

# *DRAFT*

## ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

March 4, 2026  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1273 Fort Street, Victoria

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

#### **Introduction:**

Art Hamilton welcomed everyone and acknowledged with respect that the Rockland neighbourhood and the meeting for which we gather are located on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, known today as the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Kosapsom) Nations.

Agenda was reviewed.

Four special guests were introduced:

City of Victoria Councillor: Marg Gardiner  
City of Victoria-Downtown Programs Liaison: Gary Pemberton  
Guest Speaker: Brad Proctor, Executive Director, George Waterway Action Society  
Guest Speakers: Aaron Dixon and Shawn Czerwonka, Transportation Operations, City of Victoria

#### **URBAN BIOSPHERE REGION**

Presented by Brad Proctor, Executive Director, Gorge Waterway Society and Chair of the Greater Victoria NatureHood.

The Greater Victoria NatureHood connects Victoria to nature and is the lead proponent in getting the CRD to apply for Greater Victoria to be a Unesco Biosphere region. They have 8 staff, growing to 30 over the summer. Very volunteer driven, please reach out if you want to help out. They are funded by Nature Canada (Fed Govt) and are focussed on getting people out to nature and breaking barriers of access to nature.

Work is throughout Greater Victoria. Diverse activities include: Gorge Waterway, Esquimalt Park Nature House, working with schools, DFO, environmental NGOs, indigenous youth, community, water quality flow, remove toxins, and climate education.

Focus on getting youth out into nature, which more vital that ever. Goal is to create the environmental stewards of tomorrow.

Biosphere aims - biodiversity, economic development, research monitoring and training, First Nations reconciliation.

Urban biospheres are a relatively new concept, driven by the increasing rate of urbanization.

Urban green spaces need to be a priority - green roofs, managing stormwater, urban restoration, etc.

2024 started outreach to community and CRD board and staff. Application for Unesco Biosphere is rigorous and will take years - collaboration amongst multiple levels of govt and First Nations is required. Biosphere designation would help advance climate action and strengthen relations with First Nations.

Engagement process is underway, connecting with neighbourhood associations, governments, businesses, and various organizations.

Unique opportunity (nearly all stakeholders are in support) to protect and celebrate the natural environment. Make the region healthier, children inherit more resilient and connected place.

Restoring projects includes wetlands, forests, pulling invasive species, reduce climate anxiety, build social connection. Many projects are indigenous led - this is already a big success story in Victoria.

Website address will be added the next RNA newsletter

Q: Lots of criteria to be met. Are you meeting the standard in meeting the excellence of sustainability? Answer: Yes, Strategies in place to meet level of excellence.

Q: What would we notice 5 years from now? Answer: Increase in environmental tourism, more work in protecting diversity and mitigating climate change, increase momentum and added rigour to these plans.

Q: Will this affect Affordability (especially housing)? Answer: Sometimes can impact cost of living, but sometimes these actions can positively affect affordability. We will want to take the opportunities that improve both the environment and the cost of living.

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**Art introduced the current board of directors.**

Art Hamilton, President and Treasurer  
Asal Poinen, Social Director  
Carollyne Yardley, Land Use Director  
Dave Clark, Environment Director  
Patricia Kidd, Communications Director  
Sandra Jackman, Secretary  
Jay Jennings, Traffic  
Marnie Coulter, Emergency Preparedness and Safety  
Kelly Seagram, Coordinator

**Approval of Minutes - 2025 AGM Meeting**  
Minutes were approved as presented.

**Art Hamilton invited questions on the committee reports.**

Committee reports on Land Use, Environment, Membership, Social, Communications, Traffic and Woodlands Gardens were included in the package sent out prior to the meeting. No questions arose.

**Election of Directors for 2026**

Art Hamilton presented the nominees, existing directors:

Art Hamilton  
Sandra Jackman  
Dave Clark  
Albert Law  
Carollyne Yardley  
Asal Poinen  
Marnie Coulter  
Jay Jennings

See AGM report for bios. All candidates were elected by a show of hands.

**Coordinator Update**

Kelly is focussing on connecting neighbours - This includes pop up cafes in peoples front lawns and driveways. She is looking for volunteers to host. Kelly will organize and RNA will fund. Please let her know if you are interested in hosting. You can contact her by email at [coordinator@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@rockland.bc.ca)

**CITY OF VICTORIA TRAFFIC OPERATIONS TEAM UPDATES**

Presented by Aaron Dixon Transportation Coordinator and Shawn Czerwonka, Transportation Technician.

Provided an overview of what City Transportation Department does.

Communication - Traffic Advisories

Traffic Advisory page on City's website shows major works and underground works. If work on your street is not there, call or email the city. Public works will be able to answer pretty much any question you have.

## Recent Rockland Traffic Projects

Three new marked crosswalks, and three stop control intersections have been added to Rockland this year.

Email the city Engineering Department at [eng@victoria.ca](mailto:eng@victoria.ca) if you have any requests for crosswalks.

### Upcoming Projects:

St Charles and Rockland - making intersection more 90 degrees  
Perhaps parallel bars, under review.

Traffic Calming Curves along Rockland corridor, currently west of Pemberton. Looking at adding more going east of St Charles, Physically narrows the roadway and slows traffic.

The city uses Speed Reader boards as a tool to mitigate speeds.

### Speed Hump Program:

Speed studies have been done (pneumatic tubes on road measures speed and volume of traffic). These provide the basis for installing speed humps. These are installed in batches to prevent drivers from speeding on the next street.

### Sidewalk Gap Analysis:

City standard for sidewalks is now 1.8 M. Rockland has a sizeable gap with many roads without sidewalks. City is taking stock of where the sidewalks are - not moving ahead with new installations at this time.

### Posted Speed Reduction - Phase 2:

Non arterial roads will be reducing speed limits to either 40km or 30km. Only Blanshard and Douglas will remain at 50 km/hr.

The 40km signs are being installed - currently half way complete.

### My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program:

City supported, resident initiated.

These grants are about building community, \$7k for placemaking, \$5k for community resilience projects, and up to \$1k for community events and activities.

This is a matching program, community must commit labour or dollars.  
Search MGNG in the city's web browser for more information.

Past grants included such things as rainwater catchers and on-street planters.

Q. Rockland is much busier than it used to be before Richardson was closed.  
Answer: Rockland is a collector road - it is currently within its acceptable limit of accommodating 3k to 8k cars per day.

City has been removing Slip lanes - best practice today is to remove them or change the geometry to force the motorist to slow down. Issue: cars now cutting through the Fort St gas station.

Q: Can we have Roundabout or traffic circles for Rockland Ave intersection. Answer: this depends on available real estate - firetrucks need to navigate

Q Resident lives at Fort and Moss Street and often sees people go the wrong way down Fort Street. Enquired about signage. Answer: city will look into this.

Q: Member requested a flashing light at the Rockland/Oak Bay crosswalk. Sun is blinding to drivers and there has been a near miss. Answer: Eventually, its not on the 2026 list, but city will investigate. City reviews ICBC reports for accidents, but only gets near miss info if reported.

Q: St Charles and Rockland intersection has many mature trees and Garry oak trees and hydro poles - are the trees at risk?. Answer: city will not be cutting down trees at intersections.

Q: Co-ordination of multiple road closures - Issue of large delays in transit - Discussion ensued.

City meets quarterly with emergency folks - message to them ongoing city works. Adjustments are made based on inputs from emergency departments.

Q: Who decides if a street gets a sidewalk (city or residents)? Not all residents want them. Answer: In general, the city staff position is that there is a need for sidewalks and would prefer to have them where feasible. This would need to be a discussion with the neighbourhood association.

Q: What is the purpose of the Gonzales road blocked off (approximately 4 years ago)?  
Answer: Before his time, but these things generally involve discussions with impacted residents. Discussion ensued about this.

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Art advised residents to send any questions to [info@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:info@rockland.bc.ca)  
Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.