

SOUTH JUBILEE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Monday November 11, 2013, 7-9PM

Victoria College of Art

Present: Ron George, Dave White, Liz Hoar, Shellie Gudgeon, Lisa Helps, Deborah Leigh, Mickey Neifer, Lori Kiernan, Carrie Ann Taylor, Roger Smeeth, Tom Sellgren

1. Micro-Lending

Lisa Helps, Executive Director of Community Micro-Lending, also city councillor, gave a short presentation on how micro lending works as a follow-up to last meeting's discussion of South Jubilee becoming a micro-lender. Loan recipients are generally people who cannot get loans through conventional financial institutions. Community Micro Lending screens applicants. Accepted loan recipients are approved for a loan up to \$5000, assigned a credit risk and a payback period, then the profile of the person is posted on their website. Lenders can then choose to loan a part (minimum \$500) or all of the requested loan. Money is paid back to the lenders at the end of the recipient's payback period plus 2% interest. To this point, there have been no defaults on loans but the lenders take the risk (i.e. if there is a default, lenders will not get all their money back at the end of the payback period)

Questions were asked about setting up a South Jubilee fund within Community Micro Lending that would loan money to South Jubilee recipients. Community Micro-Lending would administer the fund based on whatever criteria SJNA set for loaning the money. It was decided after the meeting was over to put the question of our participation in micro-lending to a vote at the next meeting in February 2014.

2. Ian's Coffee Shop

Shellie told us that in two weeks there will be a plan put forward to deal with the Turner Building on Richmond. She will let us know when the plan is announced.

3. Christmas Functions?

Ruth and Carrie Ann were both wondering if we could have some sort of Christmas get together. The consensus was that it was too short notice. We don't have another newsletter before Christmas so we couldn't let everyone know. As an alternative, Carrie Ann suggested a pot-luck dinner prior to our February meeting. Ron will check with the school to ensure we can come in early. Carrie Ann will write up something for the February newsletter.

4. Halloween de-brief

A quiet Halloween in South Jubilee so nothing to report.

5. BBQ debrief

Everyone who attended the neighbourhood BBQ in September thought it had been very successful. Many comments about delicious pies (thanks to Ruth and Heloise)

6. City Report

Shellie gave a short summary of a few things going on in the city:

- The City is starting its community engagement about the changes coming to stormwater management. There may not be a meeting in our neighbourhood but we will be advised where the closest meeting will be.
- Garbage fees will go up \$16/yr to accommodate the extra labour required for City staff to pick up our bins and deliver them to the curb. Shellie felt keeping the backyard pickup was important to seniors and to people who might be on vacation and might miss garbage pickup.
- Beacon Hill Park will be the site for a First Nations' burial ground for any First Nations' remains found during excavation in Victoria. The burial ground will be below the Checker Pavillion and will be circled by a split rail fence.
- The Acting City Manager has recommended that discussion about the future of the Crystal Pool be delayed. The Fire Hall on Yates and the Bay Street Bridge are more important and require more immediate action.

7. Notice boards

Ron talked to a friend at the City who thinks there may be spare notice boards at the City yard. (Ruth brought up the notice board idea at the last meeting. The notice board could be locked and is two-sided with plexi-glass on both sides.) Ron is to send Shellie an email asking her to look into the availability of the notice boards.

8. Book Boxes

A neighbourhood book box was discussed again. Liz said it would be installed on her property. She asked for a maximum allocation of \$200 for its construction. Carrie Ann made the motion to approve the \$200 allocation. Dave seconded it. Liz will contact Kief when he returns from Germany to see if he is willing to build the box. It was felt that the work should be kept in the neighbourhood. Liz will report back at the next meeting.

9. Living History

Carrie Ann discussed her idea of creating a neighbourhood history through old photos, memorabilia and interviews with long-time residents. Interviews and photos would be put up on our website or on youtube. It was suggested that a historical highlight could be featured in each newsletter. Mickey Neifer, a resident of Amphion, showed us a family picture from 1910 that her son had used in a school project. Carrie Ann will coordinate

the project. People will be invited to bring photos and other historical items to the February potluck in the February newsletter.

10. Other Business

Roger brought up Kasapi Park and told us that he had written a piece for the next newsletter asking residents to write to the City, requesting Kasapi Park be acquired by the City (Kasapi Park is the Garry Oak property on the corner of Leighton and Bank). Roger said the Garry Oaks and untouched bedrock made it a special place in our developed neighbourhood. Shellie suggested we get Kate Friars, the director of City Parks and perhaps the mayor to come out to see the property. Liz brought up previous city councillor Denise Savoie's suggestion from many years ago that some sort of fundraising within the neighbourhood towards the purchase of the property might help our cause. Shellie suggested that residents could make a bequest for the park purchase in their wills. This might be something to include in a newsletter article.

11. Next Meeting – February 10th. Time to be decided based on potluck and living history project. Will be announced in the next newsletter.