middle Initiative.

There is two aspects, both a citywide planning process, and zoning changes. The middle means between single family and large multiunit buildings. Separate to this project is one to address house conversion requirements. In addition to zoning there could be design guidelines to address house developments sit and flow in the block. There are a number of rounds of seeking input and development of the plan and having council and citizen feedback.

Questions and feedback were heard from those present. An upcoming survey on the missing middle will be available soon. A comment about reducing parking requirements imposes immediate need to improved transit. Also is shared accommodation, like multiple people sharing a house, being considered as well as small apartments/suites.

5. Potential elimination of community led participation in rezoning (CALUC meetings).

Mayor Helps will speak at the March 18th at 5:45 PM at City Hall Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) meeting on this topic. Please consider attending as an audience member.

6. Updates from Council Liaison Ben Isitt and Neighbourhood Coordinator Gary Pemberton

Ben reported that an update on 950 Kings, Crystal Pool, and other housing and services siting might be available in 3 months. Feedback about there being value in launching the local area planning process – like a media event (not just social media). Update on possible timelines for the various Topaz improvements.

Gary reported that the next round of city my great neighbourhood grants has somewhat more funding this round. There will be opportunity to get grants to plant trees. A mural toolkit has been developed in an attempt to match artists with walls (such as for businesses) to help streamline the process. Murals can also be part of the my great neighbourhood grants. The grants are \$5k for peace making and \$1k for celebration.

7. Updates: Crystal Pool, 950 Kings, Local Area Planning Letter of Intent

8. September change of NAC meeting date to 3rd Monday of the Month

9. Community Check-In - an opportunity for community members to share ideas and concerns (All)

Alex gave a quick update that the Victoria Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grants up to \$500 to do community events and may be combined with the city grants Gary mentioned in #6 above.

Rowena noted that a neighbor had contacted the CRHD about the bright lights on the Hospital which was very bright. Though no response was received from the CRHD a follow-up letter to the City Council did lead to a response from the CRHD and some changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM