

**Rockland Neighbourhood Association**  
**Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Zoom Meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

Present: Art Hamilton, Dave Clarke, Sandra Jackman, Asal Poinen, Jay Jennings, Carollyne Yardley, Marg Gardiner (City Councillor),

Guest: Bob June, Land Use Committee

Absent: Patricia Kidd, Marnie Coulter, Chantal Meaghar, Anthony Danda, Gary Pemberton (city liaison).

Meeting called to order at 7:03

January 10th Minutes - Jay motioned to approve. Minutes were adopted as presented.

Councillor's Report (Marg Gardiner)

Marg has submitted her report for the AGM.

The Craigdarroch Castle animal control dog event has been making the news.

Marg is concerned about Rockland Avenue, as she is hearing talk about bike lanes, parking, adding sidewalks and traffic calming. She recommends that the RNA come up with our preference for any updates to Rockland Ave to suggest to the city. Art suggested bringing this up at the AGM to generate a discussion.

Official Community Plan (Bob June)

Bob attended a meeting about the Official Community Plan (OCP). There is going to be a significant change in how land use operates due to Provincial Govt's Bill 44. Any rezoning that does not require an official community plan amendment does not have to go before council or have a public hearing. The OCP update is going to have minimal engagement over an exceedingly tight timeline. The concern is that this will be the "Official Council Plan", not the "Official Community Plan".

Council has directed staff that this plan is to follow either:

- 1) Bold Vision (allowing up to 4 story multi family buildings across all traditional neighbourhoods or
- 2) Boldest Vision (allowing up to 6 story multi family buildings across all traditional neighbourhoods)

One councillor has suggested future buildings of up to 15 storeys around all villages.

There is a massive change coming with little public engagement, and no place for neighbourhood associations at the table. Bob suggested we bring this up at the AGM.

City public services were discussed and whether they will be adequate for the new housing. Marg advised that the City's program to replace piping under the roadways has been underway for years and while a lot more must be done, City may be ahead of some of our neighbouring municipalities. She is concerned about lack of parking spaces driving people out of the city.

Bob - The city is talking about linear parks - taking streets and narrowing them or taking them out of commission to create parks. City is talking density of 3 to 1 for the new plan, which is similar to Vancouver or Hong Kong. Bob suggested that RNA invite City staff to present at the AGM and Marg provided names of the senior City staff members who could be approached. She recommended Andrea Hudson.

Marg advised that 4 - 6 story buildings are coming to James Bay. The BC Build program requires the use of city land. This is an issue as Victoria doesn't have the empty land that other municipalities have.

Neighbourhood Report (Gary Pemberton)

No update

Calendar Review

No update

VCAN Update (Chantal)

No update

**Committees Reports:**

Land Use (Jay)

No update

Environment and Woodland Garden (Dave)

A work party yesterday pulled out bluebells. The Get Growing Victoria Program on March 20th will provide wood chips and compost for neighbours to help themselves. Dave attended a meeting of community garden volunteers and received lots of valuable info.

Social (Asal)

Government House provided two dates for our event March 22 and 27. She would like to go ahead with the 27th, and the board agreed. We are planning for 150 people. Asal will follow up with email action items and to put a motion forward for expenditures.

Asal heard back from Gary - we are getting the \$1,000 grant for the community block party this summer.

Membership (Art)

Nothing to report

Communications

No update. Please send any newsletter submission to Patricia as she is working on it now.

Treasurer (Art)

We currently have \$67,000 in the bank, of which approximately \$20,000 has to go back to the City. Some funds are earmarked for the garden.

Traffic (Carollyne)

No update

**Unfinished Business:**

**AGM Planning**

Asal will send out an email with details.

We have the Art Gallery speaker confirmed and will look into an OCP speaker. Asal will ask Patricia if she would like to MC again this year. Marg suggested we get a speaker from the Citizen's assembly to speak to Rockland. The board discussed and decided to have a separate event for this. We are not printing any documents for the AGM this year, but will have a QR code available. The AGM report will be mailed out a week or more before the meeting.

MOTION: Asal moved to spend up to \$300 on AGM room rental, refreshments and miscellaneous expenditures. This motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business: none**

meeting adjourned - 8:43