

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, September 14th, 2022

Present: Art Hamilton, Dave Clark, Patricia Kidd, Carollyne Yardley, Susan Evans, Chantal Meagher, Dave McWalter, Asal Taheri, Charlayne Thornton-Joe (council liaison), Gary Pemberton (neighbourhood liaison)

Absent: Bob June, Sandra Jackman,

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM

Agenda – add information distribution systems, new business: host talk on Rockland history and architecture.

May 11th minutes

Accepted , Motioned by Dave Clark

Councillor's Report (Charlayne)

Charlayne thanked us for the card. Leaving council with mixed feelings. Met with so many people, learned what's important to the neighbours, listened to and responded to concerns. Charlayne will stay in the community, have more control over her reading material, continue with contract to run the Chinese History Museum in Fan Tan Alley. In that capacity she talks with a lot of visitors. Although there are many problems locally, it's great to see what others appreciate about Victoria.

Council news.

City Hall closed on Monday, Crystal pool closed for day of mourning for HRH Queen Elizabeth. Missing middle discussion. Seeing that it was going to be declined, it was deferred to next council. This allows more time to fine tune the proposal so that the good parts can move forward.

BC 55+ games opening tonight in Victoria.

Neighbourhood Update (Gary)

Format of newsletter has changed to accommodate ideas about what's happening locally and globally.

Neighbour hub open house Thursday in a new communal space at 709 and 711 Douglas, near the Crystal Garden. This space is available to NAs at no charge for meetings.

Would like to see more activity from Rockland in accessing the Neighbourhood grants - placemaking, resiliency or celebration grants. There is money to available after a slow summer.

Burnside gorge graffiti group coordinator has engaged 30 volunteers, spilling over to mural projects.

Questions

AH

How best to distribute the 'have your say' update. Facebook, website, newsletter, fast update.

SE pins the link to the top of the web page.

Calendar Review

Renew Hallmark Heritage Society membership.

Various directors voiced support

If we ever pursue Heritage Conservatin designation, HHS will be a valuable ally.

Supply links to Heritage Society through our communications vehicles.

VCAN Update (Chantal Meagher)

No meeting, no update.

Committees Reports:

Land Use (Carollynne)

- 1320 Purcell proposes a side yard subdivision to build a new 2 storey, 3 bedroom flat-roofed house. Sits forward of the existing home to accommodate rear-yard parking. Heavy pruning of mature Horse Chestnut tree to accommodate building envelope.
- 1475 Fort St - approved by council and proceeding
- 1535/37 Despard – goes to public hearing, no date yet.
- 1737 Rockland - infill – staff review stage.
- 920 Richmond is demolished, with tree protection zones established. Access from the bottom of Lyman Duff as well. Back yard is the remnant of the larger tree space that oncve continued along past Oak Shade Lane to the back of 1737 Rockland.

Membership (Art)

We currently have 444 members largely due to free memberships for people on the mailing list. Leading in to next year we will contact all with the standard \$10 renewal fee.

Environment and Woodland Garden (Dave C)

Janet salvaged a large number of native bulbs from a site in View Royal and volunteers will add them to the garden.

Communications (Patricia)

Please send newsletter items ASAP as it will be going out next week. Pat will contact Janet to see if a call for volunteers is appropriate.

Carollynne will handle web page updates, managed in Wordpress.

Susan noted a big uptick in Facebook followers due to the Yard Sale event in August.

Asal is linking facebook updates through Instagram, with 40 followers.

The board's presence at the Art Gallery's Paint-In was well received, with a sign-up sheet for membership.

Rockland Wide Yard Sales event (Dave)

August 20th

16 home sales and a full complement of 10 tables at the Art Gallery. Total budget of about \$135 advertising and photocopying. An estimate of volunteer time of 25 hours for communication, poster set-up and take down, logistics.

Special thanks to the communications team for ongoing assistance and timely posting of information. This was the first year we had real-time internet access to the list of participants and map in the newsletter, on facebook, the web page and short notice boards.

Treasurer (Art)

RNA currently has \$xx.xxx in the bank.

Traffic (Carollynne)

No updates.

Business Arising:

All candidates meeting. (Chantal) The number of declared candidates is too large for us to accommodate in a meet-and-greet format. The Fairfield Community Association is holding their version on September 15, and the Downtown Residents Association is holding one towards the end of the month.

Instead, we will refine our list of questions and invite all candidates for mayor and council to submit written answers. We will collate the responses and publish the results.

New Business:

Park potential for Rockland. CM and PK will craft a letter to the City to explore the potential for a park on a property not yet on the market.

Speaker presentation (Asal)

Working on Pat's idea of engaging John Adams to speak on Rockland history and architecture. Asal will look at venue availability for November at Langham court (with wine and cheese reception) or at Craigdarroch Castle Ballroom (less accessible, as ballroom is on the third floor)

8:25 meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: October 12th, 7 PM by Zoom. Please advise Sandra if unable to attend.