

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

**Present:**

Board members: Jenny Farkas (Chair), Penny Bond (Secretary), Pam Hartling, Daniel Ferguson, Jessie Rucker, Katie Fillion, Paul Noble

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Anne Moon, Alex Kerr, Darren Marr

Regrets: Chris Fleming, Alastair McCollum, Allison Ashcroft, Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Michael Hill

**Call to Order:** Jenny called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Opening Comments:** Those present introduced themselves.

**Agenda:**

- Move Land Use report to top of list.
- Under Land Use, add:
  - Gazzola Tile building
  - Crystal Pool

Motion: to adopt the agenda as revised.

Katie Fillion/Pam Hartling/carried

**Minutes:**

Motion: to approve the February 1, 2017 minutes.

Pam Hartling/Katie Fillion/carried

**Treasurer's Report** — Pam Hartling

- The bank balance is approximately \$9,200.
- There are no pending expenses.

Motion: to accept the Treasurer's report.

Daniel Ferguson/Paul Noble/carried

**Reports:**

**1. Land Use Committee (LUC) — Pam**

- The LUC earlier had met with a developer about the two neighbouring properties on 900 block Caledonia Ave., next to Sands parking lot. The LUC gave negative feedback on this proposal and the proposal did not proceed to a public meeting.
  - The City also did not support this proposal.
  - The developer has come back to NPNA to request another meeting with the LUC.
- Anne Moon reported that Gazzola Tile has moved to the back of its building at 1625 Quadra St., with a lot of renovation taking place (Canna Mall now occupies the front of the building). Anne wishes to know what is happening at this building.

- NPNA needs to look at the larger question of cannabis dispensary licensing. Jenny will ask Mike Hill what is happening with regulations and licensing, including specific information about the Green Ceiling consumption lounge.
- Pam noted that all dispensaries currently are operating illegally. Information is needed as to whether City Council will be looking at licensing applications one by one.
- Now that City Council has approved replacement of the Crystal Pool, Anne wishes to know whether NPNA will take an official stance prior to a referendum on borrowing funds to finance construction of a new pool.
- Jenny reported that the City has not taken a position on whether there will be a referendum.
  - An alternative approval process requires that at least 10% of the population sign a petition that they do not approve of replacing the current Crystal Pool. If 10% is achieved, then it goes to referendum.
- NPNA needs to find out what the timelines are. Jeremy Loveday should be asked to explain the process before NPNA decides what its role might be.
- Jenny attended the recent City-hosted workshop on civic engagement.
  - This event took place before the new Director of Engagement has been hired.
  - Lessons learned about how things have been done in the past, and reporting back to citizens about what works and what doesn't were not discussed.
  - A letter to the City might be warranted, requesting assurance of proper maintenance of its existing structures so that replacements can be deferred, and assurance of good planning when replacements are required.

## 2. President — Jenny

- Re-paving of Cook St. from Pandora to Caledonia Ave. begins in about one week. The City has delivered a notice to the Cook St. businesses.
  - The expected completion date of the new pedestrian crosswalk at Cook and North Park Streets is July 1.
  - The revitalization work on Cook St. will include signs at the north and south entrances to North Park Village; banners; median beautification; style of crosswalks. NPNA and Fernwood Community association (FCA) are collaborating on these changes.
- A North Park festival focussing on the village and highlighting North Park businesses is being planned.

## 3. Good Neighbour (GNA) Meetings — Daniel, Penny

- There was no Island Health meeting in February.
- Johnson Street Community (JSC) meeting, February 15 — Penny
  - All Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) recommendations have been completed (fence at back, lighting).

- Residents are starting to feel at home, therefore have increased sense of ownership and pride
  - Residents don't want negative impact on neighbours. This change happened faster than anticipated.
  - There is some decrease in non-resident activity around the building.
  - BC Housing started its pilot project of a new security model (foot patrol over 2 block radius) - January 20
    - Security activities include moving people along, medical incidents, needles, graffiti
    - It is working fairly well; good rapport with VicPD and other security guards.
    - Security company is willing to extend its patrols to include St. John the Divine, where there has been garbage and drug-related detritus.
  - There is entrenched hiding of behaviour related to drug use; this is hard to break, which is why some injection drug users don't go to OD prevention sites.
  - Former Super 8 Hotel location on Douglas St. is developing treatment beds as well as housing and harm reduction.
  - Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) architectural design component is done.
    - Variables affect construction time.
    - It is not known when federal government will come through.
- Penny was unable to attend the Our Place/900 Block Pandora meeting but sent an NPNA report.

#### 4. Communications — Katie

- Festival planning, led by Chris, is in progress. The festival probably will take place in July, after completion of the new crosswalk.
- NPNA has almost 400 Twitter followers. There is more reaching out to some businesses.
- Cook and Pan Polish deli will be re-opening at a new location on Amelia St.
- Repair work on the NPNA bulletin board is about to begin.

#### 5. Community Spaces — Jessie

- The committee, including Katie and Daniel, met once and is looking at grant possibilities.
- Jenny noted that it would be good to get more involvement from Bosa Developments/Bluesky Properties in Franklin Green, now that their construction is underway adjacent to the park.

#### 6. City of Victoria

No in-person staff or Council reports available.

See attached North Park March Update

## 7. Membership — Penny

- Two new registrations (family membership)
- One addition to non-member contact list

## 8. Place of Worship Updates

- St. John the Divine — Anne
  - Nothing to report
- First Metropolitan — Penny
  - Redevelopment Task Group was contacted, reminding them of NPNA's wish to be included in conversation about future of the church hall.
    - Nothing new about future plans has yet been brought to the congregation.
    - In addition to Penny, as liaison, the Task Group now has been given contact information for NPNA's LUC Co-Chairs.
  - Following above contact with the Task Group, there have been two informal conversations with FirstMet's building manager.
    - about NPNA stance on renewal of shelter contract (another unhappy neighbour noted)
    - about NPNA being mentioned at a recent meeting with a comment that NPNA does not want additional supportive housing in the neighbourhood

## 9. Victoria Association of Community Associations (VCAN) — Jenny

- There are no parameters around how community associations operate.
  - A conversation will take place.
- Up to four members/association may attend VCAN meetings.
- At the May meeting, the Mayor and the new Director of Communications are expected to attend.

## **Old Business:**

### 1. Royal Athletic Park (RAP) events concerns

- In February, the NPNA board met with Parks, Recreation and Facilities representatives Jeff Brehaut and Sarah Madelung to discuss neighbourhood concerns about events at RAP.
  - The noise bylaw and sound measurement were explained.
- NPNA is trying to learn from the City what is a reasonable amount of sound and how it is measured. A letter will be sent to the City asking for more work on this, including participation of an NPNA representative.
- An event hotline for is available at [eventfeedback@victoria.ca](mailto:eventfeedback@victoria.ca).
  - Jenny would like to have signage near the RAP entrance to inform people about this hotline.

## 2. Underground Stream Restoration — Penny

- In the January/February *Focus* magazine there was an article "Towards rewinding a city creek", about the Rock Bay Creek, which runs underground from Fernwood to Rock Bay. North Park is part of its watershed.
- The Rock Bay Creek Revival group received a My Great Neighbourhood Grant to lay the groundwork for daylighting bits of the creek.
- This group has a documentary film, *Lost Rivers*, which looks at waterway restoration in Italy, London, and a suburb of New York. It shows the underbelly of old cities and how citizens have worked with their abused water systems and brought them back to become vital to the lives of the people.
- The group hopes to show this one-hour film in many of the neighbourhoods in Victoria. Penny will try to arrange for NPNA and FirstMet Church to co-host a showing in our neighbourhood.

## 3. Story Map Project — Jenny

- Following last month's presentation from CFUV Radio about the Story Map Project, NPNA has several names to put forward to CFUV of individuals and/or businesses to be interviewed.

## 4. Toastmasters Clubs in North Park — Darren Marr

- Further to information presented at a previous NPNA meeting, Darren informed us that there is a second Toastmasters Club that meets in our neighbourhood.
- "Night Hawks" club meets on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month, 7:30 p.m., at 1947 Cook St. All are welcome.
- Katie will tweet this information.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 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.

Anyone who has been a registered NPNA member in good standing for at least 60 days may vote at our public meetings.

"3.1.1 A member in good standing shall be defined as anyone who has filled out a registration form and has been accepted for membership. They must have paid their dues and not be under any sanctions of the board."

- NPNA Constitution & Bylaws