

NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION
AGM Minutes — October 4, 2017

Present:

Board members: Jenny Farkas (President), Penny Bond (Secretary), Pam Hartling (Treasurer), Chris Fleming, Daniel Ferguson, Allison Ashcroft, Katie Fillion, Alastair McCollum

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Hélène Baudvin, Caroline Gisborne, Navid Bayat, Shirley Solberg, Robert Lewis, Darren Marr, Alex Kerr, Dawn Goodwin, Tristan Trotter

City Liaisons: Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Michael Hill (staff liaison)

Guests: Avery Stetski (Burnside Gorge Community Association), Coun. Charlayne Thornton-Joe, 2 others

Regrets: Jessie Rucker, Paul Noble, Anne Moon

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

Lekwungen Territorial Acknowledgement given.

Those present introduced themselves.

Presentation/Discussion: Local Area Plan Update Experience — Avery Stetski, President/Land Use Committee (LUC) Chair, Burnside Gorge Community Association

1. Burnside Gorge Community Association (BGCA) and the City of Victoria went through the Local Area Plan (LAP) process during 2015/16:
 - Initial information gathering
 - Committee of 12 was struck, including board, residents, businesses, First Nations representatives
 - This phase was more work than following events.
 - Forty events took place, including presentations, potluck discussions, input from “person on street” informal interviews
2. Input of all suggestions combined:
 - workshops
 - design charrettes
3. Presentation of draft plan:
 - Presented to neighbourhood
 - Feedback received; City staff listened and followed up on feedback
 - Neighbourhood happy with plan
 - Plan presented to City Council and approved
4. What Worked:
 - Some redundancies identified; their elimination will make future LAP updates more efficient.
 - City begins with Official Community Plan (OCP); neighbours comment on what works/doesn't work. City listens and follows up.

- Initially difficult to engage residents. Variety of opportunities was helpful:
 - Walking tours worked well.
 - Neighbours hosted small groups (8 - 10) in homes to talk, then reported back to neighbours and City. Sketching of plans helpful to visually develop ideas.
 - North Park is a more established neighbourhood than Burnside Gorge, therefore process should be easier.
 - There were conflicts between residents and businesses, mainly concerning transportation; consensus was reached.
 - “LAP update is not hard work — it’s fun”

5. What Didn’t Work:

- LAP update is not a forum for ranting about issues. Positive ideas are needed to mitigate problems.

6. Outcomes:

- LAP can be used to see how new development proposals fit in. Developers respond better than before, since LAP backs up neighbours’ concerns.
- There is pushback in Burnside Gorge against provincial programs re: housing issues. Serious issues become divisive.
 - It was noted that North Park has had more experience with poverty and housing issues.

7. Q & A Summary:

- The City actively guides the process by gathering and sorting all information.
- The initial BGCA 12-person committee decreased in number, but six remained throughout the process. The most feedback came from the BGCA board and LUC members.
- The City asked for volunteers, and a summary of their relevant experience, in considering appointments to the 12-person committee. BGCA was involved in choosing committee members. The committee included a sampling of everyone in the neighbourhood. Recruiting the committee took time and effort.
- In the engagement phase, at least two committee members were involved in each event. This amounted to one - two events per month for each committee member.
 - Coun. Loveday reported that the process has been tightened up in the Vic West LAP update currently in process. The number of events has been reduced to 35.
- Most helpful part of meetings was the way the City facilitated and helped people to visualize ideas.
- The city give background demographic information.
- Developers always try to push the envelope. It is easier now to be able to respond with what is said in the LAP guidelines. The City is supportive of this.
- Transportation issues will be instigated as the city gets to it. The LAP is a 25-year plan.

- There have been some immediate changes.
- Housing issues are causing concerns in various neighbourhoods. The LAP was created by residents. The provincial government is not required to pay attention to the LAP.
- Coun. Loveday stated that LAP implementation is tied in with all City departments; the plans are not meant to sit on the shelf. However, provincial government can override municipal rulings.
- There is not yet a time frame for zoning bylaw updates.

Agenda:

Motion: to adopt the agenda.

Chris Fleming/Robert Lewis/carried

Minutes:

1. Motion: to accept the recommendation of the 2016 AGM minutes review committee (Lorna Rennie & Daniel Ferguson) to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2016 AGM.

Chris Fleming/Robert Lewis/carried

2. Motion: to approve the September 6, 2017 minutes.

Pam Hartling/Shirley Solberg/carried

3. Chris Fleming and Daniel Ferguson were appointed as the 2017 AGM minutes review committee.

Election:

NPNA may elect up to 12 board members. There are seven vacancies for board positions, all for two-year terms.

1. Jenny Farkas, Chris Fleming, Katie Fillion, Allison Ashcroft, Alastair McCollum and Paul Noble are continuing their current terms.

2. Two incumbents, Daniel Ferguson and Pam Hartling, are running for re-election.

3. One nomination received for H  l  ne Baudvin, nominated by Chris Fleming/Pam Hartling.

4. One nomination received from the floor: Caroline Gisborne, nominated by Chris Fleming/Jenny Farkas. After three times of asking, nominations were declared closed.

5. Motion: that the above-listed nominees for election or re-election be acclaimed to the board.

Katie Fillion/Chris Fleming/carried

6. Thank you to Harold Stanley and Jem Engelmann who stepped down from the board earlier in the past year.

7. Jessie Rucker and Penny Bond are retiring from the board. They were thanked for their work as board members — Jessie for one year; Penny for eight years. Both will remain involved with NPNA in other ways.

Treasurer's Report

- See attached report.
- Main expenses over the past year, and ongoing, are related to the North Park Village enhancement project. Approximately \$6,000.00 is committed to next stages in this project.

Reports:

1. President — Jenny

- Our greatest opportunity and challenge: make sure all voices are heard, make sure we are working on issues/acting in ways that reflect the concerns/wishes of the neighbourhood.
- Milestones
 - City-wide level:
 - Second term chairing the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN)
 - Participated in Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) process to clarify roles and responsibilities
 - Same process about to begin on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Associations
 - “Made in North Park” guidelines for Cannabis Storefronts that aim to thin out density
 - Participated in many City engagement processes, including Visual Victoria, public realm wayfinding, public engagement road map, and Great Neighbourhood Ideas Fair (Neighbourhood dept. open house — learned about grants etc.)
 - Twitter following is up to 500 followers! Tweeting #we arenorth park
 - Urban village level:
 - Outreach to business community – starter package - decals
 - Festival located in the heart of our village – starter package — tshirts
 - New crosswalk and other street improvements triggered by repaving – trees to be planted later in Fall
 - Luke Ramsay, Victoria's artist-in-residence, collaboration on WIN/Logan's mural and hopefully more
 - Huge thank you to Fernwood subcommittee: Dorothy Field and Bill McKechnie, and so many helpful City staff, notably Mike Hill, Bronwyn Crowder, Joaquin Karakas and Luke Ramsay

- Great Neighbourhood Grant – Jessie Rucker and Shan Marcus – to create a small garden area in Franklin Green Park with native plants, pollinators, herbs and interpretive signage
- Around the neighbourhood level – snapshot of the kinds of things we are talking about:
 - CFUV Story Map – Penny shares her long history in this neighbourhood and reveals how her grandfather’s edginess came out in full force after a night of drinking! Chris shares his love of local hockey and local recreation facilities, and clearly establishes himself as the Royals’ next pick for play-by-play commentator. Listen at http://cfuv.uvic.ca/cms/?page_id=22177
 - Cannabis storefront rezoning process remains fairly murky – City now considering Temporary User Permits when they earlier said they wouldn’t. We will probably end up with three to four storefronts in North Park. So far one cannabis storefront rezoned – Vancouver Island Compassion Society (853 Cormorant St.)
 - Concerns expressed by neighbours and business owners about loitering, noise and garbage issues near shelters getting good response from security, management and City – plus great reporting out from Penny and Daniel re: Good Neighbour Agreement (GNA) meetings:
 - Our Place/900 Block Pandora Ave.;
 - Island Health Sobering/Detox/Stabilization/Recovery Centre, 1125 Pembroke St.;
 - Also attend meetings at Johnson Street Community (JSC), 844 Johnson St., due to proximity to North Park (no GNA in place).
 - Next Steps Transitional Shelter, 2317 Dowler Place, run by Cool Aid, has GNA but no meetings necessary.
 - Noise/dust/traffic near St. Andrews project – have asked City to routinely post contact information sign so residents can know where to report concerns
 - Noise at Royal Athletic Park (RAP)– this past year we have met with City staff and come up with suggestions to better manage noise concerns. City agreed to pilot broader sound monitoring this year and we are still waiting for a response from our other suggestions; same request as above re: signage.
 - Anyone may report concerns to eventfeedback@victoria.ca.
 - Daniel, Chris and Pam are continuing to work on this issue.
- What’s Next?
 - LAP update, which will include an urban village revitalization plan.
 - Working with City and neighbourhood on new Crystal Pool and Central Park redesign.
 - Capacity building: Fall retreat and upcoming workshops/training offered by City ranging from board roles/responsibilities to member recruitment to heritage preservation.

2. Land Use Committee (LUC) — Pam

- LUC has a special role, sanctioned by the City, to:
 - Act as a volunteer branch of the City's development review process, bringing developers and community members together to discuss potential re-zoning applications and how they might impact the neighbourhood. This is a required step for developers; they cannot proceed without it.
- LUC also:
 - acts as a resource to developers who want to learn about the neighbourhood and what we would like to see.
 - liaises with the City, NPNA board, and the neighbourhood about land use policy.
- This was a very busy year. We held Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) meetings for four properties with active re-zoning applications:
 - 1046 North Park St (Island Health) — 5-storey residential project;
 - 919 Caledonia Ave. (Novus Properties) — 4-storey rental apartment building;
 - 926 Pandora Ave. (Kand & Gill) — 10-storey mixed-use building; and
 - 953 Balmoral Rd. (Method Built Homes) — 4-storey rental building.
- We have had some challenges working with developers and the community in this role. Our LAP is out-of-date, due to be updated in 2018. The OCP identifies much of North Park south of Pembroke St. as "urban residential" with a maximum height of 6-storeys. Given this development climate, we are seeing a lot of interest in maxing out on height. Overall, there is a balance between new investment in the community which is really important, and ensuring we get high quality, well-designed developments that are of an appropriate scale and will enhance the quality and livability of North Park. Continued interest from the development community is expected in the next year, and a chance for North Park to work on the new LAP, and provide better detail to the policies of the OCP so that it fits with what we want to see in our community.
- In answer to a question, there has been no further information about 919 Caledonia Ave. since the CALUC meeting.

3. Communications/Outreach — Katie

- North Park festival was a big success. Thank you to Chris and Alex for their help in organizing.
- NPNA has 500 Twitter followers, and 158 Instagram followers. Anyone may send pictures to npna@npna.ca for Katie to use on Twitter and Instagram.

4. Community Spaces — Katie, for Jessie

- Although she has stepped down from the board, Jessie will remain on the committee.

- Community garden pilot project in Franklin Green received approval for City grant funding. It will soon go to City Council to request permission to proceed on public land.
- More committee members and/or volunteers for Community Spaces projects are needed. Contact npna@npna.ca if interested.

5. GNA Meetings

- Island Health — Daniel
 - Many services available: sobering centre, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team, some temporary housing, Island Health services
 - Programs: Urgent issue team to help move people through the process quickly
 - Application to federal government for permanent supervised Consumption services (SCS) has been approved. SCS will not be ready until summer of 2018.
 - Next GNA meeting is later this month.
- 900 Block Pandora/Our Place — Penny
 - Past year has been difficult for Our Place because homelessness, housing and drug overdose crises have dominated everything else. However, they have carried on with established programs and introduced several new ones.
 - Highlights:
 - Operating shelters at My Place (Yates St.) - closed end of May/17 with all residents housed; Choices (View Royal) - in process of closing with all residents being housed; FirstMet Church (NP) continuing (60 mats)
 - Working with BC Housing on a proposal to convert Choices shelter location to a therapeutic community, as a closed site, abstinence-based.
 - Opening of overdose prevention POD in December, 2016, initially with 2 booths, increased to 3 in March/17. As use has steadily increased, additional expansion is pending. Working with Island Health to keep the POD open until permanent SCS is ready in 2018. Operates 6:30 am - 8:00 pm daily.
 - Increased outreach staff presence on the 900 block, to try to decrease loitering, encourage respect for neighbours, and invite people inside where they can take advantage of services.
 - Working with private security company to increase security presence, needle sweeps and garbage pick-up on the streets around Our Place and JSC. Security jointly funded by Island Health and BC Housing.
 - Provided a polling station for BC election.
 - Employment program pilot project will begin this month (Oct/17). It is for people with multiple barriers to employment, and includes finding people's skills, providing life skills and job training, proceeding to pre-employment, then employment, partnering with colleges and other organizations. Our Place will offer support to both employers and employees.
 - Additional medical staff (2 MDs, additional nurse) engaged.

- Eight participants in Moss Street Paint-In
- A national agency that studies public documents to rate charities picked up Our Place and gave it a 4-star (highest) rating.
- JSC (844 Johnson St.) — Penny
 - Majority of tent city residents were housed at JSC. Because of court injunction, the move had to take place before building renovations had been completed. This caused some initial problems which now have been resolved.
 - Community Advisory Committee meetings initiated September/16, open to all stake-holders, initially every 2 weeks, reduced to monthly after November. Recently, frequency of meetings has been erratic. At August 16 meeting a sub-committee was formed to deal with priority issues: security, buffering of 834 Johnson (next-door condo building), improve appearance of 844 Johnson (window coverings); members include BC Housing, VCM, 2 residents of 834 Johnson. Next full committee meeting will be determined by results of sub-committee.
 - Full-time nurses on site, MD one day/week; POD opened on site, for residents only
 - Portland Hotel Society (PHS) reports many improvements in the condition of residents; change takes time but progress has been faster than anticipated.
 - Residential and business neighbours still report many concerns about safety/security, loitering by non-residents, appearance of the building exterior. PHS is working on these concerns.
 - Security patrols have been increased to 24/7, funded by BC Housing.
 - PHS is confident of winning a court appeal to maintain control over who comes and goes, based on guests' behaviour.

6. City of Victoria

- Council — Coun. Jeremy Loveday
 - Thank you all for being at the AGM and being active in North Park. The City “starts in small rooms like this”.
 - Jeremy will continue next year as the council liaison for North Park.
 - There has been a lot of change in North Park with the village enhancement.
 - Arrival of crosswalk materials was delayed by hurricanes in the USA. They now have been installed.
 - Union of BC Municipalities convention was last week, with significant presence of government ministers.
 - Victoria resolutions endorsed:
 - Encouraging the Use of Using Residential Property for Housing
 - Restoration of Land Value Tax
 - Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency Retrofits
 - National Strategy for Abandoned Vessels

- Optimizing Community Benefits of Forest Resources
- Provincial Share of Infrastructure Spending
- On October 18 there will be discussion of the future of plastic bags in Victoria. Anyone may attend or email their opinions.
- My Great Neighbourhood Grant applications are being received.
- Participatory budgeting deadline was extended to October 7.
- Thank you to Coun. Thornton-Joe for attending this meeting.
- Q & A Summary
 - Oak Bay's resolution on financial reform at UBCM was endorsed after wording was amended.
 - Progress to action on UBCM resolutions is about a two-month process. Some are deemed urgent and receive priority. Resolutions go to the province, then provincial responses go to all municipalities.
 - Short term vacation rental regulations come in two pieces:
 - Regulation framework — owners cannot rent out whole units (i.e. principal residence)
 - Zoning change to building so that it is no longer permitted to rent out. If it currently is being rented, the City cannot stop this, so it would be grandfathered in. The owner still would be required to get a business licence.
 - Discussions are underway on having owners pay business tax rates.
 - Coun. Thornton-Joe commented that people thought the City was taking a right away from them. It had to be made clear that they never had that right.
 - Pam thanked the City for “getting it right” about affordable housing.
- Staff — Michael Hill
 - See attached North Park October 2017 Update.
 - Mike will continue next year as the staff liaison for North Park.
 - Traffic calming measures are coming along.
 - Action in response to noise concerns at construction sites is coming.
 - Work on NPNA's LAP update will take place next year.
 - Progress is being made with community associations' terms of reference. These terms will be helpful to the City on how to support neighbourhoods.
- In response to a question, currently Jocelyn Jenkyns is interim City Manager, following the departure of Jason Johnson. The plan is to hold a search for a City Manager.

7. VCAN — Chris

- VCAN had a very productive year and now has changed from bi-monthly to monthly meetings, maintaining the same forum:
 - City Council members may attend the first portion of the meeting.
 - Neighbourhood round-table discussions take place in the second part.
- NPNA is continuing to chair VCAN for the next year.

- Up to four people per community association may attend. Contact Chris at npna@npna.ca if you wish to attend.
- Over the next year there will be some liaison with Saanich Community Associations Network (SCAN). Eventually there may be a Greater Victoria network.
- Community Associations MOU on terms of reference process will take place outside of VCAN.

8. Membership — Penny

- New registrations since 2016 AGM:
 - Individual: 14
 - Business: 2 (1 transferred from contact list)
 - Non-registered contact list: 23 (1 transferred from business member list, 1 from individual member list)
 - Current Totals: Individual — 112; Business — 73; Contact List — 31
- Removed:
 - Individual: 6
 - Business: 3
 - Contact list 4
- Lost Contact: 1 (Sands Funeral Chapel)

9. Place of Worship Updates

- St. John the Divine Anglican Church — no report available
- First Metropolitan United Church — Penny
 - FirstMet is in transition after the recent retirements of four ministerial and program staff members, and a key support staff retirement pending. It was decided that an interim transitional minister, with special training on guiding congregations through transitions, be appointed. The Rev. Ivy Thomas began the second year of her two-year appointment in September.
 - Two focus group meetings were held about building community both within the church and in the larger community. It was a good opportunity to promote North Park. There seems to be a shift in attitude towards being more engaged with local community. Al Fowler, from this group, volunteered to work with Penny on NPNA/FirstMet engagement. He has been invited to the November NPNA meeting so he can be introduced.
 - Re-introduction of community programs that recently discontinued (music and movies). For information, go to www.firstmetvictoria.com/events.
- Following a reduction of parking limits on 900 block Balmoral Rd. a request to revert this change was sent to the City by a FirstMet ad hoc committee. As a result, based on documentation from the committee, parking on the north side of Balmoral has been reverted to 2-hours while the south side will remain at the new 1-hour limit.

- FirstMet and neighbouring organizations (InterCultural Association, Pacific Opera, St. John the Divine) are pleased with the City's quick response and are satisfied with this compromise solution.
- An update on the future of the FirstMet Church hall was deferred until next month's NPNA meeting.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

1. NPNA Constitution and Bylaws Revision — Chris

- NPNA was not in compliance with BC Societies Registry because its Bylaws were also being used as a Constitution. A separate constitution is required.
- A new document, titled *North Park Neighbourhood Association Constitution* was presented (see attachment). Its main objective is to serve as a mission statement.

Motion: to accept the NPNA Constitution as presented.

Pam Hartling/Alex Kerr/carried

- Proposed revisions to the NPNA Bylaws (see attachment):
 - 1.2.1 Change to membership requirements (including elimination of membership fee)
 - 2.1.2.6 Updated description of Land Use Sub-committee
 - 2.2 Updated board meeting frequency requirements
 - 3.1.1 Revision of board member nomination requirements

Motion: to approve the revisions to the NPNA Bylaws as presented.

Pam Hartling/Alex Kerr/carried

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Motion: Pam Hartling/Chris Fleming

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 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 is an NPNA member in good standing may vote at our public meetings. *A member in good standing is defined as an individual or business who has registered and been a member for over 60 days (dated at the reception of registration), and not be under any sanctions of the board.*

