



North Park Neighbourhood Association
Public Meeting Minutes

DATE: Nov. 20, 2019 Annual General Meeting
LOCATION: Community Room, Save-On-Foods Memorial Arena

ATTENDANCE
Board members Present: Katie Fillion, Allison Ashcroft, Jenny Farkas, Mel Groves, Sean Kahil Regrets: Alastair McCollum, Carolyn Gisborne
About 40 people representing residents, local businesses and non-residents. Scanned version of sign-in sheets stored in NPNA’s Google Drive account.
City liaisons/regs – Regrets from Councillors Dubow and Alto and Staff Liaison Mike Hill.
Guests – Marc Cittone and Lauren Klose, City of Victoria
OPENING REMARKS – Acting President Jenny Farkas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Territorial acknowledgement, welcome & introductions• All documents and minutes are available at npna.ca
AGENDA APPROVAL
Motion to approve: (first) Shelia Potter (second) Robert Lewis
PRESENTATION – Marc Cittone and Lauren Klose, City of Victoria
Local Area Plan update process and nomination to LAP working group The new LAP update plan will focus on urban villages, town centres and frequent transit and mobility corridors. The goal of the LAP process is to have complete, connected and low-carbon communities. There is interest in bringing equity to the process and the product. North Park will work collaboratively with Hillside-Quadra and Fernwood on this planning exercise, and all three neighbourhoods will be asked to nominate people to sit on the LAP working group. The NPNA will receive a \$10,000 City grant as one of early neighbourhoods to go through the LAP process, to build capacity and increase the diversity of voices. The role of Working Group members is to liaise, advise and check in, presenting diverse community viewpoints. It is not a decision-making body. Is it an advocacy group? No, the purpose of the group is more to understand the challenges the community is facing, and how to make the neighbourhood better. It’s confusing for the average person to figure out what is part of the OCP or the LAP, and where there are overlaps or gaps. Can we bring clarity? How will people in the group effect

change?

Tools like design workshops will help to move from general principles to more specific details that are relevant to the neighbourhood.

Will this become a guide for staff members of the City?

We'll be adopting design guidelines, updating zoning guidelines, updating the OCP, and talking about North Park amenities as part of this process.

Other comments

- It's necessary to offer land use planning 101 at meetings to upgrade the neighbourhood's collective literacy. It would be great if you could bring excellent examples to us from other areas.
- Will be looking at the OCP and other City strategies and looking at how to apply it to local level.
- In order for people to be interested, they have to know that this will have real value – we have to battle against engagement fatigue.

LAST MEETING'S MINUTES/APPROVAL

MOTION to accept minutes of last AGM – Oct. 3, 2018.

(first) Katie Fillion

(second) Sean Kahil

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Board roles referenced in the NPNA bylaws have been updated to accommodate the option of having paid staff in the future. The Land Use Chair will remain as a named position. Changes have also been made to the ways Board members can be nominated.

Bylaw amendments were circulated.

MOTION to approve bylaw amendments, with additional adjustment to sections 4 and 5 as below:

4. Has given prior written consent for their name to be brought forward.

5. Has been nominated prior to the AGM, or from the floor of the AGM by two active members.

(first) Sean Kahil

(second) Al Gallupe

TREASURER'S REPORT

Available online at www.npna.ca/about/docs

MOTION to accept report.

(first) Katie Swanson

(second) Katie Fillion

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ADMIN SUPPORT

NPNA is appealing to City Council to provide greater funding support to our neighbourhood association. Presently we receive a base grant of \$0.75 (75 cents) per resident, or approximately \$2,700 per year. Other neighbourhoods with community centres (CAs) receive a base grant of

\$75,000, or 30 times more than us, and this inequity has been in place for years and even decades.

The impact of this funding imbalance is huge. Neighbourhoods with CAs can hire executive directors, admin assistants and community development coordinators to do all of the work presently accomplished by our volunteer Board. They can organize weekly community dinners and events where neighbours get to know each other, they can build links between organizations providing services within the neighbourhoods in order to improve programming and service delivery, and overall they activate community and foster connectivity and resilience. And where issues and concerns arise, residents and others get quick and informed attention and support.

While we are waiting for a final decision on our funding request (budget approval is early 2020), we propose hiring the help we need now to starting building capacity and connectivity in our neighbourhood. The total cost of this proposal is \$30,000 to be covered by funding currently in our reserve or new funding coming shortly for 'pre-Local Area Plan update' efforts.

Proposed positions

Community Development Coordinator – 8 days per month (2 days per week or 60 hours per month), 1-year term = \$22,000 paid for using \$7,500 from existing funds from our general reserve, \$2,500 of the \$10,000 pre-Local Area Planning' grant, and \$10,000 assigned to the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grant position. Duties will include facilitating community animation by identifying and nurturing opportunities for volunteerism and other forms of engagement, securing funding for relevant programs and activities, and fostering linkages and partnerships amongst members, businesses and non-profit organizations interested in improving the livability of our neighbourhood, and supporting objectives such as well-being, empowerment, resilience and connectivity.

Land Use Planning Advisor: 3 days per month (20 hours per month), 1-year term = \$7,500 – paid for using the remaining new funding earmarked for 'pre-Local Area Planning' work. Duties will include conducting research and providing the NPNA Board and members with detailed reports and analyses of impacts of land use decisions and proposals, and attending land use and other meetings (e.g. VCAN) at the request of the Board.

Admin assistant: 1 day per month (5 hours per month), 1-year term = \$2,500 – paid for using existing funds in our general reserve. Duties will include booking meetings and meeting spaces, taking minutes, updating the website, bookkeeping and other related administrative duties as identified by the Board from time to time.

We are preparing a motion to ask the City to approve 2020/2021 base funding for our neighbourhood association in the amount of \$37,500, or half (50%) of the amount of \$75,000 received by neighbourhoods with community centres.

Other comments:

- NAs with community centres receive \$75,000 for staffing.
- Perhaps not enough hours have been assigned to the admin assistant.
- These positions are much needed to provide support to the Board.
- The positions need office space so that meetings are possible.
- The jobs will evolve over time and the job descriptions can be adjusted.

- It is frustrating that because North Park has no community centre we can't have staff.
- Funding neighbourhoods by a per capita grant is a flawed process. Neighbourhoods get the same per capita regardless of the amount of change, development or social ills in the neighbourhood. An equity lens needs to be applied.

MOTION to hire Community Development Coordinator, Land Use Planning Advisor and Admin Assistant, as per the job descriptions above:

(first) Sue Hallatt
(second) Allison Ashcroft

BOARD ELECTIONS

Eight (8) board positions were available to be filled. Each of these positions is for a two-year term.

Incumbent running for re-election:

- Carolyn Gisborne, senior planning analyst, BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

New active member nominations:

- Al Gallupe, retired labour relations officer; former NPNA Board member and Land Use Committee (LUC) member
- Harold Stanley, retired land use planner; former NPNA Board member and LUC member

MOTION to elect Carolyn, Al and Harold to the Board.

(first) [Penny Bond]
(second) [Sue Hallatt]

Note: The following Board members will remain on the Board as they are mid-way through their two-year term:

- Allison Ashcroft, managing director, Canadian Urban Sustainability Professionals network
- Katie Fillion, marketing and communication specialist, BC Ministry of Finance
- Mel Groves, communications officer, University of Victoria
- Sean Kahil, project manager and senior software developer
- Alastair McCollum, incumbent, St. John the Divine Church

Retiring board members:

- Jenny Farkas

The Board and members thanked Jenny Farkas for her many years of dedicated and inspired leadership and service in support of the North Park neighbourhood.

REPORTS

Good Neighbour Meetings/900 Block Pandora – Penny Bond

This has been an extremely challenging year for Our Place, neighbouring agencies and businesses, and residents as there has been an increase both in street activity on the 900 block and in aggressive behaviours.

Our Place is working closely with VicPD and Bylaw to keep activities under control.

BC Housing funded a special patrol of two VicPD officers, beginning approximately one year ago, initially focused on 800 and 900 Blocks of Johnson St. and more recently with increased focus on 900 Block Pandora. Funding for this patrol was extended by six months until the end of December 2019. Patrol timing was changed from daytime to 8 p.m. - midnight, when street activity tends to increase. There is zero tolerance for boulevard camping. Campers are being re-located to Topaz and Beacon Hill parks, where overnight camping is permitted; a shuttle service transports campers to those locations. Similar measures are being considered for the 1000 Block.

'The Harbour' Supervised Consumption Site has been open for 18 months. It offers safe consumption for injection drug users, but Island Health is not legally permitted to include an inhalant site. Many people who congregate on the boulevard are inhalant users, who have chosen that location because they feel safer there, knowing that if they overdose, someone from The Harbour can come outside and help them. There are over 1,000 people registered with The Harbour, with about 160 consumption visits daily; some are repeat visits. There are about 300 visits daily for harm reduction supplies. The Harbour has taken steps to make changes to its exterior to discourage people from congregating on the sidewalk. Currently, renovations are being done to its inside entrance to improve control and flow at the site. Efforts are being made by both Our Place and The Harbour to engage with people who hang out on the street to encourage them to come inside and make use of their services.

Our Place is working to keep the block cleaned up, with garbage and needle pick-up as necessary, and twice daily sidewalk washing. The former overdose prevention 'POD' in the courtyard has been converted to a secure, supervised storage area for people's belongings. It is always full, with some turnover. A Senior's Program has been added within the past year, as greater numbers of seniors have been coming to Our Place. The shelter at FirstMet Church continues to be full every night, with a waiting list of over 30. In October, a 35-mat shelter was opened in the basement at Our Place; this space, formerly used only as a shelter under Extreme Weather Protocol conditions now is open nightly and always full. In addition, Our Place is managing 15 spaces at the Yates St. location near the firehall. Several administrative staff members have moved their offices from Pandora Ave. to the View Royal residential recovery treatment centre location. The Next Steps to Employment program, in North Park at 1625 Quadra St., has been running for 18 months and a number of its graduates now are employed. There are many potential employers interested in hiring Next Steps graduates.

There is an engaged task force, including VicPD, Island Health and other agencies with the aim of identifying the chronically homeless associated with the 900 Block and to make sure that services are in place for them. Approximately 55 people are identified. The lead person on a case can be VicPD, 1 mental health worker, social worker or whoever is most appropriate.

There was a large turnout for the design charrette on the 900 Block in June. Many comments, both positive and negative, were received. Comments were sent to the mayor's office.

Place of Worship Updates – Penny Bond

1. Central Baptist Church, at Quadra and Pandora, has been offering evening coffee service outside its building twice weekly. This helps to bridge the gap between when Our Place closes and when night shelters open. They recently also began offering coffee outside the church on Sunday mornings. In September, Central Baptist, partnering with Living Edge, began a neighbourhood market initiative, to provide fresh produce and groceries for low income people, on Monday nights.

2. First Baptist Church, at Quadra and North Park, also is participating in the Living Edge market project. They offer produce and groceries on Wednesday evenings.

3. Seventh Day Adventist Church's building, at Vancouver and Pandora, has been sold to a developer. The church will be moving out of the neighbourhood at the end of the year.

4. First Metropolitan United Church went through several years of transition, following retirements of many lay and clerical staff. FirstMet now has a permanent minister, the Rev. Shelagh McKinnon. There is a much greater focus on engagement with the North Park neighbourhood, as a result of the transition process. A new team, called Weird Church, arose from a group who were studying a book of the same name. This team's aim is to meet and engage with the neighbours and to find out how the church can serve the neighbourhood's needs. There is hope that NPNA and FirstMet can find ways to collaborate and support each other. During the summer Weird Church hosted three free neighbourhood BBQ lunches, which were well attended both by church and non-church people, including residents of the various seniors' and supportive housing within North Park, staff from the InterCultural Association, and others. The next project will be a free pasta dinner on November 21. As with the BBQ lunch, if the first one is successful, more will follow. Over the winter holiday season, many special events, including several musical presentations, will take place and are open to all.

The redevelopment process for the FirstMet property is proceeding, but slowly. This is a project in which FirstMet is partnering with the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada and BC Housing. It includes conversion of the church hall site into affordable rental housing, and redevelopment of the heritage part of the building for continued use by both the church and by renting to outside groups. BC Housing has approved funding, but the process is slow. When the plans are more concrete, the FirstMet Redevelopment Task Group will be invited to meet with NPNA to discuss the plans.

Land Use

The question of nominations for the LAP Working Group will be moved to the next Board meeting agenda.

The Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP) covers half of North Park. The Bosa building on Pandora is the result of that plan superseding the North Park Local Area Plan. Pamela Madoff and Harold Stanley have agreed to represent North Park on the DCAP working group. Thank you!

Wellburns redevelopment proposal: Special guest Pam Madoff provided an update on this project. The Wellburns redevelopment is coming to City Council (CoW) on Dec. 12. Updated drawings are available on the City's Development Tracker. The changes are modest; the colour of the development has changed from black to white. Considered a 'rooftop addition,' the new building setbacks are now 4 m from Pandora and 13 m from Cook St. The second floor will be residential and they may remove and preserve some heritage features somewhere in the building.

The Scott Block at Douglas and Hillside was treated much more sensitively by same developer. North Park is losing commercial heritage buildings one after the other.

The developer has not made significant changes in response to concerns about the impact of the development on Franklin Green Park. The building will have Juliet balconies on that side. They

have been asked to modify that side of building so it's not so overpowering. The DCAP really had an impact on this location – the faster we can get on with the LAP process the better.

There is growing concern about 'facadism' – when a new building is glued onto the original heritage building. Vancouver has adopted a policy rejecting facadism and Victoria is looking at doing the same.

Comments:

- Developers only need to make minor changes to push through projects that are bringing density and rental suites with affordable units.
- Many thanks to Pamela Madoff for her knowledge and assistance.
- Developers are looking at the transition between downtown and adjacent neighbourhoods and expecting to be able to use the same treatment.
- Jenny has asked the City for Pandora Avenue (Blanshard to Cook) to be a Special Improvement Area.

- **Communications** - Follow us on Twitter @wearenorthpark

- **Events** – There will be a free neighbourhood skating party Dec. 13 from 6-9 p.m. at Save-On-Foods Memorial Arena. Watch the e-news for details.

- **City of Victoria – Council & Staff** - No report.

- **VCAN** - VCAN hosted a special event with presentations from Toronto, Edmonton and other cities about how to rank neighbourhoods according to equity. Victoria needs to follow the same approach.

- **Membership (email list)** - 225 residents, 64 businesses (plus 149 non-resident e-news subscribers)

MEETING ADJOURN TIME

Motion to adjourn: Sean Kahil
9:30 p.m.

MINUTE TAKER

Mel Groves