

NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of July 5, 2017 Meeting

Present:

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

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Alex Kerr, Darren Marr, Julie Poskitt

Guest: Shelby Parkinson

City Liaisons: Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Michael Hill

Regrets: Allison Ashcroft, Alastair McCollum, Anne Moon

Call to Order: Jenny called the meeting to order.

Opening Comments:

Territorial acknowledgement was given.

Those present introduced themselves.

Agenda:

Motion: to add Parking on Balmoral Rd. under Old Business

Chris Fleming/Dan Ferguson/ carried to amend agenda

Minutes:

- Minutes from regular meeting on June 7
- Minutes from Special meeting "Storefront cannabis retailers" on June 7

Note: Clarification was mentioned about the discussion of land use, which was at times referred to as licensing during the meeting. Business licensing is a separate matter than land use. The expectation is that whether land use permissions are granted permanently via a rezoning, or for 3 years via a temporary use permit, the business would still be required to obtain a business license as a separate matter. Rezoning benefits the landowner, not the tenant/business owner. Business licenses are held only by the business owner/tenant and bestow no benefit to the landowner.

- Minutes of Land Use (CALUC) meeting on June 13

Correction: page 4, item 2, "Possible Revision": "Since originally proposal last year, which was not supported..." -change to "Since originally proposed last year..."

Motion: To approve all minutes

Chris Fleming/Julie Poskitt/carried

Treasurer's Report: Pam reported a payment of \$17 for the internet. There is a total of \$8,700 for the revitalization project.

Motion: To approve spending \$1,000.00 for design

Dan Ferguson/Katie Fillion/carried

Reports

President – Jenny

NPNA has put on social media asking for public input on the motion of two City Councillors to expand cannabis retailer storefront to be spaced apart by 400 meters, which was 200 meters. Meetings have taken place and two more will happen in other neighbourhoods.

The process for updating the Local Area Plan will be next year.

Land Use (LUC) – Chris

- Regarding 953 Balmoral, recent Citified magazine article was not correct with their reference to the development approval process. Chris wrote a letter to them about this, with a background of the community involvement.
- Chris will distribute development plans to the membership.
- Pam suggested requesting that the developer for the Balmoral site come back for a third meeting.

Motion: Talk to Leanne Taylor at the City for clarity of the development plans.

Julie/Pam Hartling/carried

Communications and Outreach – Katie

- All social media is going well.

- Katie is applying for a permit to block North Park St. on each side of Cook St. for the neighbourhood festival on July 23 from 12-5pm.
- Businesses nearby the festival site have agreed to be supportive and involved in the festival.
- Katie is continuing to ask the public for ideas, talent, crafts, and volunteer help.
- City staff will have a table at the festival to offer the public information on the Crystal Pool construction.
- Darren asked if Theatre SKAM had been approached about being a part of the festival, and Katie will contact them.
- Jenny said there would be information about the Local Area Plan update process at the festival table for North Park Neighbourhood Association.
- Chris said that money for tents has been set aside.
- Jenny suggested having Avery with Burnside/Gorge speak at our AGM about the Local Area Plan process.

Community Spaces – Jessie

- The Committee is planning to meet this month to talk about other project ideas.
- Jessie has just met again with city staff about the applications for approval of using public land and for the grant from the city; no decision has been made at this time by the city regarding the applications. The approval for use will likely go to council for a vote in the fall.
- Mike Hill, city staff, asked for a letter of support from the board to go with the grant application to show their agreement with the project idea. Details are needed for full support about what this involves with insurance.

Motion: To support the application in principle

Dan/Katie/carried

- Jenny said she would speak with Mike tomorrow about sending a letter by end of the week.

Good Neighbour Meetings - Penny/Daniel

Regarding OurPlace/900 Block Pandora GNA - June 20:

- My Place on Yates St. is now closed; all residents have been housed. Our Place received letters of thanks from the Victoria School Board and principal of Central Middle School.
- Former CBC building on Pandora has been leased to a company that does fund-raiding and grant writing. Cst. Dan O'Connor talked with them about camping concerns on the property.

Regarding Johnson St. Community (JSC):

- JSC has been on hiatus for several months. There is a meeting on July 12.
- The manager of the facility is proposing a new, smaller meeting format, which would involve reducing attendance to one or two stakeholders per organization. This change would mean that residents of nearby condo buildings could send one or two representatives, possibly on a rotating basis, to each meeting instead of numerous residents coming to every meeting. The same would apply to representatives of the various organizations who regularly attend. Penny is willing to continue as NPNA liaison at these meetings if NPNA still wishes to be represented.

There was consensus that NPNA should continue to be represented, with Penny as liaison.

City of Victoria – Council: Jeremy

- Council has just passed a motion regarding short-term vacation rentals that a room can be rented but not an entire unit.
- Tomorrow Council will discuss a motion about expanding the buffer between cannabis retailers.
- He reports that many tickets have been given to dispensaries, i.e., 9 have been for operating without a license
- Another council motion will be to review rental housing retention and renovations, and also updating the property maintenance by-law
- For North Park village, both cross walk lights are up, and the banner poles will go up when the Cook St. construction at that area is finished.

City of Victoria –Staff: Mike

- Mike gave the Association a map with neighbourhood boundaries
- City staff will present their Downtown Public Realm Plan draft to Council at this week's Council meeting
- The City wants to find a way for public to know budgets better to help the general discussion

- City staff said that they will change the parking time soon to two hours on the west side of Cook St. beside the Royal Athletic Park .
- Changing the street parking time from one hour to two hours along the Metropolitan Church was discussed. The city can do this if the adjacent businesses and residents make the request.

VCAN -Chris

Nothing to report; no meetings are happening during the summer

Membership -Penny

- New: Individual - 2 / Contact list – 7 / Re-instituted - Trees Dispensary updated their email contact
- Removed: 1 (moved away)
- Chris will draft a by-law amendment to remove the membership fee

Places of Worship

- St. John the Divine (reported on behalf of Anne Moon):

We presented very preliminary redevelopment plans to the congregation--involving low cost housing on the east side of our lot. We would tear down "Henrietta's cottage" and use part of the parking lot but make sure parking in some form is included in new development.

Old Business

Village revitalization:

- The cross walk design is still being worked on
- The mural design has not been finalized. The colours have been decided as the businesses have agreed to them. There is no budget or timeline for this yet.

AGM:

- Notice regarding the date is going out tonight
- There is a call for board nominations
- There are five board positions open; two are for re-election; two are vacancies to be filled

Parking on 900 block Balmoral Rd:

Was discussed during the city staff report with Mike Hill

Recorder: Jessie Rucker