

Hillside - Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee Meeting
7 p.m. on January 4, 2016
901 Kings Road (enter by the glass door on the left)

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome/Introductions (Chair). 8 community members present.

2. Approval of Agenda (Chair)

3. Approval of December 2015 Meeting Minutes (Chair)

4. City Hall Update (Ben Isitt)

At the December 14th Governance and Priorities Committee meeting there were several governance changes proposed including: meld the Governance and Priorities Committee and the Planning and Land Use Committee into one Committee of the Whole; schedule a limited number of opportunities for public presentations at the beginning of City of Victoria council meetings and start the meeting at 6:30pm rather than 7pm.

Council received a report on the community centre/neighbourhood association funding structure and is looking into neighbourhood equity issues. Many of the neighbourhood associations do not have a community centre and receive limited funding for meetings etc.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) met and approved borrowing up to \$30 million for housing (as long as the province matches).

The tent city at the Courthouse currently has 80-100 occupants. The shelter opening in January at the former Boys and Girls Club (for 4 months) will house about 40 people. The City of Victoria is contributing \$40,000 and the province \$400,000.

There are currently a number of potential renovictions in James Bay where an investment company has recently purchased 5 high rise buildings. Many residents have received notices. There is little the City of Victoria can do since the owner is proposing renovations.

5. Transportation Priorities (Rowena L.)

a) **Update on Meeting with Director of Engineering (Rowena L.).**

Rowena and Janis met with Fraser Work (Director of Engineering) and Brad Dellebuur (transportation manager) on December 11th to present Hillside-Quadra's top five transportation priorities as identified through public consultation and priority setting. The request for a 30km school zone on Quadra in front of École Quadra Elementary – one of the five priorities – has already been actioned.

The crosswalk at Finlayson and Yew Streets, flagged recently by residents but not one of the five priorities, is in the 2016 capital budget for improvements.

The City is reviewing the other four priorities against operational budgets and work-flow. They are: 1) a pedestrian/bike activated light on Hillside at Graham (this is part of the proposed Biketoria network); 2) a request to have traffic from the development at 955 Hillside exit onto Hillside rather than onto the alley, as allowed by the recent Highway Access Bylaw Amendment (this has further implications in the neighbourhood—for instance with the proposed development at The Residences at Quadra Village); 3) traffic calming and 4) speed on Hillside.

There is another meeting scheduled for January 22nd.

Action: Rowena and Janis will mention the crosswalk at Haultain/Blanshard/Cook and the exit from The Residences at Quadra Village (the City of Victoria preferred exit is onto Fifth which is also the Biketoria route). Rowena will extract data re: traffic calming from the transportation survey.

b) **City of Victoria traffic calming initiative** (Janis L.). See above.

• **Biketoria meeting update** (Laura T.)

Hillside-Quadra hosted one of the three Biketoria Neighbourhood Salons at Caffè Fantastico in December. It was well attended. There are concerns about the recommended routes through our neighbourhood, particularly the route that diverts from Kings onto Dowler and then along Bay Street. Our main concerns are:

- Bay Street is too busy and narrow. The bike route should continue down Kings with a crossing at Blanshard, and Douglas. Councillor Isitt also mentioned that a right of way would be needed to get from Douglas to Government that the City could acquire.
- Before Fifth Street is chosen as a route from Vista Heights to Finlayson, the method of crossing Finlayson should be worked out with and agreed to by Saanich. The current crossing is dangerous and cumbersome.
- Cook vs. Vancouver. Why was Cook Street chosen over Vancouver since Vancouver is a much quieter street and seems superior to Cook (at least to some). The crossing at Bay would need to be improved over what is there now.

The proposed January 20th Biketoria meeting for community associations' feedback conflicts with a Hillside-Quadra community land use meeting

Action: Laura will contact the project lead Tim Hewett to arrange a private meeting to discuss our concerns.

NAG members are also concerned that the City gave us short notice of the Biketoria meeting.

Action: Janis to contact other community associations (at VCAN) to request a meeting with Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement, concerning adequate notice of important engagement opportunities.

6. Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD) Issues

- a) **Sale of 950 Hillside.** School District 61 approved the sale with no comments or opposing voices at their meeting on December 14th. The CRHD proposes to use part of the site to stage construction work and will locate project offices in the school.

Councillor Isitt indicated that he is actively trying to secure a lease for the City of Victoria for the use of the building and has asked the Quadra Village Community Centre if they would be willing to supervise programming of the gym and grounds. There is community interest in protecting part of the site for use—for example, allotments gardens or a skate park.

Action: Ben will follow up with Maurice Rachwalski at the CRHD.

- b) **955 Hillside, the Summit at Quadra Village.**

- Parking in the neighbourhood may become an issue once the new care home is opened, as there will be limited parking for staff and families. The consensus was to deal with this issue in future, if and when it comes up.
- In a newsletter published in December the CRHD reported on the December 12th design workshop and promised a three week lead time for a proposed February meeting to present the selected design. 26 community members attended the workshop.

Action: Rowena to contact Maurice Rachwalski for the date of this meeting.

7. Land Use Updates (Jenny F.)

- a) **2540 Quadra** (Grayson Apartments), Development Variance Permit Application, went to the Planning and Land Use Committee December 10th. This is an application to waive the Clean Hands Policy to allow two illegal suites to remain occupied while the Development Variance is under consideration. Variances are required for parking. A hearing is required prior to Council making a final decision. Staff is recommending that Council consider authorizing the permit.
- b) **2560 Quadra** (beside Caffè Fantastico) approved at public hearing December 10th. The most recent proposal for this property (4-storeys with 15 rental units and bike parking) falls within the current Quadra Village zoning. The proponents met with the Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group on several occasions. This development has now been approved and construction can begin. At this time we have no information as to a start date.
- c) 2835-2855 Quadra Street (**Residences at Quadra Villa** - formerly Quadra Villa). Community Meeting under the CALUC (Community Association Land Use Committee) process January 20th at 7pm Quadra Village Community Centre. The developer will present plans for this proposal to build 24 rental units in two buildings on the existing parking lot. **The Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group will convey input from the community about this proposal in a letter to the City of Victoria.**
- d) **1066/1070 Finlayson** Development Variance Permit Application. The owners of these properties have applied to the City of Victoria for variances to allow for the creation of a third lot. A public hearing date will be set at the City of Victoria council meeting on January 14, 2016.

- e) **863/865 Villance** a proposal to strata title an existing legal non-conforming duplex and to alter and construct an addition to the building. The public hearing is set for January 14, 2016
- f) **3189 Quadra Street** Development Variance Permit Application. The original application dates from 2013 and was forwarded to HQ-NAG for comment at that time (there were no concerns). The owner of the restaurant is applying to relax the parking requirements for the property from 6 spaces to 4. A former owner removed 2 parking spots and added a handicap access and patio.
- g) **3031 Jackson Street:** the owners had a preliminary meeting with HQ-NAG in 2015 , but have not asked for further meetings since then.

8. Report from Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee (DBAC) (Cheryl A.)

The DBAC board did not meet in December. Cheryl will report back at our next meeting on the decision of the board regarding our proposed name change from Neighbourhood Action Group to Neighbourhood Action Committee. .

9. Greenspace/Park Updates

Summit Park infrastructure upgrade. There have been delays to the project.

Action: Laura to contact CRD Water Services for an update.

Camping Activity in Summit Park there has been camping activity in Summit Park, below the Telus tower. Residents can contact City of Victoria bylaw and parks departments to report camping since Summit Park is an ecologically sensitive area and exempt from the camping in parks allowance.

Summit Avenue sidewalks (between Jackson and Blackwood), designed to facilitate access to Summit Park, are now completed. There are some design challenges for wheelchair users where Prior intersects with Summit—there is a down ramp but no way to get onto the north sidewalk.

Action: Rowena and Janis will bring this issue up at January 22nd meeting with the Director of Engineering.

10. Neighbourhood Updates (community news, business news)

- a) **Neighbourhood Small Grants Update** (Rowena L, coordinator.) Hillside-Quadra received \$10,000 for the initial pilot project, supervised by the Quadra Village Community Centre. Funding is from the Vancouver Foundation in partnership with the Victoria Foundation. This is the first year for the programme in Victoria although it has been running in Vancouver for a number of years.

Several neighbourhood small grant projects have already been completed (winter block party, Cooking for Community—where 40 people learned to cook Japanese food—, drumming workshop, Faces of Quadra art workshop (the opening is at Camus Books on January 4th), litter reduction events “Love Where You Live”—with the last event on Family Day February 8th. Coming up are Laughter Yoga (January 11 & 22), Belly Fusions Dance Classes, Hijab Awareness Day (January 30)

b) Other neighborhood news

- There has been digging in the parking lot at the Root Cellar property
- A community garden is being built for residents of Evergreen Terrace
- San Remo's Café at the corner of Hillside and Quadra is re-opened
- Quadra Village Community Centre is conducting a survey (Janis to circulate to the HQ-NAG e-mail list)
- A running group has started at the QVCC
- Who is the Hillside-Quadra police liaison?

Action: Rowena will email VicPD

11. Upcoming Meetings

- a) Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Group meets 1 February, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., 901 Kings Rd. On the agenda for this meeting—goal setting, engagement and how to make meetings accessible.

12. Review of Action Items from December 2015

- Letters were written by HQ-NAG to both School District 61 and the Capital Regional Hospital District concerning the sale of 950 Kings Road to the Capital Regional Hospital District. DBAC did not meet in December and was not able to provide letters.

13. Reminder: Become a member of the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

14. 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