



**North Park Neighbourhood Association
March 2025 Monthly Meeting**

DATE: Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Community Room at [1025 Mason Street](#)

- or -

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88416867584>

Phone in: 778-907-2071 (Meeting ID: 884 1686 7584)

6:30: Territorial acknowledgement, opening remarks & introductions

The North Park Neighbourhood Association acknowledges the homelands of the Lekwungen Speaking Peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, on whose lands we are living, working, and collaborating.

Attendance / Introductions.

Board members present: Kaitie Fillion,
Guests: Bri Godsmann (NPNA), Courtney Miller (NPNA), Jessica Murray (NPNA), Gary Pemberton (City of Victoria), Stephen Hammond (City of Victoria) Mark Wilson (SOLID)

Other:

The theme of this meeting is community recreation. More specifically, the upcoming Crystal Pool replacement project referendum and possible impacts to Central Park and our neighbourhood.

6:35 pm City Councillor Update - Stephen Hammond,

Each week, Councillor Stephen Hammond provides updates on City of Victoria Council agenda's and shares important information relevant to North Park. He then opens the floor for attendees to ask questions.

7:00 pm City of Victoria Update - Gary Pemberton

Crystal Pool Referendum – Voting Information

General Voting Day for the Crystal Pool Referendum will take place on **Saturday, February 8, 2025**, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Three advance voting opportunities will be held at the **Crystal Garden, 713 Douglas Street**, from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** on:

- Wednesday, January 29th, 2025
- Monday, February 3rd, 2025
- Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

Victoria voters will be asked whether the **City of Victoria** should borrow up to **\$168.9 million** to replace the Crystal Pool and select a preferred site option: **Central Park North** or **Central Park South**.

Community Grant Opportunities

- Arts and Cultural Space Grants
- My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program

Meeting Notes

Community Grant Opportunities

Arts and Cultural Space Grants

- Applications are open for grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000 to support arts and culture spaces. An information session will be held on January 29th at 7:00 p.m.

My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program

Applications open on February 1st, 2025. Three types of grants are available:

- Activity Grants: up to \$1,500
- Placemaking Grants: up to \$7,500
- Community Resilience Grants: up to \$7,500

For more information, contact Gary Pemberton (GPemberton@victoria.ca). The program has a rolling intake process: Applications are reviewed on the last Thursday of each month, allowing programs to start earlier.

Crystal Pool Referendum – Additional Information

To learn more about how to vote and to review full referendum details, visit victoria.ca/referendum. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the City of Victoria newsletter for updates.

Questions and Responses

- Why are information sessions being held outside of the immediate neighbourhood?



- The City's Communications Department is aiming to hold pop-up events at multiple locations to make information about the project and pool accessible to as many people as possible.

7:15 pm Land Use Update Courtney Miller (NPNA)

1520 Blanshard Street (Downtown) CALUC Meeting

- **Project Overview:** Reliance Properties is proposing a 35-storey mixed-use building at 1520 Blanshard Street, located just outside the North Park neighbourhood. The proposal features ground-floor retail, co-working space on the second floor, and residential units on the upper floors. The residential units include a mix of studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom options. The plan also outlines a large public plaza as part of the development.
- **CALUC Meeting Information:** The CALUC meeting for this development is scheduled for Monday, February 10th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Hotel Rialto (653 Pandora Avenue). Join us to learn more about the proposal and share your feedback with the applicant before the plans are submitted to the City of Victoria for review.

Crystal Pool Referendum: What You Need to Know to Vote

General Voting Day for the Crystal Pool Referendum is **Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Three advance voting opportunities will be held at the Crystal Garden, 713 Douglas Street from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on:

- Wednesday, January 29th, 2025
- Monday, February 3rd, 2025
- Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

The voting process will comprise two questions:

1. Do you support the proposed pool facility and the City borrowing up to \$168.9M for its capital costs?
2. What is your preferred location for the facility: Central Park North or Central Park South?

Even if you vote "**No**" to the first question, your response to the second on location will still be counted.

To learn more about how to vote and review the complete referendum information, visit: victoria.ca/referendum.



7:30 pm: Dowler Access Hub Update - Mark Wilson (SOLID Outreach Society)

Mark Wilson from the SOLID Outreach Society will provide an update on the Access Hub project at 2155 Dower Place.

Meeting Notes

- People can be brought into a shelter overnight, but it is still a soft opening.
- The space is intended for detox and treatment.
- The outdoor area was too large and will need to be modified.
- There is a partial occupancy permit for the main floor.
- The main floor is complete, but the outdoor structure's status is unknown.
- The upstairs will be ready within a month.
- Approximately 25 people have been housed in the last month and a half.
- Once open, there are 25 mats on the floor, with plans to add bunk beds and lockers for individuals staying for one to two months.
- This is not a drop-in space. It is for individuals ready to get treatment.
- It's for people working with a case manager and is no longer a drop-in service.
- Services provided include ID assistance, health services, detox, and transportation.
- The daytime outreach team covers three blocks in all directions, while the night team is more concentrated on the building.

7:45 pm: North Park Events and Updates - Bri Godsmen (NPNA)

North Park Open Mic Night

- Join us for an evening of songs, stories, and poems of all genres! We'll have light refreshments and a community craft table. We look forward to sharing an intimate evening of art and music. To sign up for a spot in advance, please visit the link in our Instagram bio.
- Date: Friday, January 24th, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Location: First Met Church, 932 Balmoral Road
- Cost: Free event

Still Life Drawing Session

- Relax and get creative at our Still Life Drawing Session! Take your time to sketch and paint at your own pace in a laid-back environment.
- Date: Tuesday, January 27th, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Location: 1701 Quadra Street (in our office)
- Cost: Free event



8:00 pm: Questions/Action items
Questions for Stephen Hammond, Gary Pemberton (City of Victoria), NPNA Board and Staff. Mark Wilson (SOLID)