

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday July 8th, 2020

Present: Marc Hunter, Chantal Meagher, Bob June, Art Hamilton, Dave Clark, Dave McWalter, Geoff Young (council liaison),
Guests: Constable Jessica Moretto, police liaison to Rockland Neighbourhood.

Absent: Sandra Jackman, Gary Pemberton (neighbourhood liaison)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

Agenda

Motion to approve - Chantal, seconded by Art, approved unanimously.

June 10th 2020 minutes

Motion to approve (with pending amendment to voting on Motion for Letter of Support) - Bob, seconded by Dave C. - approved unanimously.

Councillor's Report (Geoff)

Richardson bike way will be discussed again July 9th. Oak Bay has messaged that they were not sufficiently consulted. Council is anxious to move forward, though GY is reticent.

AH: Oak Bay input? City Staff invited input, got lots from Oak Bay residents, but OB council not specifically asked. Reiterate that city planning has fallen back to development approval.
GY there are some terms in grant proposals that specifically ask if neighbouring municipalities have / will be consulted.

GY there will always be impacted parties in bike lane construction.
Chandler put forward as alternate route.

Camping is still an issue, particularly in Beacon Hill Park, environmentally sensitive areas.

GY Again promoted the funding envelope for Strategic Recovery Grants. RNA to think what kind of program or project might qualify for neighbourhood recovery.

MH how is progress in City's efforts to clear Pandora?

GY not able to remove fences along Pandora until August. May have no-go areas in Beacon Hill Park. Hotels for homeless is a bit of a bottomless pit. There are happy campers who do not want to move inside.

'Housing first' philosophy should not be interpreted as 'housing is enough'

Policing is currently a focus. The city is conscious of the large amount of time police spend on mental health and addiction issues.

Neighbourhood Update
No report

Constable Jessica Moretto

Introduction, Police Liaison for the Rockland Neighbourhood.

Any concerns specific to Rockland? Terri Healy was former Police Liaison. James Bay has demanded lots of recent attention, and she wants to ensure it is not at the expense of other neighborhoods.

MH: we have received reports of camping in the woodland garden, and an increase in break-ins to automobile. MH always encourages complainants to report to the Police.

JM is available for complaints, situations. Sean Hann is another officer who could assist.

BJ: Proud of our police and their partnerships with social workers. Is there consensus on the proportion of newcomers within the local homelessness population?

GY: bylaw officer keeps close track of campers, maintains a census with some information on origin that shows that most have been here for a number of years. The agencies are not interested in that question, and neither is the city council.

JM: Police have not asked those questions of homeless. Anecdotally, some have said they are in Victoria because of availability of services.

AH: Related an incident with destabilized person. Do you use 911 in that situation, or the non-emergency number.

JM: Depending on the situation, the non-emergency number is appropriate. If there is a personal crisis the integrated team may get involved. Our Place staff have abilities in this regard.

(GY, JM left the meeting)

Calendar Review

July - AH will renew general liability insurance through Fairfield Community Association (\$970).

July 30 - Deadline for payment of Directors and Officers liability insurance
- Art to submit request to City for premium reimbursement.

August 15 - Garage Sale. Dave Clark moved to cancel the Rockland-Wide Yard Sales event, scheduled for August 15th. Seconded by CM. Approved unanimously.

Discussion: Yard sales are allowed under current guidelines. (Rotary held one last month using a hotel parkade for item drop-off). The potential liabilities for the Association outweigh the possible benefits at this time.

VCAN Update (Chantal)

No VCAN meeting or report.

Committees Reports:

Land Use (Bob) Meeting July 9th

1737 Rockland: proponent proposed to submit rezoning application without a public meeting. City has said that they don't require the public meeting, but the Neighbourhood can hold such meetings. The Neighbourhood Association can waive the public meeting but does not wish to in this case. Neighbours would like to hold an outdoor meeting.

Discussion followed on the evolving state of public input under CoVid constraints. Issues include Association liability, required voluntary contribution to hold the meeting, the summary letter from the LUC to the City, the biases that could be introduced by each and any approach ... City is currently working on remote meeting technology.

AH: 1004 Terrace: Developer Bruce Wilkins wants to meet with LUC on site on property. Large trees are around the periphery. Physical distance is OK with low attendance outdoor meetings.

1224/26 Richardson: back to developer to rethink the claw-back clause intended to ensure that early sellers don't profit.

1475 Fort St apartment - city will notify everyone within 50 m and have some form of electronic meeting. Committee of the whole will discuss how to accomplish this tomorrow morning.

Property that runs from Montgomery through to Despard is listed for sale at \$4 million. Several other properties owned by the late Frank Neate have completed probate and may be marketed soon.

(CM left the meeting.)

Environment (Dave C)

Received a sample job description from Vic West Community, and Janet Simpson and I are whittling it down to tasks relating to the woodland garden, leaving room for consultation with the neighbourhood on other aspects of community gardening.

I think there is great synergy possible with Mellissa in generating some regular content for the web page and other communications.

DC has (re)joined the Friends of Government House, in order to better understand their vision and mission for their woodland garden, to see how RNA can complement their efforts and to explore cooperative ventures.

Janet has submitted invoiced expenses of \$342.46 for reimbursement.

BJ: Could any of the resources be directed towards the pocket park at 1000 Terrace?

DC: We have discussed the possibility of expanding the volunteers' efforts to include other public lands in Rockland, but the initial focus will be on the existing Woodland Garden.

Membership

Small increase in numbers, still only in the 70s.

Social

All social actives are on hold.

Welcoming (Dave)

No welcoming happening at this time.

Website tech support update

Art spoke with Melissa and she can get updates to the web pages. Art also reassigned the generic emails that had been forwarded to former directors. Art has learned MailChimp, and mail-outs to our mailing list are again possible.

8:34 meeting adjourned (AH/DC).

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 12th, 2020 7 PM via Zoom. Please advise Sandra if unable to attend.