

ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held February 28, 2018
at Grace Lutheran Church

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

2. President's Remarks

Janet Simpson began the meeting with comments about the Local Area Planning (LAP) process which has not yet begun for Rockland. However, she expects that this process will begin soon. The RNA Land Use Committee (LUC) has been following closely the process as it has unfolded in the Fairfield/Gonzales neighbourhood. Unfortunately the process is ineffectual, utilizing a steering/working group selected by the city which is not necessarily representative of the neighbourhood. The RNA LUC has developed a strategy to help ensure the voice of Rockland's residents is heard. The strategy consists of-

- Reviewing the current Rockland area plan (which has been in place for 30 years) to recommend appropriate updates;
- Working with the University of Victoria to design a survey to determine neighbourhood values; and
- Setting up working groups consisting of people who live in Rockland and are passionate about the area.

The three working groups are-

- Heritage;
- Surroundings (green space, rocky outcrops, trees, etc.); and
- How we move about (active transportation, traffic, parking etc.).

Janet closed her comments by urging people to become involved in the LAP process and to sign up for one or more of the working groups..

3. Guest Speakers

Dave Clark introduced the panelists speaking on the topic of Urban Deer in the Urban Forest-Rockland's Protected Grazers. They were Kristy Kilpatrick, President of the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society; Brian Nyberg, Nyberg Wildland Consulting, who developed and analyzed the deer survey for the Esquimalt Council; and Sean Pendergast, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Nanaimo, Province of BC.

Ms. Kilpatrick explained the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society (UWSS) is three years old and comprises a board and advisory group with a broad scope of expertise. Their aim is to develop and deliver non-lethal, science based alternatives to deer culls. The group is currently working in Oak Bay and Esquimalt against five major points-public education, estimating the size of the deer population, using science-based technologies including photo identification, conducting a survey of the values and attitudes of residents and immunization-contraception of the does. UWSS has presented to the Victoria Council and recommended a

three point program-public education, a three year deer count and conducting a survey to identify public values regarding the deer population.

Mr. Nyberg described the survey carried out in Esquimalt in October, 2016. The survey addressed the extent of deer on residential properties and the attitude of residents to deer. It consisted of 24 questions and was distributed to 1100 households. 510 surveys (46%) were returned. Esquimalt can be divided into six neighbourhoods. The survey found that deer density increased from east to west; that 62% of the respondents do not enjoy seeing deer on their property; and 59% agreed to some level of tax increase to fund a solution to the problem. The report recommendations were-stratified deer inventory, public education and coordination among jurisdictions.

Mr. Pendergast gave an overview of deer habits and the options to resolve the problem of deer in an urban setting. He gave examples of his experience in rural Saanich and Nanaimo, each of which has always had deer. These deer (black tailed) are not migratory and can reproduce very quickly. They will move “out of the way” when construction is happening but once the area calms down, they will move back in. No community on Vancouver Island has reached its maximum biological carrying capacity. The Gulf Islands currently have the highest densities. There are three options to deal with urban deer-cull; translocation; and immune-contraception. Translocation isn’t always successful and can be very stressful on the animals. Immuno-contraception is used extensively in the US on horse populations but the drugs used there are not approved in Canada. Mr. Pendergast’s recommendations include public education and local government legislation banning feeding of wildlife.

There were questions/comments from the audience-

- Q: Deer were not seen in Rockland until ten years ago. Now they are seen in gardens every day. The predators (eg. cougars) are tranquilized and moved out so the deer are “protected”. What will control the population?
 - o A: According to the panel, cars have become the deer’s main predator.
- Q: What public education is available to supplement what everyone already knows?
 - o A: Some examples of information available were given by the panel-slow down signs, information on deer resistant plants, fencing options, what to do when walking dogs to safeguard them.
- Q: With the increasing number of deer, will there be more ticks?
 - o A: The information from the panel was that there are ticks and they can carry Lyme disease but the ticks are not prevalent.
- Q: How are deer counted? Can individuals be double counted or missed altogether?
 - o A: In the wilderness, deer are counted as deer per kilometer in six watersheds by doing one pass at a specific time. In an urban setting, remote cameras and tagging are used to get an estimate of the population.
- Q: Why have deer come to this part of Vancouver Island?
 - o A: No one knows but urban sprawl has removed their traditional habitat and dog control has allowed them to remain in more urban settings.

- Comment: On a walk one evening, in the space of one block, ten deer were counted.
- Q: What about sterilizing the bucks (in addition to or instead of the does)?
 - A: That may be an effective approach. However, it is the most expensive option. It is necessary to know how many there are. Does don't move more than 400-600 meters whereas bucks move 5-6 kilometers.

Dave Clark closed the discussion by indicating that there is a wealth of information available in the public realm which he will summarize and post to the RNA website.

4. Introduction of Guests

Janet Simpson introduced the guests-Pamela Madoff (City of Victoria Councillor and RNA Liaison), Gary Pemberton (City of Victoria Downtown Programs Liaison), Alec Johnston (City of Victoria Senior Planner) Terri Healy (Victoria Police Department), Jon Tupper (Art Gallery of Greater Victoria), Marilyn Denton (St. Matthias Church) and Ben Isitt (City of Victoria Councillor).

5. Thanks to those supporting the board

Janet Simpson thanked the following people for their support of the RNA board.

Welcome-Eileen Nurmi, Heather Grampp
 Newsletter-Helen Edwards
 Membership and Webmaster-Ian Mayhill

6. Quorum (minimum of 10% of total members)

Total membership is 154. With 58 voting members in attendance, there is a quorum.

7. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting, March, 2017

Motion: To approve Minutes of Annual General Meeting, March, 2017
 Moved/seconded/carried

8. Committee Reports

As included in the AGM Report.

Motion: To accept reports
 Moved/seconded/carried

9. Members' Concerns

Chantal Meagher informed the residents that there is the construction of a large scale poultry operation at 1322 Rockland. Council is considering the issue and dealing with it. Anyone wishing to be informed about this should provide Chantal with his/her email.

Lloyd Ollila asked what is happening with the proposal to develop the Truth Center property. Alec Johnston indicated that the public hearing is expected to be held in the spring.

Sally Hamilton asked if RNA would put out a notice announcing the date of the Truth Center public hearing when it is known. Janet Simpson said RNA will do that.

10. Nominating Committee

Lloyd Ollila, Vanessa Dingley, Heather Grampp, Ethelyn McInnes-Rankin

For President, Marc Hunter
For Past President, Janet Simpson
For Vice President, Art Hamilton
For Treasurer, Anthony Danda
For Secretary, Chantal Meagher

For Directors
Lawrence Bortoluzzi
Dave Clark
Bob June
Lisa MacIntosh
David McWalter
Stephen Roughley
Susan Wynne-Hughes

All by acclamation.

11. **Motion:** To adjourn at 8:58 p.m
Moved/seconded/carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simpson, Secretary