

NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION
Minutes of May 3, 2017 Meeting

Present:

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

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Anne Moon, Darren Marr, Todd Doherty

City Liaisons: Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Michael Hill

Guests: Taeja Ellerbeck, Amanda O'Neill

Regrets: Pam Hartling, Allison Ashcroft, Katie Fillion, Alex Kerr

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

Opening Comments: Lekwungen territorial acknowledgment given by Alastair. Those present introduced themselves.

Agenda:

Motion: to adopt the agenda.

Alastair McCollum/Chris Fleming/carried

Minutes:

Motion: to approve the April 5, 2017 minutes.

Daniel Ferguson/Jessie Rucker/carried

Treasurer's Report

No report available.

Reports:

1. President — Jenny

No formal report.

2. Good Neighbour (GNA) Meetings — Daniel/Penny

● Island Health, 1119 Pembroke St. — Daniel

- Some concerns about public urination, residential parking, and shopping carts left on the site.
- VicPD is called if people are using drugs outside.
- Since the establishment of overdose prevention sites there are fewer syringes being found.
- Application for Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) was submitted in December; the federal government is requesting additional information.
- Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID) does needle sweeps on Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. as part of its "long route" which includes North Park. More frequent sweeps are not possible due to lack of funding.

- Victoria Parks Dept. does sweeps in many parks every morning. There is no communication between Parks and SOLID.
 - The City monitors the number of syringes in drop boxes. Boxes are added or re-located according to trends. This process currently is being reviewed. Jenny asked what wording is on the drop boxes; also what are best practices (e.g. providing pick-up tongs near the boxes).
 - Next GNA meeting is in July. Agenda will include review of changes in services since the site opened.
- Our Place/900 Block Pandora, April 18 — Penny
 - Allied Universal Security reported increased violence since winter shelters closed and more people are outside. Security works on this with VicPD.
 - My Place shelter, on Yates St., closes at end of May. All 14 remaining residents are being offered housing.
 - TallyHo Motel, on Douglas St., has been purchased by BC Housing to be renovated for housing. It will be run by Cool Aid.
 - There will be a polling station at Our Place for the provincial election.
 - Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness is working with Lindsay Delaronde, Victoria's Aboriginal Artist in Residence, on a 10 week art program, with an art show at its conclusion.
 - There are two new MDs working at Our Place.
 - Our Place had a small surplus at the end of its fiscal year.
 - The proposal to establish a therapeutic community in View Royal after Choices shelter closes has been approved by BC Housing.
 - Central Baptist Church is offering coffee service outside on Tuesdays, 6:30- 9:00 p.m. This helps fill the gap between Our Place summer closing time and shelter opening time.
 - Central Baptist's annual "Serve the City Day" for public space clean-up, etc. will be May 13.

● Johnson Street Community (JSC) — Penny

No information about last or next meeting received. [NPNA was unable to send a representative to April 5 meeting.]

3. Land Use Committee (LUC) — Chris

- Four CALUC public meetings are pending, dates TBA:
 - 953 Balmoral Rd. — changes made to Raj Sahota's earlier proposal
 - 900 block Pembroke St. — Todd Doherty's proposal for two side-by-side sites
 - 900 block Pandora Ave. (former Speedy Auto site) — proposal for 10-storey rental building with ground floor commercial on Pandora side; townhouses on Mason St. side

- 900 block Caledonia Ave. (next to Sands parking lot) — revised plan which would retain character frontage.
- Canna Mall, 1625 Quadra St. applied for cannabis dispensary licensing.
 - NPNA needs broader understanding about the Canna Mall. There are multiple small business in the mall; not sure which is applying.
 - NPNA board will organize a community meeting to discuss concerns and send concerns to City. This must be done within 30 days.

4. Communications/Outreach — Chris

- Chris will be visiting the North Park businesses to increase engagement with our business community.
 - Decals for business windows are being developed.
- The NPNA website is being revised. Home page will be simplified; more information added to other pages.
- Festival planning is in progress.
 - The festival will take place in July, to highlight the new crosswalk at Cook and North Park St.
 - There will be vendors, food, music, possibly a market.
- Anne reported a good article, “The Gentrification Effect”, about about urban agriculture, with focus on North Park. It is in the Spring/Summer 2017 issue of *Concrete Gardens* magazine, available where free magazines are offered, or at concretegarden.ca.

5. Community Spaces — Jessie

- An expression of interest for using public space for a gardening project in Franklin Green has been submitted to the City. Communication with the City about this proposal is in process.
- Jessie and horticulturist Shan Marcus put in an application to the CRD for fruit and nut trees for Franklin Green, but their request was not among those chosen.
- Safety concerns for Franklin Green are being reviewed.

6. City of Victoria

- Council — Jeremy Loveday
- Cook St. paving is continuing.
- Council has not formally discussed whether council community liaisons will be continued. Internal discussion is needed on the balance of staff and council liaisons.
- Grant programs are open for applications.
- Visual Victoria/Wayfinding were passed at Committee of the Whole.
- Pandora Ave. bike lane is open.

- The City and Downtown Victoria Business Association will host a provincial all-candidates forum on May 4.
- Staff liaison — Michael Hill
- See attached North Park May 2017 Update.
- Grants are available. Staff will sit down and discuss plans and ideas with grant applicants.
- About 60-70 people came through the My Great Neighbourhood Ideas Fair. There were displays and short presentations. Staff hope to build on it for next year.
- A one-page tool kit for Wayfinding may be developed.
- A webpage is up for a public engagement road map at <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/current-initiatives/engagement-roadmap.html>

7. Membership — Penny

- One new member registration.
- Three additions to non-member contact list.
- Two individuals requested removal from membership list - moved out of the neighbourhood.
- Contact lost with two business members:
 - Trees cannabis dispensary — email no longer valid
 - Sands Funeral Chapel — our contact people (manager and office administrator) have left the business.
 - Status of NPNA member rewards, instigated by last manager, is uncertain.

8. Place of Worship Updates

- St. John the Divine — Alastair
- A new deacon has joined the ministry staff. Community outreach is part of his area of responsibility.
- Open Door Spiritualist Congregation — Penny
- Third annual Art Quest show and sale will be held at 1600 Cook St. (corner of Mason St.) on Saturday, June 3, 10:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.
 - Refreshments will be available in the garden for a nominal charge.
- Masjid al-Iman — Penny
- The imam, Sheikh Nur Ismail Mohamed, will give a public talk about Islam at St. Philip's Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Rd., on Saturday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m.
 - He will open the talk to a question and answer session.

- HarbourCats Chaplaincy
 - HarbourCats baseball team has created a new position of team chaplain. This is common throughout collegiate and professional sport but is a first for this team and the league.
 - The new chaplain is Park Jung, who is involved in ministry at Glad Tidings Church (Quadra and North Park St.)
- First Metropolitan — Penny
 - In partnership with NPNA, FirstMet co-hosted the showing of the *Lost Rivers* film and discussion led by Rock Bay Creek Revival. Attendance was 17 people, from NPNA, FirstMet and elsewhere.
 - FirstMet's Outreach Chair, Janet Gray, hopes that, *"if we could build some kind of regular film or speaker or something into our agendas, between the two communities we could grow a group of people that are part of both groups"*.
 - A letter was received from the Rev. Ivy Thomas, about the continuance of the shelter, managed by Our Place, in the FirstMet hall.
 - She also sent a message that if requested, FirstMet would be happy to send a representative of the church council to discuss the decision about the shelter with NPNA. There was consensus that the letter was very clear and that a follow-up discussion was not needed. Individuals with concerns are welcome to contact the church, as outlined in the letter.
 - Motion: that the letter from First Metropolitan United Church be shared with all NPNA members as an attachment to the minutes of this meeting.
Anne Moon/Lorna Rennie/carried

9. Victoria Community Associations Network (VCAN) — Chris

- Next meeting is Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Food is provided.
- A Community Associations terms of reference review process is to be worked out at the next meeting.
- Up to four people/community association may attend. Contact npna@npna if you wish to attend.
- Chris met with the chair of Saanich Community Associations Network (SCAN) and put them in touch with Rob Bateman, Victoria's Senior Process Planner, Sustainable Planning and Community Development, about VCAN's CALUC review process. There are similar issues within the CRD.

Old Business:

1. Crystal Pool

- Consultation meetings about the new pool are pending. When available, information will be distributed to NPNA members.
- NPNA sent a letter to the City requesting input on the new pool.

- City website has FAQ about the pool at <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/facilities/crystal-pool/planning-for-the-future-of-crystal-pool.html>
- Staff is working on seeking funding sources for replacement of the pool. It is not yet decided if there will be a referendum on funding.

2. Village Paving/Revitalization — Jenny

- Re-paving on Cook St. is underway.
- Some Village re-vitalization can be done as part of the process.
 - NPNA and Fernwood have formed a sub-committee to look at re-vitalization components with an end of May deadline.
 - Thank you to Mike Hill for help with this project.
- There will not be a bike lane on Cook St. through the Village; it will be on Vancouver St. from Pandora to Caledonia Ave.

3. CFUV Story Map Project — Penny

- Chris and Penny were interviewed for UVic's CFUV "Story Map" project. Also, someone from the InterCultural Association was interviewed. The Story Map went live in April. Go to http://cfuv.uvic.ca/cms/?page_id=22177 to listen to podcasts from North Park and other areas of Victoria. [Chris is #14; Penny, #24; ICA, #6.]
- Two more spots on the map remain available to NPNA. Ideas for individual or business interview subjects are welcome; contact npna@npna.ca.

New Business:

1. My Great neighbourhood Ideas Fair

- See City Staff Liaison report above, and attached North Park May 2017 Update.
 - Contact Mike Hill at mhill@victoria.ca with ideas for projects.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 7, at 7 p.m., in Room 200, FirstMet Church, 932 Balmoral Rd.

Please note change from regular venue on this date. The first hour will be a special meeting to discuss "Storefront cannabis retailers: How many & where?"

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

