

**Rockland Neighbourhood Association**  
**Minutes** — Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Volunteers' Cottage, Government House  
Wednesday 9 January 2019, 7 p.m.

Present: Janet Simpson, Lisa Macintosh, Danielle McQueen, Art Hamilton, Anthony Danda, Dave Clark, Bob June, Dave McWalter, Chantal Meagher  
Guests: Gary Pemberton, Councillor Young

Absent: Marc Hunter, Susan Wynne-Hughes, Lawrence Bortoluzzi

Meeting called to order at 7:01

Agenda

- Motion to approve LM
  - Approved unanimously

December Minutes

- Motion to approve LM
  - Approved unanimously

Councillor's Report/Neighbourhood Update

- The board welcomed Councillor Geoff Young – the new RNA Council liaison
- Councillor Young spoke to the reluctance of City Councillors to be liaison to Rockland and Fairfield, and it stemming from the strength of these community associations, in particular relating to land use issues. With this newly constituted Council, there is a direction to greater density. Debate will begin in Fairfield, with discussion of 'gentle density', possibly with garden AND basement suites being allowed in same property.
- There followed a general discussion regarding the role of the RNA in this current climate, and how the RNA could be proactive in working with the city:
  - RNA not against densification, but would like to ensure that densification takes place in a sensitive manner.
- GY: there is a divide between Mayor's approach general support for new development to create housing for any income level, in contrast to majority supporting housing specifically for low income renters. It is possible that the compromise is just more density. Some developers might just work within zoning. But if the RNA feel there are places where higher density could work, it could be useful to be proactive - indicating that suggests that you're not just nimby. NB to determine where greater density would be appropriate, and how much greater that density can be.
  - AH: what is overall plan? When does the city cease being in response mode? Need city council with plan that they will stick to. Is there an acknowledgement that the pressure for growth will never go away... what do we want this city to look like?  
GY: look at other municipalities: e.g: Oak Bay: single family, large lots, etc. even Oak

Bay is feeling the pressure. Need to find a way to maintain the neighbourhoods while making room for others.

GP: Budget town hall (Wed 16 January) and strategic summit: 19<sup>th</sup> January 9-3– to review the strategic plan. RSVP required. Will be an opportunity to pitch ideas. Advisory committees on active transportation and rental committee both recruiting.

### Calendar Review

- January: pay AGGV membership, and submit financial
- February: CRA forms, pay deposit for AGM venue.

### AGM:

- aiming for 27 February 7 for 7:30-9:30
- Langham Court may be free. CM to follow up with Michelle Buck at LCT
- speaker: Cecil (trees) - AD to follow up.
- JS: maybe new heritage planner John O'Reilly. AD to contact.
- GP: Jack Meredith.... Wrt community projects.
- agenda: in past, had part of the meeting, then break. This year, no break
- chair: Marc
- if election: need ballots and scrutineers AH
- AD to pay for rental/costs.
- Get key, arrange for technical needs, etc: CM and BJ
- refreshments: BJ
- nominating committee: Lloyd will work with AH to run election. We will need 2 people: replace JS and LH. 1 Director and 1 secretary.
- notification to membership – must be sent 2 weeks ahead of meeting.
- invitations to council members, mayor, heads of cultural organizations. JS has list.
- preparation of booklet: limit the number printed (save costs), send out electronically. CM
- constitution and bylaw changes: need to put in agenda, and notify 2 weeks in advance.

### Business Arising

#### *Langham Court Dress Rehearsal*

14 January 7 pm – Rockland residents only. Will have a table, maybe banner (new logo?), and brochures.

#### *RNA Awareness and Membership Strategy*

Need strategic plan for revitalization of RNA. Will have a retreat. DC to host

### *Membership:*

Vote on 2 options presented in December. option 1 passed, 5 votes to 4

1. \$10 Individual, \$20 Household, with link in the membership form to donate more on separate donation page
2. \$10 Individual, \$20 Household, \$50 'Supporter' (includes one or two memberships + donation)

### *Newsletter*

All new items sent to Danielle for website. Lisa will create e-newsletter.

### *Neighbourhood Block Party*

AD will have proposal in March

Lisa to transfer emails to the new system.

### *Music Night at GH*

For summer. A 4<sup>th</sup> concert? DmQ to report back at next meeting. GP: Can get grant from city for community building. Deadline for grant is March/April

### New Business

- Following a brief discussion, it was decided that a summary of the LUC report would go into the minutes. The full report will not go onto the website. : should it go on website? No. But a brief summary should go into the minutes. CM to summarize BJ report, insert into minutes.

- DMcQ: grant applications: can we can get funds to do a small childrens' garden at GH? GP: a natural playscape is being created in Burnside Gorge, but shockingly overcost. The scale of the project must be clear: what age group? Size? Quotes from landscapers. Suggest looking for a variety of spaces. DC: target toddlers: there are a lot of playgrounds around us. City has some chunks around area (e.g: St. Charles at Rockland) that could be used for putting mini playgrounds in.

- BJ: to GY: did the city sell the front grounds at Craigdarroch Castle to the Castle at bargain basement price? If we are going to get an influx of high density what about community amenities? GY: one of the challenges is that a lot of community amenity contributions have gone into the housing fund, and not used in the community.

### *Citizen Led Heritage Conservation Area*

- JS: Proposal will go before council on 24 January, and would appreciate letters of support of the new policy. Ask Mark to write up letter of support for the process?

- BJ: a citizen can nominate an area – could be a small bloc of houses, or it could be a whole neighbourhood. If designated heritage, no coverage for interior renovations, painting, additions up to 100 sqm in the back.
- BJ moves that President write to Council in support of John Oreilly’s Citizen Led Heritage Conservation plan. Seconded LM.

*Land Use Committee January update:*

Pam Madoff will continue to be actively engaged with our Land Use Committee.

1224/26 Richardson

Gene Miller, with partners Tim Semp and Dan Pringle gave a presentation on their ideas for this site at the December 5 meeting.

1. They are proposing two large strata buildings for the site.
2. To integrate with the neighborhood the general layout will follow the current zoning for density, height and setbacks. The density, about 30 % site coverage, v’s 40% allowed under R1-B zoning.
3. Each unit will have direct access doors from outside stairs at the front and rear of the building.
4. the buildings will each accommodate 12 units.
5. The pricing is to be “attainable”, approximately \$300.–350. for singles, \$675.–725. two bedrooms.
6. They are proposing 15 parking sites between the two buildings.
7. There is a 120 foot of designated public access off Richmond which will be used to access the parking lot. The city has asked for a 1.5 m easement for fire access on the public portion of the lane.
8. Parking and access issues have already been raised by neighbors.
9. The existing 1910 (?) home may be moved or deconstructed.

The LUC questioned the reduced parking, the scope of the parking lot and proposed hard surfacing, height, set backs, density, landscaping, lack of both 3-bedroom units and play space for kids

AGGV 1040 Moss

Jon Tupper gave an update at our January 2 meeting regarding changes to the plan for AGGV NEXT Gallery project.

1737 Rockland.

Dave McWalter is following a tentative proposal by the owner to panhandle this lot and build 2, 3,000 sq. ft. homes.

Janet Simpson will be attending a January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as an observer of an Inclusionary Housing and Density Bonus Working Group discussion group of developers, renters, renter organizations, city staff and LUC members to discuss how the city will move forward on its push to allow (only?) rental units to be built in the city at the expense of Community Amenity Contracts which are to fund other aspects of municipal life/amenities.

Janet will also be attending a LUC/City meeting January 29<sup>th</sup>, along with Dave McWalter to discuss the continuing Local Area Planning process and how it might unfold with the city. Rockland and Fernwood where due to start this process approximately one year ago.

The city is moving forward with a formalized Heritage Conservation Area plan to simplify retention of areas of significance in the City. Janet is proposing some modifications, mirroring Oak Bay, to give more power to the preservation of natural and environmentally important areas.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Next board meeting: Wednesday, February 6th at 7pm. Volunteers' Cottage, Government House.

Send regrets to Chantal.