

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, February 9th, 2022

Present: Art Hamilton, Bob June, Patricia Kidd, Carollyn Yardley, Asal Poinen. Dave McWalter, Charlayne Thornton-Joe (council liaison), Gary Pemberton (neighbourhood liaison)

Absent: Brittany Calder, Sandra Jackman, Chantal Meagher, Susan Evans, David Clark

Meeting called to order to 7:04 PM

Enquiry for additional agenda items – no items to add at this point.

January 12 minutes: Accepted as presented (moved: Patricia Kidd; seconded Dave McWalter)

Councillor's Report

- Finished budget debates; tax increases kept to a minimum; discussions on-going re: Dallas Road off-leash area; Government Street access to cruise ship shuttle bus.
- CJT attended Warren Gardens traffic discussion, which went well.

Neighbourhood Update

- The "My Great Neighbourhood Report" was handed out prior to the meeting
 - o Community virtual events: Feb 16 – neighbourhood engagement and improvement; March 16 – My Great Neighbourhood grant process; April 20th – traffic
- Youth Council restarted with new coordinator, Julia Harrison. All youth invited
- Family Day at Beacon Hill Park
- Question – BJ – any feedback on paid staff for community associations?
 - o Answer: Report being compiled and will go to Council in a couple of weeks. James Bay has presented their report of very positive results; North Park also doing well with present coordinator, who has applied for and received other funding for neighbourhood projects. Some neighbourhoods have carried over funding from the past year, but if the grant becomes available again, all of it must be used. We shouldn't be tied to thinking that the coordinator grant must go to just one person or one way of doing things.
- Question – CTJ – request for info on neighbourhood boundaries.
 - o Answer: still gathering info. DRA and Fairfield have established mutually satisfactory new boundaries; GP will forward details to RNA exec. No update on Gonzales and Fairfield. They have not met yet for mediation.

Calendar Review

- AH does not have it, and is unaware of any outstanding events in the coming month.

VCAN Update

- The RNA Board received a letter from Chantal requesting any items which need to go to the next VCAN meeting. They are to contact her directly, and c.c. all Board members.

Committee Reports:

Land Use:

522 St. Charles – moving forward slowly toward a rezoning meeting with the land use cttee. Few concerns expressed in the neighbourhood.

1475 Fort St. – should go to public hearing on Thursday Feb. 24th.

852 Pemberton – in limbo

1322 Rockland – Wei Tu has brought together a proposal for 9 townhouses. A straightforward request with no variances or re-zoning applications. Some concern over new driveway off Royal Terrace. No serious concern over loss of garry oaks.

- Question: AH – Does the covenant on the house also extend to the land?
 - o Answer: BJ – He has seen the covenant and sees no problems at all. The owner does not appear to be overreaching, as in the past. AH will continue to investigate, and BJ will forward the covenant material to him.
 - o

Social - No update.

Membership

- AH – 50 new applications in 2 days as a result of free membership offered in Feb. newsletter. Total number of members over 200.
- AH feels that AP's work on a speaker series will give members a feeling of value, and will encourage renewal of memberships when fees once more apply.
- New email – membershipinitialtives@rockland.bc.ca

Environment and Woodland Garden

- AH – DC send email notifying the board that he has sent the budget and report to the Parks Dept.
- Looking for a second coordinator.

Communications:

- AH – good feedback on newsletter
- PK – looking at replacing 'News' heading on website home page with link to latest newsletter
- AH –RNA Instagram and Facebook accounts up and running

- AP – 12 new followers in last couple of weeks; lots of positive feedback. C. 150 followers on Instagram, out-pacing Facebook.

Treasurer

- Currently \$39,800 in the bank, of which \$10K is funding for the Garden

Traffic

- Two points: Warren Gardens meeting went very well; Fred Billingham meeting with residents of Rockland Lane to discuss moving traffic calming island to allow better access to laneway.
 - o CY may not be able to attend meeting and is hoping another board member will be able to step in.
 - o Warren Gardens may soon be partially blocked at both or either end in order to control traffic density – may impact construction around 522 St. Charles
- AH will set up a new email for traffic cttee

Unfinished Business

- Missing Middle
 - o BJ commented that, while the mayor speaks as though the plans are finalized and will proceed, he knows there are concerns in every neighbourhood as to what this plan will look like when the new housing actually begins.
 - o CJT noted that the contractor hired to investigate the pros and cons (Coriolis) has concluded that the Missing Middle plan would fail to make much of a positive difference to affordable housing in the city.
 - o AH notes that the letter written by S. Ratio and sent to the RNA exec. Is a good synopsis of the Missing Middle plan and its impact on Gonzales.
 - o Question – AH to CJT – her opinion?
 - CJT is not convinced that the Missing Middle represents a supportable solution. She has rec'd significant correspondence from both sides. Council has expressed problems with the mayor's approach.
 - o AH suggests continuing discussion at March Board meeting.

New Business

- AGM – BJ notes that summer is fast approaching and decisions need to be made on date and venue, at least. GH (via Jeremy Brownridge) has given tacit approval. Spending money will be necessary: tent rental (CY notes that Thrifty will loan self-advertising tents free); family entertainment. BJ will suggest June 11th or June 18th to GH. BJ suggests a speaker from the City on the topic of housing and planning in the area. PK expressed concern as to the presence of bored children. Further discussion at March Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:17 PM.

Next Meeting: March 9th, 7 PM by Zoon. Please advise Sandra if unable to attend.