

**NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of April 5, 2017 Meeting**

**Present:**

Board members: Chris Fleming(Chair), Penny Bond (Secretary), Pam Hartling, Paul Noble

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Ben Grupe

Business Members: Pauline Cohen (Toastmasters)

City Liaisons: Michael Hill

Guests: Taeja Ellerbeck, H  l  ne Beauduin

Regrets: Jenny Farkas, Alastair McCollum, Allison Ashcroft, Daniel Ferguson, Jessie Rucker, Katie Fillion, Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Anne Moon

**Call to Order:** Chris called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

**Agenda:**

Motion: to adopt the agenda.

Chris Fleming/Pam Hartling/carried

**Minutes:**

Correction: p.4, under "9. VCAN" report, final bullet point, change "Director of Communications" to "Director of Engagement".

Motion: to approve the March 1, 2017 minutes as corrected.

Paul Noble/Pam Hartling/carried

**Treasurer's Report** — Pam Hartling

- The bank balance is approximately \$9,000.
- The board approved spending up to \$500 for a brainstorming session about North Park Village re-vitalization.

**Reports:**

**1. President** — Chris, for Jenny

- The Cook St. re-paving project has started. It will include addition of a crosswalk at North Park St.
  - In addition, there will be medians, trees and NPNA signs, as part of North Park Village re-vitalization.
  - NPNA has involvement in the crosswalk design and the North Park/Cook St. corner.
    - Jenny has obtained support for public art from two of the corner's business owners, with the other two businesses also considering participation.

- There has been concern expressed by a cyclist about the bump-outs being created along Cook St.
- Replacement of the Crystal Pool was approved by City Council. Financing of the new pool will be going to referendum. Mike Hill reported that the process needs to be developed and referendum is not anticipated until Fall.

## 2. Good Neighbour (GNA) Meetings — Penny

- Our Place/900 Block Pandora, March 21
  - Complaint sent to Our Place from an NPNA member about a man urinating on the VCM wall. She questioned why Our Pace security could not do anything.
    - Don Evans will respond directly to her about this concern.
    - Our Place security cannot act on anything that does not occur on their property.
    - Our Place will try whatever it can to encourage people to respect the neighbourhood.
    - Coun. Thornton-Joe suggested a poster contest in which members of the Our Place family make posters showing respectful behaviours on the block. There could be a prize for the best posters and businesses could display the posters. Don Evans and Coun. Thornton-Joe will work on organizing this.
  - Source Security sweeps have been extended to include Johnson St.
  - Our Place summer hours began on March 27.
  - Many people seek daytime sleeping space and have been using any available space at the drop-in centre. This has completely changed the dynamic of the drop-in. Starting in April, Our Place no longer will allow daytime sleeping at the drop-in. They will continue to advocate for daytime sleeping space elsewhere.
  - FirstMet shelter will stay open all summer.
  - The OD prevention pod is doing extremely well.
    - Expanded to three booths from two. Oxygen treatment can be used instead of Naloxone because ODs are caught sooner.
    - Visits to OD pod now are 85/day (includes some repeats).
    - ODs in Our Place washrooms decreased from 30 in January to five in March (to date of meeting).
  - Our Place is working on establishing a therapeutic recovery community. “Choices” shelter, in View Royal, will close soon and this space will become available.
    - Our Pace is currently working on raising \$1.5M to start up.
  - Pilot of employment program for people with multiple barriers to employment is starting. There will be partnering with other agencies and potential employers.
  - Central Baptist Church has hired a community engagement person.
    - Street teams are being set up.
    - In April, the church will begin offering coffee service outside in the evenings, except for times when there is a church event happening.

- Johnson Street Community (JSC) meeting

Mix-up about date in March, therefore no meeting took place. They are meeting tonight. Nobody from NPNA is in attendance due to conflict with our own meeting.

### 3. 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 City also did not support the proposal.
- The developer has come back to LUC with a revised plan. The new plan is for 4-storey rental units, with retention of the heritage house frontage and new construction at the back.
  - Pam and Chris met with the developer and architect, and believe this proposal is much improved. Next steps TBD.

### 4. Communications — Chris, for Katie

- The NPNA website is being updated.
- Clothing and other items with NPNA branding is being developed.
- Festival planning, led by Chris, is in progress.
  - Steps are being taken to engage with the North Park business community.
  - The festival probably will take place in July, after completion of the new crosswalk.
  - Taeja Ellerbeck described a proposal for a farmer's market at the festival.
    - Preliminary organization is starting.
    - Implementation of this market at the festival is a means to engage people with the idea, then proceed to getting more traffic for an ongoing market.
    - The organizers have connected with Mason Street Farm.
- Chris and Penny were interviewed for UVic's CFUV "Story Map" project. Their podcasts will go live by the end of April. More information is at <http://cfuv.uvic.ca/cms/?p=20881>.

### 5. Community Spaces

- Chris reported that the board would like to have table tennis available in Franklin Green.
- Penny reported that Jessie and Shan Marcus put in an application on March 29 for fruit and nut trees, available from the CRD, and requested permission from Victoria Parks and Recreation to plant them in Franklin Green.

### 6. City of Victoria

- No Council report available.
- Staff liaison — Michael Hill
  - See attached North Park April Update.

- Discussions are taking place about whether City Council neighbourhood liaisons will continue, and about how the City connects with community associations.
- At its April 6 meeting, council will discuss whether to permit overnight camping in vehicles.
- Public engagement roadmaps have been produced, with a summary of the recent workshop on engagement that took place at the museum.
- Visual Victoria and Public realm Way Finding are posted at <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/current-initiatives/visual-victoria.html>.
- The City is accepting applications for participation in the steering committee for participatory budgeting. See <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/current-initiatives/participatory-budgeting.html>.
- There will be a Neighbourhood Day event hosted by Leadership Victoria, on Tuesday, May 2.
- There will be a My Great Neighbourhood Ideas Fair on Wednesday, April 19, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., at City Hall. Details are at <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/neighbourhoods/my-great-neighbourhood-grant-program.html>

## 7. Membership — Penny

- One addition to non-member contact list.
- One individual requested removal from membership list.
- Two business contacts requested removal from membership list:
  - Cumberbirch Insurance — business sold, moved to Uptown
  - Shanghai Noodles — contact person moved to mainland

## 8. Place of Worship Updates

- St. John the Divine
  - No report available
- First Metropolitan — Penny
  - Future of church hall: FirstMet's Redevelopment Task Group (RTG) is considering a business arrangement with the United Church of Canada's BC Conference Property Resource Team (PRT). The PRT would assess the viability of a number of redevelopment options, including an affordable housing project for the local community, a land sale or other options which may arise from discussions. This feasibility study would have to take into account FirstMet's criteria for evaluating any redevelopment proposals:
    - a. Compatibility of the redevelopment with First Met values;
    - b. Long-term financial benefit for the church;
    - c. Availability of gathering space for the church and;
    - d. Improved off-street parking.
  - Penny has reminded the RTG of NPNA's wish to be included in conversations about future of the church hall.

- There was a recent change in street parking limits for 900 block Balmoral Rd. The change was from two-hour to one-hour. This resulted from a petition initiated by one of the business owners who took the petition to the property owners on the block and received a 66% positive response. However, he did not ask either FirstMet or St. John the Divine churches, who are property owners and also the landlords of Pacific Opera and ICA. Pacific Opera and ICA, as tenants, did not participate in the petition process.
- This change in parking limits has a negative impact on volunteers working at both churches and on clients of ICA who attend two-hour ESL classes.
  - Mike Hill will check with City staff about this petition.

#### 9. Victoria Community Associations Network (VCAN) — Chris

- Community Associations Land Use Committees (CALUC) review was very successful.
  - There is a need to do a similar review about the role of community associations
    - Mike Hill will get something framed for this process.
- Chris has been acclaimed to continue as VCAN chair next year.
- Saanich contacted VCAN about the CALUC review. Saanich Community Associations Network (SCAN) is interested in this process; Chris will be going to talk with SCAN.
  - SCAN wishes to have closer ties with VCAN.
- Up to four members/association may attend VCAN meetings. Next meeting is May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Food is provided.
  - Contact [npna@npna](mailto:npna@npna) if you wish to attend.

#### **Old Business:**

##### 1. Crystal Pool

- NPNA is writing to the City with several concerns related to the new pool:
  - a request for NPNA to participate in the process towards the anticipated referendum on funding of the new pool
  - meeting space for NPNA at the new facility
  - lockable storage space for NPNA property (i.e. archival records, equipment, etc.)
    - Pauline suggested that archival materials could be put onto microfiche for long-term storage.

##### 2. Village Paving/Revitalization

See President's report, above.

##### 3. Underground Stream Restoration — Penny

- The Rock Bay Creek Revival group will have a free showing of the documentary film, *Lost Rivers*, co-hosted by NPNA and FirstMet Church, on Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m., in Room 200 at FirstMet.
  - There will be time for discussion of the plans of Rock Bay Creek Revival.

- The award-winning 72-minute film looks at waterway restoration in Canada, Italy, UK, Korea and 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.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Safety Measures in Central Park — Penny/Mike**

- There was a recent report from a resident that syringes were being found in Central Park near the bleachers for the ball ground. This is an area that is close to the children's playground.
- The City is taking the following measures:
  - Relocation of the syringe dropbox to a spot between the ball ground and the playground
  - Signage asking the public to report drug activities or detritus noticed in the area
  - In addition to the needle sweep done by Crystal Pool staff, a morning sweep has been added
  - VicPD will go by the park and talk with drug users about behaviour modification
- Because baseball season is starting, this increased general activity may help to bring about a reduction in drug use in this area.

#### **2. Parking on Cook St.**

- Pauline brought up a concern that the east side of the block of Cook St. between Caledonia Ave. and Pembroke St. is limited to one-hour parking on Saturdays, as well as weekdays. This seems unnecessary for Saturdays. The other side of the street has two-hour parking.
- Mike will check on the rationale for Saturday one-hour parking.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 3, 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