

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Zoom Call
Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Present: Art Hamilton, Dave Clarke, Marnie Coulter, Chantal Meaghar, Patricia Kidd, Marg Gardiner (City Councillor), Gary Pemberton

Absent: Sandra Jackman; Carollyne Yardley; Amy Kwiatkowski; Anthony Danda; Asal Poinen; Jay Jennings

Meeting called to order at 7:04

December 13th Minutes - Patricia motioned to approve. Minutes were adopted as presented.

Councillor's Report (Marg Gardiner)

The Roundhouse public hearing begins tomorrow (Jan 11th)

1737 Rockland Ave will be voted on tomorrow (final decision). Things have changed significantly. Marg has asked for landscaping and positioning requested by neighbours. This was supposed to go to public hearing, but that is no longer allowed as a result of Bill 44, which makes it against provincial law to have a public hearing. A letter is being sent to Marg expressing concerns regarding the lack of adequate rationalization for added size, the adjoining panhandled lot denied the same enlargement, and the removal of 5 healthy trees.

Some municipalities are seeking ways to obtain public input early in the review process instead of a public hearing.

Monday was a full budget day, reviewing requests made in December. The next budget discussion will be with VicPD on January 25, followed by a few days later with a general budget discussion. Downtown and North Park neighbourhoods will be getting an extra \$60,000.

Roundhouse development:

The proposal includes one rental building and one of 'affordable' of the 9 buildings. Marg was asked if council can require that they be done first? A: Unsure. City staff has made a very detailed submission examining the ways in which they could maintain the historic look of the area. Significant changes were made on May 4th, after the presentation. This is NOT a simple application. A lot of changes can take place long after permission to build is given.

Neighbourhood Report (Gary Pemberton)

The bike lane on Fort Street is finished. You can now find a parkade space online, but you can't reserve it.

Pickle ball courts are set up now in the Crystal Gardens til Feb. 18th, and they can be reserved. The downtown bike valet is continuing - this free service costs the city \$200,000.

The city is looking for new sites for EV charging and is accepting applications up to January 19th at sustainability@victoria.ca

Vic West is reducing speed limits to 30k.

The city has upgraded its website, making it cleaner, more stream-lined, with easier drop-downs. They also have lots of newsletters. Connect E-News features important updates, community events and other information. Other newsletters include recreation, create Victoria, business, 10 year community plan, and Go Victoria.

Grants will open in February and there has been lots of interest already. Send ideas to Gary. The Local Champions program begins in March.

Patricia to sign up for the newsletters to get the links to put in the RNA newsletter.

Calendar Review

Membership renewal will be sent out in the next few days.
Insurance renewal is in process.

VCAN Update (Chantal)

The emergency VCAN meeting was not productive. The next one is on Jan 24th. Chantal will work on a draft letter with Carolyn's input containing many items in Marg's oped piece for the TC.

Committees Reports:

Land Use (Jay)

The LUC is looking at sending a letter of support for 522 St. Charles re-zoning. Look for details on the development tracker.

We are not aware of any new developments on the sale of St Matthias Church. The board would like to request that the developer allow space for community use. The diocese said to talk to the developer, but since the deal is done, it's likely too late.

Environment and Woodland Garden (Dave)

Janet has a request in for a green bin as we can no longer compost at Government House
It's time to pay the \$1 for rent!

Social (Asal - from Art)

We are still awaiting a response from Government House about our event. Asal is spearheading the application for a neighbourhood block party.

Membership (Art)

Nothing to report

Communications

The next newsletter will again ask for new board members. It will also reference the CRD borrowing of \$85 million for housing unless 10% of people object. Recent crime will also be included, and a reminder to the public to notify police of any crimes.

Treasurer (Art)

We currently have \$67,000 in the bank, of which \$20,000 has to go back to the City.

Traffic (Carollyne)

No update

AGM Planning

Asal will check with Grace Lutheran and will contact us with available dates.

New board members are needed. Amy announced that she will be stepping down.

Patricia will speak with Asal about a speaker. Some names were suggested. It was also suggested that we approach the art gallery.

Unfinished Business:

Marnie has agreed to take on the Emergency Preparedness role.

New Business: none

meeting adjourned - 8:16