



North Park Neighbourhood Association
Public Meeting Minutes

DATE: Feb. 13, 2019

ATTENDANCE
Board members – Allison Ashcroft, Jenny Farkas, Mel Groves, Sean Kahil
Individual members – Todd Doherty, Deirdre Gotto, Megan Squires, Penny Bond, Lorna Rennie, Arleta Keppler, Katie Swanson, Allan Gallupe, Joy Kirstin
Business members – N/A
City liaisons/ reps – None.
Guests – None.
Regrets – Alastair McCollum, Katie Fillion
AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL
Amendments: None. Motion: First – Sean Kahil Second – Katie Swanson
PRESENTATION(S)
None.
TREASURER’S REPORT
Details: The current balance in the NPNA account is \$15,851.32. 2019 recent income: \$250 from City of Victoria to reimburse December CALUC meeting expenses. Expenditures: \$850 for annual directors’ and officers’ liability insurance; \$300 for notetaking at 2018 CALUC meetings (3 x \$100 per meeting). NPNA received grants to enhance Franklin Green park, as well as to create murals in the village. These grants have not yet been expended and the current account balance is left over from these and other grants. Motion: First - Todd Doherty Second – Penny Bond
REPORTS
President We now have two Council liaisons, Shamarke Dubow and Marianne Alto, following our request to have an experienced representative in light of the upcoming Crystal Pool/Central Park land use matter. Marianne has offered to help and also mentor Shamarke. They’ll attend the next public meeting, the third Wednesday of the month, on Mar. 20. NPNA board members met with the new council liaisons on Jan. 20. It’s unclear how NPNA will be involved with Crystal Pool process, and we’ve asked for an update. We also asked that our Local Area Plan process be accelerated so that it is completed in conjunction with the Crystal Pool project. We expressed concern that the City is not following its own processes around large land development processes.

We've asked the City to include in their strategic plan a Neighbourhood Summit. A VCAN subcommittee will meet soon to start conversation regarding the current and optimal structure of neighbourhood associations.

Councillors Alto and Dubow are interested in doing a tour of North Park, to help orient them to the neighbourhood. We will set up a date for that in the next few weeks.

Land Use

The City is giving neighbourhoods speed readers. Most people in North Park have expressed interest for a speed-reader on Cook Street around George Jay Elementary, where there is a dangerous marked crossing at Princess Avenue. The George Jay PAC is also working actively on this issue.

The NPNA has asked that we be at the table for the Mayors' Task Force on Pandora. The City is considering putting a public washroom in the 900-block. This idea may be a land use planning issue, and could benefit from a public input process.

Good Neighbour Meetings – Penny Bond

This is a monthly meeting regarding the 900-block of Pandora Avenue that anyone can attend. The number of residents who attend has been diminishing because they're frustrated. Several businesses have closed in the area.

City of Victoria – Council Liaison

No report. President's comment: Mike Hill is at the Fernwood Neighbourhood Association meeting tonight. Mike is a great liaison for North Park. His objective is that every City block has the same level of safety.

VCAN – Victoria Community Association Network

VCAN has created a new subcommittee on City land use development processes, especially public engagement standards. This has occurred because existing City land use policies and processes are not being followed for large developments.

VCAN is looking at systems and process failures between neighbourhood associations and the City. The higher-level conversation is about equitable distribution of burdens and benefits (e.g. community centres, green space) in the City. Downtown, Harris Green, North Park and Hillside Quadra can collaborate on joint issues as we are underrepresented and underserved. The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods strategy is a good example and Allison will share it.

Comments

- Central Park deserves to have fountains and basic amenities as in other parks.
- We need to align ourselves with others to figure out how to address the problem on Pandora Avenue – we need to have input.

Membership

There are 171 people on the NPNA interest list. We are advocating for the City to assist with mailing lists for North Park residents.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a rally Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Kings Rd. The rally is to support the recommendation that Blanshard Elementary be purchased by the City for use as neighbourhood green space and community centre space. Al G. will write a letter of support for purchasing the property that the NPNA can sign. The property is currently owned by CRD, who have plans for an affordable housing/mental health facility but no green space or amenities for the community.

Discussion took place around the possibility of using the existing Crystal Pool building for community use (e.g. library, daycare) after the recreation facilities have been relocated to a new space. There is a need for community land to be used for community purposes. Through a proper and consultative process, the neighbourhood can influence the priorities and uses for this space.

MEETING ADJOURN TIME

9:15 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MINUTE TAKER

Mel Groves

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

Date & Time: Mar. 20, 7 p.m.

Location: Victoria Curling Club