



## **ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**

February 15, 2015

Mayor and Council  
Helen Cain, Senior Planner  
City of Victoria

Re: AGGV, 1040 Moss Street Community Meeting

Thirty one neighbours and four Rockland Neighbourhood Association directors attended the January 22, 2015, community meeting for the AGGV development proposal. The response to the proposal was very positive, but concerns regarding implementation were raised.

While the AGGV explained that the expansion is primarily for operational improvement and that significant attendance increases are not expected, the major issue was parking, both during and post construction. Considerable concern was expressed about the limited parking on site for an enlarged gallery, and the need for a parking protocol was emphasized. It was suggested that parking be considered in the context of overlapping events at Langham Court and the AGGV, which was not considered in the initial transportation study. The recent construction at Central Middle School has resulted in an awareness of the need for a parking plan while construction is underway. It was felt there had been significant local inconvenience during the school construction; therefore, further work on parking and a protocol commitment is required.

Environmental concerns were expressed with regard to potential bird strikes on the expansive glazing, tree retention, and blasting. It is the RNA's expectation that the special glass to mitigate bird problems that is being investigated will be installed. Retention of the Garry oaks on site was promised, with only one slated for removal. The possibility of blasting received minimal discussion. A protocol and resources for neighbours should be clearly outlined and developed to neighbours' satisfaction.

Outside the parameters of the community meeting, questions have also come forward about the suitability of this residential location for a gallery.

Little concern was expressed about the proposed increase in height, and there was enthusiasm for the opening up of the exterior aspects of the Spencer Mansion and for the opportunity for the AGGV to enhance its ability to both conserve and display its collection more effectively.

Sincerely,

Janet Simpson, President

Rockland Neighbourhood Association

cc. Jon Tupper, AGGV; Carolyn Wilson, Moore Architecture Inc.

