

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, November 10th, 2021

Present: Art Hamilton, Sandra Jackman, Bob June, Dave Clarke, Dave McWalter, Patricia Kidd, Chantal Meagher, Brittany Calder, Carollyn Yardley, Asal Poinen, Susan Evans
Charlayne Thornton-Joe (council liaison), Gary Pemberton (neighbourhood liaison)

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM

October 13th minutes

Accepted as presented, Motioned by Patricia

Councillor's Report (Charlayne)

The city is focussed on budget items. The budget town hall is on Wed 17th at 6:30. In person attendees are limited, but you can text or phone in. Budget requests include new staff - the city has a new equity and diversity department, and staff would be available to speak to us if we like. The Old Cemeteries Society wants a heritage gate installed at Ross Bay cemetery for its 150th anniversary. There is also a request for lighting at the Vic West skateboard park. Final budget decisions will be made in the new year.

Emails are coming to the city re: policing, climate change, bike lanes and gardens. There has also been a huge increase in cyber crime.

Policing: The city is looking at a model where people can call another service rather than 911 for mental health issues.

Neighbourhood Update (Gary)

My Great Neighbourhood report was distributed prior to the meeting. The next community virtual is on Zero Waste. Prior ones are available on the City's Facebook page. There is still an opportunity to vote on participatory budgeting where residents can vote on which neighbourhood projects should receive funding. Leaf collection has begun. There is a call for artists to provide art to be displayed in downtown kiosks.

The board had questions about how much weight the city gives to public input on surveys. Charlayne advised that it depends on the topic and each individual councillor. Gary advised that all information is provided to councillors for decision.

Art circulated the Times Colonist article on the provincial bill to eliminate the requirement for local public hearings for rezoning. Board members are to review the article and discuss at our next meeting.

Calendar Review

Art to renew the friends of Govt House membership.

2021 AGM Planning - Chantal to reach out to Langham Court to see what dates are available.

Further AGM planning will be at our next board meeting.

VCAN Update (Chantal Meagher)

No update

Committees Reports:

Land Use (Bob)

Bob extended an invitation to all board members to join the Land Use committee.

1737 Rockland - Committee of the Whole voted to send it back to staff to work with the developer to work on issues including height, setbacks and tree retention.

Social

No update

Membership (Art and Brittany)

We currently have 156 members.

Environment and Woodland Garden (Dave C)

No report.

Communications (Patricia)

No update

Treasurer (Art)

RNA currently has \$40,500 in the bank, of which \$10k is funding for the Garden

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Executive Roles:

Susan is interested in leading a social media portfolio and will meet with Pat to discuss. Asal may get involved in social media also, and has offered to work on membership. Carolyn is interested in shadowing land use to see if she would be a good candidate. She is also interested in environment, urban animals and birds. Susan wants to focus on social media now, but would be interested in transferring to land use at a later date. Bob offered to include both of them in meetings.

We need someone to fill the Traffic/Safety/Emergency role. Carolyn and Asal have volunteered to get involved with this. Fred Billingham (CityTraffic Coordinator) has requested one RNA point of contact for traffic. Art has the names of two neighbours that want to be committee members. Dave C. advised that historically this role involved responding to resident issues, compiling requests for the city to address, and also engaging neighbours.

Art requested a bio and picture from board members to update the website.

Gonzales Neighbourhood Assoc. is going to mediation with Fairfield at the end of this year, and has requested our position on Gonzales joining Rockland, prior to the mediation. Discussion ensued.

The city wide survey indicated most residents felt that Gonzales would be better on its own. Bob suggested we request that the city initiate some polling, asking the Rockland community what they think about this.

Art will draft a letter for board member review.

8:59 meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: December 8th, 7 PM by Zoom. Please advise Sandra if unable to attend.