



North Park Neighbourhood Association
Public Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 18, 2019

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| ATTENDANCE |
| Board members – Sean, Jenny, Katie |
| Individual members – (apologies for not having last names recorded this time) Robin, Penny, Lorna, Robert, Jane, Jody, Bonnie, Shelby, Kathy, Gail, Al, Deirdre, Janine, Darren, Matt, Bryce, Kalem, Tristan, Yoka |
| City liaisons/ reps – Mike Hill |
| PRESENTATION(S) |
| <p>OurPlace: Don Evans attended to share that OurPlace is contemplating buying Girl Guides property on Mason. They are thinking of building a 30-40 bed unit, comprised of for 250-square-foot modular housing (possibly 3-4 stories). Also planning on developing a women’s shelter on Yates. Looking for input/feedback. General response was against such small living spaces without common areas (internal and outdoor gathering spaces) or else the people living in these buildings will simply end up gathering on the 900 Block of Pandora.</p> <p>SOLID: Mark (logistics) and Jacklyn (more hands on with users) presented. There was a bit of a kerfuffle about SOLID moving onto North Park Street without a business license. Some of the people on the block reported problems. SOLID runs a cannabis substitution program for about 70 people that seeks to replace harder drugs. They are in favor of de-clustering services but they had no place to go and were facing shutdown. They are not run through Island health. Reason for moving was not financial. Landlords in other communities would not rent to them despite being able to pay asked rent. Generally met with expressions of appreciation by community members for the work done, but shared with SOLID a concern for over-clustering/density of services in our neighbourhood, and a lack of an overall strategy to distribute these services throughout the region.</p> |
| REPORTS |
| Many reports were postpone to next meeting due to lack of time. |
| Place of Worship Updates |
| <p>GNA Meeting <u>Our Place/900 Block Pandora</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linda McLean, COO, who had been chairing the community group meetings, has left Our Place to take a new position in Vancouver. |

- The Harbour, Supervised Consumption Site, is renovating its entrance area. This is to mitigate problems with non-clients entering and hanging out or hiding inside the facility.
 - Most of the people who were on the street a year ago have made progress and are housed. Now there are new people, who are not showing interest in engaging with SCS staff.
 - Many people on the boulevard are inhalant drug users. SCS does not have authority to include inhalant use inside. Inhalant users smoke outside and choose this location for safety, as help is nearby if there is an OD.
- Strong police presence continues on the block, including special foot patrol. Funding for this patrol is assured to the end of this year. VicPD and Victoria Bylaw Services continue to do early morning wake-ups.
- Seventh Day Adventist Church is moving at the end of November.
- Agencies, Island Health, City, VicPD and Bylaw all are working hard to keep things under control. Progress is happening but can be slow, especially if dealing with complex mental health issues and/or multiple diagnoses (e.g. mental health plus addiction).

FirstMet United Church

- FirstMet hosted a free lunchtime BBQ on three consecutive Wednesdays in July/ August. This was a pilot project by the “Weird Church” outreach team, to try to engage with the neighbours. These events were well attended, and a number of church members were there, both to serve food and to meet and greet the neighbours. General consensus was that this was a good undertaking and the plan is to have BBQs next summer, perhaps every two weeks spread over a longer time span. Neighbourhood feedback on the BBQs is welcome. Send feedback to npna@npna.ca with “attention Penny” in subject line.
- There are tentative plans for other types of neighbourhood events which would take place indoors during the colder months. FirstMet hopes to partner with NPNA, other churches or local businesses on some projects.

MEETING ADJOURN TIME

9:00 ish

THIS WEEK’S MINUTE TAKER

Sean Kahil

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

TBD