

**North Park Neighbourhood Association
Public Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2017**

Attendance:

Board members: Jenny Farkas, Chris Fleming, Penny Bond, Pam Hartling, Daniel Ferguson, Allison Ashcroft, Alastair McCollum

Individual Members: Robert Lewis, Shirley Solberg, Lorna Rennie, Dawn Goodwin, Navid Bayat, Lauren Robinson

Business Member: Geraldine Henry (Ocean Grown Medicinal Society)

City Liaison: Michael Hill

Guests: Paul Latour, Linda Morrison (HeroWorks); Thomas Soulliere, Jeff Brehaut, Mary Chudley (Victoria Parks, Recreation & Facilities); CJ Rupp, Adam Fawkes and Zubin Shroff (HCMA architects)

Regrets: Jessie Rucker, Katie Fillion

Agenda:

Approved with motion from Alastair and seconded by Pam

Presentations:

1. Anawim Renovation – Paul Latour, Linda Morrison

- Anawim House is a men's residence and drop-in centre which offers a variety of services.
- HeroWork Radical Renovations, who is managing the renovation, is an organization that brings together community to do charity work.
- The renovations include house painting, landscaping, extending the top level, and enclosing the balcony to create more inside space.
- There will be 35-85 people working onsite at a time, but most work will take place during the weekend and volunteers will be instructed where to park.
- Volunteering opportunities can be found on here:
<http://www.herowork.com/volunteer>

2. Crystal Pool – City Staff & Design Consultants

- Details of presentation can be found in the attached PowerPoint presentation
- In mid-November the City aims to award the design contract, to date all design work has been for budgeting purposes.
- The park redesign would happen concurrently with pool build and would involve extensive consultation with the neighbourhood.

- It's too early in the design process to determine which trees will be taken down but there will be an effort to maintain as many as possible.
- In response to what the priorities of Council were in determining the need for the current design and location of the new pool, service continuity and no loss of utility was the priority.
- There are three areas in the common area of the entrance where food services may be available, which will be open to the public and accessible.
- In terms of parking, preliminary designs have been to increase parking availability, but the amount of parking to be added has not been determined.
- The City is currently working with the Steve Nash Foundation to locate a temporary home for the basketball courts during the build.
- In response to why a 50 meter pool was necessary, the City responded that it allowed for the most flexibility of use; by being 50x25, the pool could be used lengthwise and widthwise, while a bulkhead which crossed the length could add further versatility.
- The 50 meter pool will host several programming needs, while others will be met in the leisure pool, the design of which has not been finalized.
- There was a question of whether childcare would be offered; it will not, but child minding will.
- The NPNA will get space for its meetings, will be offered storage space in the basement, but office space will be tough as in current designs the office space will be kept to a minimum.

Meeting Minutes from July:

- Corrections to minutes of July 5:
 - Pg. 4, third line down, right-hand end, "fund-raiding" - change to "fund-raising", and pg. 5, third line down, just past the middle of the line, "...one to two hours along the Metropolitan Church was ..." - change to 'First Metropolitan' Church...".
 - Adopted as corrected with motion by Chris and seconded by Allison

Treasurer's Report: No report available

Reports:

President

- The first dispensary rezoning hearing will be in front of City Council tomorrow night (Sept 7)

- NPNA AGM will be held at First Met on October 4.

Land Use Update:

- Public meeting regarding 953 Balmoral Rd. summarized – very little attendance and not much negative feedback
 - Plans for the development were sent to Chris, but Raj (developer) said they could not be distributed because of copyright issues. Copies from Development Tracker will be sent out to NPNA members.
- 10-storey 926 Pandora development proposal has been submitted to the City.
- To follow any development proposal, go to: victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/planning-development/development-tracker.html

Communications Update:

- North Park Village Festival was a success and fun was had by all.
- There is still a lot of NPNA swag available which will be sold at the AGM.

Community Spaces Update:

- Franklin Green Park gardening project grant funding is a 'go', pending City approval of use of park land. It will host native species, some edible plants, and a variety of herbs.

Good Neighbour Agreements:

Penny:

- Our Place/900 block Pandora- August 15
 - To help alleviate increased loitering in the summer, Our Place's computer room will be open 6:00 - 7:30 pm; Central Baptist is offering refreshments between 6 - 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, offering and engaging with street people - they are very busy
 - OD prevention pod use is improving; fewer people are injecting in the washrooms and the permanent SCS will not be ready until next summer. Our Place is seeking funding to keep the pod open until then.
 - Fentanyl levels at the OD prevention pod, following testing, were low.

- Johnson St. Community (JSC) - July 12
 - This was meant to be last full community meeting, with intention to change to smaller, less frequent format. Due to large attendance, that decision was reversed.
 - Residents are doing much better, but neighbours claim these changes are not translating to outside.
 - BC Housing is funding 24/7 security, including 700 block Johnson but agreed to slightly increase security patrols. VicPD patrols have been increased.
 - Following this meeting, Our Place hosted and facilitated a special meeting about security, on July 24.
 - Well-attended, much information was shared.
 - BC Housing agreed to slightly increase security company patrols.
- JSC - August 16
 - Decision to form sub-committee to deal with priority issues: security, buffering of 834 Johnson, improve appearance of JSC building. Next JSC meeting TBD, based on committee's work.
 - Members include BC Housing, Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM), 2 residents of 834 Johnson condo building
 - Discussion about recent court ruling that Portland Hotel Society (PHS) cannot restrict who visits JSC. PHS is confident of winning an appeal to maintain control over who comes and goes, based on guests' behaviour. Unable to discuss further as the appeal is in the hands of PHS' lawyer

Daniel:

- Island Health - 1119 Pembroke St
 - In 2016, AIDS Vancouver Island distributed 500 nolozone kits, but in 2017 they were distributing 600 a month.
 - Vic PD has sent a new representative to this meeting.
 - Camping in parks is on the decrease.

City Staff Report:

- Trees will be planted in NP village once it cools down.
- The work needed for the two crosswalks in the NP village is out for tender.
- Parking on Balmoral still in flux – 2 hours on the north side and 1 on the south side proposed by Victoria Transportation.

- City is undertaking a participatory budgeting process with \$50,000
- Hillside-Quadra neighbourhood walk was very successful, where the neighbourhood association walked around the neighbourhood with City staff identifying issues and challenges.
 - Could be organized in conjunction with LAP process.
- Block Connector Program, first used in Edmonton, was very successful in getting neighbourhoods to know each other.
 - The City will be offering \$1,000 for such initiatives as part of the Neighbourhood Grant Program.

City Council: No report available

Membership:

- 12 new individual members
- Two new business members (one transferred from contact list)
- Three new members on contact list

Place of Worship Update:

- FirstMet Church
 - Letter from FirstMet was sent today to Mike Hill, Coun. Jeremy Loveday, and Victoria Transportation staff to thank them for their work on recent parking change on 900 block Balmoral Rd.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Recorder: Chris Fleming

Next meeting: AGM - Wednesday, October 4, at 7 p.m., in Room 200 at FirstMet United Church, 932 Balmoral Rd.

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