

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Present: Art Hamilton, Sandra Jackman, Bob June, Dave Clarke, Dave McWalter, Patricia Kidd, Chantal Meagher, Carolyn Yardley, Charlayne Thornton-Joe (council liaison), Gary Pemberton (neighbourhood liaison)

Absent: Brittany Calder

Note: Pearl Arden resigned as Director this month

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

September 8th minutes

Accepted as presented, Motioned by Dave

Councillor's Report (Charlayne)

Council is busy with public hearings, homelessness, camping, policing and increase in crime. Victoria Foundation Vital Signs annual checkup shows declines in several areas. Provincial Govt has committed to spending \$132 M for substance use, treatment and recovery programs. Canadian Urban Institute and Victoria Foundation have a virtual conference coming up, which will include discussions on equity, indigenous and other topics. Charlayne will send out a link.

Richardson bike lanes emails are coming in with mixed reviews and complaints of additional traffic on other streets.

There was discussion of support for the First Nations homeless community. Charlayne advised that BC Housing is working with the Aboriginal Coalition to provide housing and culturally appropriate supports.

A member enquired about homeless shelter capacity for the upcoming winter. Charlayne advised that there is anticipated to be reduced capacity but not to the extent of last year. The city is working on shifting mental health focussed calls from police to health care workers, but this is expected to take up to one year.

Charlayne contacted the City of Nanaimo regarding its civil case against taggers to gain information on what Victoria could potentially do.

Neighbourhood Update (Gary)

The October My Great Neighbourhood staff report was distributed prior to the meeting.

Neighbourhood Boundaries - The city will pay for a mediator to work through issues with Fairfield and Gonzales.

The next Community Virtual is 'Local Champions Course' on Wed Oct 20th, to educate about this program.

Applications are being accepted for the Community Garden Startup Grants (up to \$5,000 for design and \$10,000 for build). These are available for new gardens only. To Increase an existing garden, funding would be through the My Great Neighbourhood grants.

The city is offering a grant of up to \$1,000 to plant trees on private property. Contact Gary directly if interested. A board member inquired if there could be a grant to assist in paying water bills for existing trees. Gary to enquire about this.

Calendar Review

Domain Website hosting has been paid - we are good for five years.

VCAN Update (Dave McWalter)

The meeting as usual consisted of a round table of neighbourhood highlights.

The Art Gallery is moving forward with developing a new gallery downtown on the Capital Iron property. It is unknown if they will be keeping the current space.

Art advised that Fairfield will no longer be looking after the Insurance for Neighbourhood Associations that don't have community centres. It will be up to us next year to arrange our own. We currently only have Director's liability, but will need three types of insurance. Art to get quotes and confirm start date (likely next summer).

Committees Reports:

Land Use (Bob)

1475 Fort Street - Fresh plans have been submitted, there are no significant changes.

Oak Bay Junction proposed development - These properties are now listed for sale.

1737 Rockland - Dave has received comments from a neighbour and will respond. Trees taken down months ago are still laying in the back yard.

Discussions ensued about developers, imposed fines and the development approvals process.

Social

Government House is not hosting any events this year.

Membership (Art and Brittany)

We currently have 145 members. Art will send out the AGM invite to people on our mailing list (which is larger than membership list), which may lead to more members signing up.

Welcoming (Dave)

No activity. We are looking to transform this to a new model.

Environment and Woodland Garden (Dave C)

No report.

Communications (Patricia)

Patricia will send out the RNA newsletters mid month, so as to capture information from our board meetings. We have received much positive feedback on our newsletters.

Treasurer (Art)

RNA currently has \$40,358 in the bank, of which \$10k is funding for the Garden

Unfinished Business:

AGM: Our 2020 AGM (postponed due to Covid) is scheduled for October 27th by Zoom. This will be a simplified meeting. The annual report will be available in email form only and will be sent out prior to the meeting. Board member reports are due to Sandra by Oct 20th, or earlier if possible.

All Board Members have agreed to stay on for next year. In addition, Art has a few people that are interested in joining. Their biographies will be added so they can be included in the voting process at the AGM.

New Business:

Traffic on Rockland: Approximately 75% of people are exceeding the speed limit. Discussion ensued about the location of the speed reader and also about the Despard Street bollards and emergency vehicle traffic. We asked Charlayne to confirm with Fire, Ambulance and Police that the bollards will not prevent them from continuing to use the Richmond Road at Gonzales route to Despard as they did before.

8:50 meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: AGM October 27th, 7 PM by Zoom. Please advise Sandra if unable to attend.