

Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee

Minutes of Zoom meeting of September 21, 2020 7 pm

1 . Welcome and Introductions

Number of Zoom participants: 13

2 . Approval of Agenda (Chair)

Approved as circulated

3 . Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Chair)

Approved as amended

4 . Election of NAC Executive for 2020-2021

Co-Chairs: Jon Munn, Rowena Locklin

Exec members: John Hall, Keith Davis, Barbra Clausen, Lorraine Skinner

Approved as presented.

5. Report on CALUC meeting regarding 1025 Kings

Report out on the meeting with Luke Mari and Carly Abrahams of Aryze Developments. The meeting was recorded. No neighbors or community members beyond the NAC Executive were in attendance at this zoom meeting. The city notification did not highlight the zoom meeting. There is a variance requested for a significant reduction in the number of parking spaces. There was also a discussion about changes the City Council made to the CALUC process, which appears to reduce the weight put on the CALUC letters. There was to be a proposal to eliminate CALUC meetings prior to COVID which was not put forward.

5a. Parklet on Kings at Wark Park update

Summary provided of the process and progress to have a place for the community to sit and eat food from local vendors. The original ask for to have it on the green space on the old School on Kings but the CRD was not open to this so the City was open to doing one across the street, on the street itself, adjacent to the park. Café Fantastico plan to build an outdoor seating patio.

6. Local Area Planning/Villages and Corridors update

There was a general lack of awareness of this city engagement by those not on the EXEC. Many neighborhoods were waiting for updates of the mid-90's local area plans. The city decided to focus on the urban villages of Quadra Village, North Park, and Fernwood together at the same time. Larger scale public events were planned but cancelled due to COVID. The recent engagement summary indicated the city had moved into planning and design. The online survey that was done earlier was not focused on residents and was open to anyone who lived, worked or played in the areas. We are hoping for some non-Zoom non-online community engagement opportunities. DBAC has sent a letter to the City asking that the Local Area Plan process be restarted due to COVID impacts on participation and engagement. The engagement section in the plan is now past though one would expect engagement as subsequent sections, currently it's the plan and design section, occur. The City has indicated that 40% of the planned development (units) are targeted for 3.5% of the area which the large urban villages account for.

7. Summit noise issue- Summary and Next steps

A resident provided a summary of the issue – the noise arising from the new Summit hospital at that is very impactful to our neighborhood. It's a high pitched hum that worsened when the temperature increased. A similar issue arose when the Carey Road hospital facility. There are two noise – one is high pitched from the chillers and the other is lower pitched from the air handlers. Island Health and CRD were to take some readings and report back with the results. Both the architect and engineer agreed there must be a problem – undersigned – if we are hearing this type of noise. Michael Barnes of the CRD committed to address the problem. The readings, if taken, were not done in consultation with the community.

There will be another meeting with Island Health and CRD to hear there results. Apparently the City of Victoria representatives on the CRD must be the ones to bring this issue forward. Those are Lisa Helps, Ben Isitt, Jeremy Loveday and Jeff Young.

Another resident shared an audio sampling of a chiller.

Ben said he has received a number of complaints by email and he sent them to the CRD and City, both of which are actively investigating.

Laura shared the City's noise bylaw which does not have a decibel threshold.

<https://www.victoria.ca/assets/City~Hall/Bylaws/bylaw-03-012.pdf>

NAC was asked to reach out on behalf of the community to the City and CRD. NAC could also put the phone and email contacts in our newsletter. K. will draft a letter for NAC to review.

8. Missing Middle Housing update

Reported that there is no update though Malcom McLean of the City is working on it.

9. Comfort Inn update

A DBAC Board member attended the last week's meeting that was scheduled with short notice and triple booked us with VCAN and Villages and Corridors zoom meetings. We have strongly demanded a set monthly date for subsequent meetings. Burnside Gorge was not able to send a representative to this last meeting. These meetings are not open to the public though you can email nag@quadravillagecc.com for information and affected community members might request to attend.

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

Ben reported that while there were no huge pressing updates at this time, Council has continued to meet in person during COVID, and will start the 20-21 budgeting process in October. Public input will include delegations, following the draft budget, to speak at Council Meetings. Topaz Park amenities were added to the budget. Cycling and walking infrastructure projects are underway – for example the Blanchard and Kings crossing and the Finlayson and Jackson cycling crossing. No new information around 950 Kings Road – planning appears to be on hold due to COVID. Similarly Crystal Pool appears to largely be on hold as the report back on potential sites has not occurred yet.

Question about Villages and Corridors planning. Ben let us know that staff had decided to proceed with draft OCP bylaws. While staff had good intentions though with COVID and sheltering issues engagement was limited. Ben got an amendment through to focus on policy vs OCP amendments. After this report out by staff there would be a more formal process around the OCP amendment process.

Ben was asked about the Topaz remediation, and though he had no update, he thought it seems that the City and Province may be stretching it out to avoid a return of campers, especially with Vic High being at the adjacent school. Summit Park has been added to the list of parks where sheltering is not allowed.

Ben was asked if there an update on Bay and Graham/Vancouver? Ben thinks it just a matter of the phasing as work was done in preparation and the plans are approved.

11. Possible move to in person meetings in a larger space

The thought was to have considerable distance such as the Blanchard School gym. It is booked on Monday evenings so we would have to shift to another day. If moving to a Tuesday is required then we should consider that.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.