

**NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of February 1, 2017 Meeting**

**Present:**

Board members: Jenny Farkas (Chair), Penny Bond (Secretary), Chris Fleming, Daniel Ferguson, Jessie Rucker, Katie Fillion

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Anne Moon, Todd Doherty, Colin Barr

Business Members: Kalen Harris

City Liaisons: Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Michael Hill

Guests: Max Collins, Joseph Barss

Regrets: Alastair McCollum, Pam Hartling, Allison Ashcroft, Alex Kerr

**Call to Order:** Jenny called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Opening Comments:**

- Those present introduced themselves.
- Jenny requested that reports be kept concise so that the public meeting could adjourn at 8:45. This was to accommodate the need for a resumption of the board meeting from 8:45 - 9:00 p.m.

**Agenda:**

The agenda was adopted.

**Presentation/Discussion:** CFUV Story Map Project — Max Collins, Joseph Barss

- Max Collins (“Max Monday”) is the Spoken Word Coordinator at UVic’s radio station, CFUV. Joseph Barss is a CFUV volunteer who got involved because of interest in architecture and because the Story Map sounded like an interesting project.
- The Story Map is on the CFUV website. It shows a map of Victoria with marked points. When the user clicks on a point, they will hear a story, in the form of a podcast episode, about that point.
- Neighbourhoods are being asked to get involved in the story telling so that others can learn why the neighbourhood is so great, and what it’s like to be a citizen of that neighbourhood.
- A link for a story from the InterCultural Association was made available to NPNA for 48 hours.
- Summary of Q & A Discussion:
  - Stories are gathered in response to the question, “What is it like to be a Victoria citizen?” The interest is wide-ranging; neighbourhoods; life experience (music, queer culture, etc.); historical, but not exclusively so.
    - The recorder used captures ambient noise, not just the story-teller’s voice.
  - The current project runs until April, but many people have come forward who want to make podcasts, so some can be added for quite some time. The map will exist at UVic in perpetuity.

- Four - five spots are being offered to NPNA.
- Interest was expressed in being part of this project. NPNA will decide on best use of its available spots and get back to Max.

### **Minutes:**

Correction to January 4, 2017 minutes: Date in heading of digital version sent to members was incorrect. Change to "January 4, 2017".

Motion: to approve the January minutes as revised.

Katie Fillion/Daniel Ferguson/carried

### **Treasurer's Report** — no report available

Penny noted that NPNA's mailbox rental has been renewed.

### **Reports**

#### 1. President — Jenny

No formal report. Jenny will interject in other reports.

#### 2. Good Neighbour Agreement (GNA) meetings — Daniel/Penny/Jessie

- Island Health - 1119 Pembroke — Daniel

No meeting in January.

- 900 Block Pandora/Our Place Community Group, January 17 — Penny
- Our Place has organized a pilot project until March 31 with Source Security to do 24/7 street patrol, covering area of Our Place, Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM) and Johnson Street Community (JSC), starting January 20. They also will do needle sweeps and garbage pick-up. Security staff will be connected by radio with Our Place security. Security workers will be in uniform but are not law enforcement officers. They will call VicPD if bad activities are happening.
  - This security is specific to the immediate area of Our Place and JSC (one-block radius of these facilities). It does not extend to the shelter at FirstMet Church.
    - The shelter at FirstMet has its own security, employed by Our Place. They begin at 5:30 p.m. prior to the shelter's 7 p.m. opening time; they finish after the shelter's 7:30 a.m. closure.
- VicPD Community Resource Officer José Bingham and his colleague Nikki Nelson, Communications Specialist, presented an education session about calls to Bylaw and Police, which had a lot of good information.
  - Three members of NPNA were in attendance.
  - This session could be offered again if there is a need.
- Johnson Street Community (JSC) — Jessie
  - VCM is experiencing student loss because of its proximity to JSC.
  - The wall, to mitigate loitering, is almost completed.

- There is an overdose prevention room on site; its use is only for residents of the housing. It is not possible in this venue to offer testing of the drugs before use.
- There is a nurse on staff at the JSC building but not in the injection room.
- Twenty residents have moved out since JSC opened.
- Security offers one guard from Blanshard to Vancouver St.

### 3. Land Use (LUC) — Chris

- NPNA was not represented at a meeting about the City's housing strategy. Invitations do not seem to go routinely to all community associations.
- Jeremy suggested that NPNA add an email address specifically to its Land Use Committee or to its board, as this might result in better communication. Daniel can add a board email on our website.
- NPNA's Community Associations Land Use Committee (CALUC) training session has been delayed until February 6. This training session about a new process is for Land Use Committee and board members only.

### 4. Communications & Festival — Katie

- Bulletin board repairs will be done this week.
- Katie and Chris met about planning for a festival.
  - Location is under discussion.
  - Festival possibly to happen on day of HarbourCats opening game.
  - Chris has a list of potential sponsors and vendors; hopes to highlight North Park businesses and will begin approaching them in late February.
  - Katie will look after advertising. Media need about six weeks' advance notice to get them on board for promotion.
- Items and photos for Twitter can be sent to Katie.
- Jenny reported that re-paving in North Park Village will begin in February. To be included are: North Park and Cook St. crosswalk; entrance sign at each end of Village; light standards with banners in median.
  - We hope to involve businesses in a celebration of the opening of these improvements.
  - A contest for banner design could be held.
- Jenny asked what kind of outreach the City does with neighbours about pending street work, and whether NPNA could help. Mike will follow up.
- Katie has been putting up small posters with positive multicultural messages to counter the "Learn English" graffiti that has been appearing again. Katie's posters have been getting torn down.
  - Mike reported that telephone pole posters are removed by the City as they are not permitted.
  - If hate or offensive messages appear, call the City hotline and they will respond.
  - The City will give out paint kits for covering graffiti.

- Decorative pole painting was discussed as a possibility. All immediate neighbours and City would have to be on board for this to happen.

#### 5. Community Spaces — Jessie

- Jessie met several times with Shan Marcus about community gardens ideas, as a follow-up to last month's discussion.
- They have been looking primarily at Franklin Green, and at the possibility of applying for grants. Questions arose concerning funding.
  - Q: Does NPNA have any fund that can be used for community gardens?
  - Q: Can NPNA's name and its BC Societies registration be used to apply for grants?
  - Q: What obligations would NPNA have if a grant were received?
- Jenny and Mike responded:
  - NPNA can apply for grants but all applications must be vetted by the board. An overall plan, not a piecemeal approach, is needed.
  - The Parks Department was involved in earlier discussions about improvements to Franklin Green but no longer is in the loop. Mike will follow up on this and report back to Jenny.
- Discussions about Franklin Green include looking at use of native plants; not imposing on other uses of the park; some kind of food production (possibly only herbs and/or fruit trees).
- Todd Doherty noted that expertise about native plants is important. Todd maintains a native plant garden adjacent to his property. He would be happy to be involved in the native plant aspect of this project.
- Katie and Daniel also are interested in being involved at Franklin Green.
- There were suggestions that changes to Franklin Green be put on hold until completion of the development on the former St. Andrew's School site; alternatively that NPNA try to involve the developer, Bosa/BlueSky in this project.
- Jenny asked what is involved in re-designing a park. Mike will follow up. Local Area Plan (LAP) and other City organizations are good places to start.

#### 6. Victoria City Council — Coun. Jeremy Loveday

- See attached North Park February Update.
- The accessibility working group has become permanent. Truncated domes, to assist people who are both visually and mobility impaired, will be installed at crosswalks at eight intersections.
- Accessible pedestrian audio signals are to be installed.
- Festival grants have just been approved; these are for big City festivals, not for neighbourhoods.
- Q&A Summary:
  - Inclusion of a toilet is important for the proposed universal change room at Crystal Pool. Jeremy will check whether this is in the plan.

- The Public Engagement Roadmap workshop is an attempt to hear from others in addition to community associations.
- Community associations have been the City's main connection; the associations are burning out. Victoria Community Associations Network (VCAN) has for a long time been asking for moderation of engagement demands. This requires consideration by the City.
- The new Director of Engagement will not be present at the workshop as the hiring process has been delayed.
- The event for participatory budgeting of \$60,000 seemed to circumnavigate community associations and City Council.
- Community associations are invited but these events are less specific than other types of events.

#### 7. Victoria City Staff — Mike Hill

- Council will be considering a report on options for Crystal Pool on February 16.
- Should they decide to advance the project, Council will determine a suitable approval process for the preferred option at that time.
- The meeting earlier today about grants looked at:
  - Place making
  - Application process and scope
  - How community associations can get involved, and expectations
  - How to get more uptake and show people what's possible
  - Providing a tool kit so people will know what to do
  - Increasing enthusiasm
  - Decreasing bureaucracy for smaller amounts (under \$500)
  - Holding an event with resources: funders, volunteer recruitment, short presentations, grant application writing

#### 8. Membership — Penny

- One member resigned — no longer lives or owns property in North Park.
- One new person added to non-member contact list.

#### 9. Place of Worship Updates

- NPNA sent a card of support to Masjid Al-Iman following the mosque shootings in Quebec City.
- St. John the Divine — Anne Moon
- The Imam from Masjid Al-Iman spoke at St. John's on March 29. [This was earlier on the same day as the Quebec City attack.]
- First Metropolitan — Penny
- Update tabled due to time constraints.

#### 10. VCAN — Chris

- The role and responsibilities of community associations were discussed at the January meeting.
- Next meeting is March 16; hoping that new Victoria Director of Engagement and Mayor Helps will attend. Coun. Alto also wants to speak about the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).
- NPNA can send up to four members to VCAN meetings. Please notify Chris if you wish to attend.

#### **Old Business:**

##### 1. Royal Athletic Park (RAP) concerns — Jenny

- Two staff members from Recreation Services Parks, Recreation and Facilities met with the NPNA board today, immediately prior to this public meeting, to discuss noise and other concerns related to events at RAP.
- Report on this meeting was tabled until the board has had time to discuss it and determine next steps.
- There is an event feedback hotline on the city website, [www.victoria.ca/eventfeedback](http://www.victoria.ca/eventfeedback) or email [eventfeedback@victoria.ca](mailto:eventfeedback@victoria.ca). NPNA asked for a sign on the RAP fence to indicate how to contact eventfeedback.

##### 2. Underground stream restoration

Tabled due to time constraints.

#### **New Business:**

No new business

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m., in the Garden Cafeteria at North Park Manor, 875 North Park Street. Enter by way of the gate on the Quadra St. side of the building.