

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes— Meeting of the Board of Directors
Volunteers' Cottage, Government House
Wednesday November 14, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Marc Hunter (MH), Art Hamilton (AH), Anthony Danda (AD), Dave Clark (DC), Bob June (BJ), Susan Wynne-Hughes (SWH), Lawrence Bortoluzzi (LB), Gary Pemberton (GP), Danielle McQueen (DMQ), Janet Simpson (JS), Lisa Macintosh (LM), Chantal Meagher (CM)

Absent: Dave McWalter (DMW)

Guest: Don Cal

Meeting called to order at 19:06

Change to minutes of last meeting: LM and CM absent last meeting

Minutes approved: MH/AD

Councillor's report: none yet. At 15 November meeting, COW will consider who will be new councillor representative to RNA.

Neighbourhood update: sent previously by Gary Pemberton.

Calendar Review:

deadline for friends of GH garden society due December.

November: arrange date and location for AGM. Default is the 3rd Wednesday of February.

Business arising from previous minutes:

- RNA business and management strategy: Whether to continue charging for RNA membership, or make it free?
 - It was noted that JS and DMQ have done some useful research on other neighbourhood assns., and their funding approaches. Those that do not charge for memberships have other funding streams. Discussion followed related to means of raising funds – to replace or supplement income from membership subscription. Suggestions included
 - silent auction (perhaps at Government House function, if permitted)
 - do 'by donation' event, perhaps in collaboration with Langham Court Theatre,
 - proposal to city wrt why we need more funding: other areas with community centres have services that run out of the CC and are funded by the city and/or provide income. In the absence of a community centre, we do not have those benefits.
 - It was noted that growing membership depends on the RNA providing service that the community believes is worthy of their support
 - It was decided to keep charging a membership fee, but redefine the RNA and its principal functions. Consider: What are we funding? What do we want to

bring to the community? Land use? Funding studies to see how community is growing?

- The importance of getting renters involved in the RNA was also noted.

DC motion: keep membership at \$10 pp, solicit additional donations to fund activities, DM seconds . Unanimous.

- Neighbourhood block party: AD: wrap into discussion about activities
- Speed sign location: decided that the sign should be placed facing east (for people going downtown), between Royal and Moss.

Gary Pemberton arrived 7:45

New Business:

- Welcome Danielle as new director pursuant to s 6.05 and 6.06 of bylaws: virtual extraordinary meeting.
- DC motion: make it possible to hold extraordinary meeting by email on time sensitive issue. approval required by a clear majority of directors LB seconds
 - Can be done on fiscal issues
 - Next month's minutes should reflect extraordinary meeting
 - DC: do bylaws need to be amended to reflect this?
 - MH: need overall strategy session wrt bylaws, moving forward with city, etc.
 - BJ: strategy should be before AGM? DC will host strategy meeting. Date tbc.
- AH: some bylaws need to be addressed at next AGM:
 - Revised constitution and bylaws will be submitted tomorrow. Any changes we want to make to these will be done at the AGM. Our bylaws don't allow us to communicate with members by email. Only mail and phone calls. Passing a resolution must be by 2/3 present at AGM (changed from 3/4).
- Danielle is new social and community relations director.

Gary Pemberton:

- Great Neighbourhood grants deadline closed. AGGV applied: 3 murals on vinyl (wraps). Youth project, looking for locations. Grants are oversubscribed. AGGV application was strong. Public can vote, and the 3 winning murals will be made into wraps
- City is putting together new strategic plan. Tomorrow, will discuss who new community liaison will be.
- Leaf pickup: December 9th is next date.
- Lots of committee and board recruitment opportunities coming up

- DC: Greenways project: \$2,000 is for Craigdarroch. RNA will get Craigdarroch's funds into our account, so can be paid together.

AGM planning. Discussion:

- MH: speaker/panel on heritage preservation.
- LB: at previous AGM, attendees were asked about their key issues. Speaker for next meeting was drawn from these responses.
- DM: after membership drive, bring people in to AGM. Have a say.
- CM: LAP panel – lessons learned from other neighbourhoods that have been through the process
 - o BJ: conversation with Andrea Hudson (interim director planning): what's happening with our LAP? She didn't know. BJ will follow up end of month. Sub-issue: rumours that council is moving away from LAP, and doing blanket 'density-plus' approach. Will invite Andrea to next director meeting. GP: city has lost 3 of top players that were involved in LAP process.
- JC: get the new councillors to attend, provide an opportunity to ask questions
- DC: past favourites: Neptune project (fibre optics), town planning on walled city in Italy
- DMQ: see something that is inspiring about the neighbourhood.
- JS: trees matter network had been at Oak Bay for presentation from city staff.
- LM: neighbourhood engagement workshop: what is happening in the community, and what is possible?
- LB: tie it in to the membership drive – have something that will get people interested in attending.
- DC: UVIC: citizen participation, history, etc. author, research on walkable city, etc.
- CM/DC: public art/public spaces speaker

New city council: implications for strategy – to be discussed at the strategy meeting.

Removal of Langham sequoia:

- DC: planted in 1800s, trees were interfering with storm drains and sewers. City couldn't find an economically viable work-around.
- JS: why can't sewers be moved? The city says they were 'forced' to take down the tree. If this had been a 'significant' tree that was listed, it might have been saved. As a courtesy, city should have advised that the sequoia would be coming down.
- At suggestion of Ben Isitt: Delegation to council meeting 22 November: rewrite the tree preservation bylaw (referring to Oak Bay new bylaw), and action plan for urban forest master plan on the table for the budget and the new strategic plan.
- BJ: can look at the value of tree as part of the determination of cost of remediation vs. value of tree.

Newsletter:

- MH: want newsletter out in December. Need reports from president, etc. e.g: tree preservation, greenway project, LG event coming up, etc. Send articles to Lisa. Have it ready to go before next meeting.
- DM: could consider using mailchimp, or placing new content on the website every couple of weeks, and pull from that for the newsletter – so not such a big task to put together the newsletter.

Next meeting: 12 December

Adjourn. Moved: BJ/LB 9:01