



North Park Neighbourhood Association  
Public Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 19, 2019

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Board members – Jenny, Mel, Katie, Sean
Individual/business members – Katie Swanson, Darren Marr, Tristan Trotter, Deirdre Grotto, Allan Gallupe, Eryn Sylvester, Dawn Wilson, Charles Joerin, Robert Lewis, Shirley Solberg, Alex Kerr, Penny Bond, Anne Moon
City liaisons/ reps – Councillor S. Dubow, Councillor M. Alto
Guests – Neil, Victoria Curling Club
Regrets – Mike Hill, City Staff Liaison
<b>AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL</b>
Amendments: none Motion: 1. Katie Swanson 2. Katie Fillion
<b>PRESENTATION(S)</b>
<b>Victoria Curling Club</b> (Neil) – update. The Club will be the new home of the UVic Curling Club, which is a varsity sport in western Canada. It will host all levels from youth development to post-secondary. The Salvation Army will be bringing in their clients, free of charge. Fridays the Club is trying to find a time for free community ice time. We provide helmets and equipment and you can use your normal shoes – we have slip-ons.  We’re renovating our lounge, but the coffee shop is open during the day and the Polish deli sells their products there. The NPNA is welcome to use the facility any time. The basement room will be renovated to become a nicer meeting room and will be open to anyone. Curling starts again in September – everyone is welcome.  <b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could become a great space for the community. Have you ever considered an elevator for greater accessibility?</li> <li>• We hope you don’t lose too much of the Legion feel – that’s what cool.</li> <li>• M. Alto – Suggest looking into the Rick Hansen Foundation. They will do an assessment and make different recommendations for accessibility.</li> </ul> <b>CRD Environmental Ambassador program, Environmental Protection division</b> (Brooklyn and Sabrina) A climate emergency has been declared. Everyone needs to participate in adapting to the changing climate and creating a more sustainable community together. Change begins in our

homes and communities. We want to foster environmental stewardship, and engage with residents of North Park.

A few tips (more tips in their presentation, which will be shared via link next month):

- Water conservations: check for leaks, install low-flow toilets, practice efficient lawn watering.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaners to reduce contamination entering waterways.
- Use the car less: walk or cycle more.
- Install high-efficiency appliances. Some rebates are available.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle.

### **Discussion**

#### **Are recycling posters available for apartment buildings?**

- Apartments contract their own recycling businesses at the moment but we are working on a consistent program –Recycle BC has some resources that can be printed.
- One of the goals of the City of Victoria Strategic Plan is to develop neighbourhood programs – it may be worthwhile to reach out to the City regarding collaboration possibilities.
- It might be useful to start with a neighbourhood organization such as the Curling Club to pilot a zero-waste initiative.
- It would be great if green bins would take yard waste, especially for people without cars.

### **LAST MEETING'S MINUTES AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL**

Approval of minutes from Feb. 13, 2019 and May 15, 2019

Motion: First - Katie F.      Second - Penny

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Details: Current balance of \$25, 744.

Motion: First - Sean      Second – Penny

### **REPORTS**

#### **President's remarks:**

Many recent meetings have been land use meetings, so we have not always been circulating those minutes. We will incorporate them into e-news going forward. [CALUC meetings from the last six meetings were circulated for review.]

Many thanks to our councillor liaisons Dubow and Alto. You took our equity and affordability motion for the Crystal Pool and succeeded in applying it to everything. We're so lucky and grateful to have both of you. Crystal Pool is now a test of how the City can apply an equity and affordability lens. We are sending the message that we want to collaborate and help keep things moving forward.

### **Discussion**

- It's amazing what you've been doing – thank you so much. It was very moving.

- This was the first time I've wept tears of joy at a Council meeting, and I thank Council very much.
- The element of education of staff is very important, and I thank you for bringing that forward.
- Councillor Alto – It's premature to speak about particular locations for the new pool. The most important consideration was the approval of the equity lens to all City decisions, and the City manager has been directed to embed the equity principles across the board. There is also a direction that there be no loss of green space in the neighbouring area. There will be a lot of review and application of these standards. The Crystal Pool is a perfect opportunity to try something spectacular and I think the outcome will be better than anyone hoped.
- Councillor Dubow – I was really grateful that North Park leadership came together and pushed for this – I genuinely believe that it will benefit everyone in the City. The question is how we can translate it for everyone. Our Strategic Plan had good intentions but not a framework for equity. I look forward to building the narrative and communicating better.
- Jenny Farkas – We have connected City Staff with Victoria Barr, an expert in equity frameworks and social determinants of health. She is willing to give a presentation to Council/Staff.
- Everyone will benefit from proper extensive engagement.
- It's very energizing and exciting to feel hopeful again.
- One of the challenges is that we'll have to go to a referendum. We can help the City engage the residents and need to start pushing in the same direction. We want this project to be a success. The engagement is so important.
- Have staff been directed to apply the equity lens to the existing structure? Will the City take a look at the Curling Club?
- Accessibility is very important – the Crystal needs to be 100% accessible. Surely it wouldn't be that difficult to make the existing building accessible.
- C. Dubow – We will be looking at whether existing bylaws ask the right questions with respect to equity and affordability.
- Planning staff have not been involved to date and should be.

**Pandora Design Charette**

- On June 25 there will be a design charrette for the 900-block of Pandora, to imagine how to make the street work better. We suggest that it be declared a Special Improvement Area, which would mean that land use planning would take place first in this area, and others with the most burdens. This could also be a pilot of the equity and affordability lens.

**Land Use**

- 919/923 Caledonia development: the public hearing coming up. Check the City Development Tracker for all developments in North Park.

**Communications & Outreach**

- Follow the NPNA on Twitter and Instagram @wearenorthpark #wearenorthpark

- Saturday, June 22 is the final day of garden planting at Franklin Green Park. The garden will be expanded to about double the size.

### **Placemaking & Public Art**

- Considering a banner contest for the remaining banner poles in North Park village.

### **Events**

- NPNA is considering a fall event involving curling.
- June 20: World Refugee Day and Flag Raising
- June 21-23 Indigenous Cultural Festival
- June 28 – beginning of Pride Week and flag raising. Parade July 8.

### **Good Neighbour Meetings (report from Penny Bond)**

- Our Place has done some re-structuring:
  - CEO Don Evans and former site manager Le-Ann Dolan moved their offices to the View Royal treatment facility (Le-Ann now is intake coordinator; will be in charge of women's treatment program when it opens).
  - Linda McLean has been promoted to COO; she and Jordan Cooper, Outreach Manager, now run the 900 Block community meetings.
  - Hero works is doing renovations at the View Royal site (see Times Colonist article, June 16, page A3): <https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/volunteer-crews-transform-former-youth-jail-into-healing-home-1.23857416>
- There is a new contract funded by First Nations Health Authority for an Aboriginal Outreach Worker, Bernice Kamano, for all of Victoria. Bernice has done this work for many years, but this funding is a first-time contract for off-reserve outreach. Bernice's employer is Portland Hotel Society.
- The Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) has about 166 visits daily; some are repeat visits. They have 1,000 people on their registry. They have prevented many ODs; some referrals have been made to detox. They do not have authority within the facility to serve inhalant drug users, who are often out on the boulevard; however, they have treated those who have OD'd outside. Paramedics' hours have been extended to full time of SCS open hours.
- In May, the second meeting of City of Victoria, Island Health, BC Housing, 900 Block, Johnson St. Community (JSC) was held. There was miscommunication about the invitation; therefore few neighbours were present (NPNA among those not notified). This is being remedied for the next quarterly meeting. Update from May meeting:
  - Extended funding for two VicPD special patrol officers to the end of 2019
  - More clean-up, needle pick-up is being considered
  - Looking at installation of public washroom in 900 Block area
- A Bosa Developments representative now attends 900 Block meetings, re: 1008 Pandora (St. Andrew's site) project. Since fences have been removed around the construction area there has been unwelcome activity on site, including chattels left on property, and an assault. More Franklin Green camping has been noted.
- Development proposal for 11-storey mixed condo, rental, commercial project at 926 - 932 Pandora Ave. (Speedy Auto site) was sent back to the drawing board by mayor and council. Concern was that little public support had been received; engagement with

<p>neighbours was insufficient (NPNA CALUC on 13 June, 2017); and plan did not include enough affordable units.</p>
<p><b>City of Victoria – Council Liaison</b> Comments integrated into notes above.</p>
<p><b>City of Victoria – Staff Liaison</b> [LINK: City update for June can be found here: <a href="http://npna.ca/about/docs">npna.ca/about/docs</a> There has been discussion of a density bonus for new developments at recent City meetings: more consultation is required with community. Please check the City website for more information. More info here: <a href="https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/housing/housing-strategy.html">https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/housing/housing-strategy.html</a></p>
<p><b>VCAN – Victoria Community Association Network</b> VCAN recently sent a letter to Council urging them to stop making amendments to the OCP. Go to this link to read the fantastic speech delivered by the Chair of the Land Use Committee for the Downtown Residents Association, on behalf of VCAN: <a href="http://npna.ca/about/docs">npna.ca/about/docs</a></p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are approximately 400 emails linked to the NPNA e-news.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Place of Worship Updates (report from Penny Bond)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon began a one-year contract at FirstMet United Church as pulpit supply minister in September 2018. She now is permanent lead minister.</li> <li>• FirstMet is accepting that it cannot still be considered a big church, but is a medium-sized congregation in a distinct neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Re-development plans for the church hall and heritage building are continuing but the process has been slow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jenny and Penny met with the redevelopment team in December 2018.</li> <li>○ Update to congregation on June 16, 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal is for approximately 90 units of affordable rental housing in six storeys, to replace the current church hall. Renovation/restoration work will be done on the heritage part of the church buildings, including initially ensuring the heritage building will withstand the adjacent demolition of the hall and new construction.</li> <li>- BC Housing has approved the proposal. Before approving a large funding request from FirstMet, BC Housing funded a re-visit to a previous assessment of the buildings, to test FirstMet’s assumptions about both the building condition and the future use of the heritage building. Results showed a lower cost than indicated by the prior assessment.</li> <li>- There has been a change in architect. VIA Architecture (the original architect) will be retained for some aspects; SHAPE Architecture will now take on newer work. Both are Vancouver companies, hired by Pacific Mountain Division of United Church of Canada.</li> <li>- More engagement with the neighbourhood will take place.</li> <li>- The hope is that re-zoning will be approved and construction work can begin by the end of 2020. Estimated construction time is 1.5 years.</li> <li>- Work will take place in two stages: aspects of heritage restoration, plus new construction, approximately two years; ongoing heritage work over 10 – 15 years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>
None.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>
Our Place's 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be July 28 from 1-4 p.m. It will be family-friendly with games and activities, a BBQ and tours of Our Place. NPNA is welcome to host a table.
<b>MEETING ADJOURN TIME</b>
9:15 p.m.
<b>THIS WEEK'S MINUTE TAKER</b>
Mel Groves
<b>NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION</b>
Date & Time: TBD Location: