

South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Meeting 07 September 2021

Participants: 20

Guests: Kimberley Stratford and Charlayne Thornton-Joe

1. City Neighbourhood Liaison Report

- Fall is time for talking budget and new programs and finishing construction projects.
- Neighbourhood boundaries report will be going forward to a meeting later this month.
- Update on electric vehicle charging stations: Strategy has been approved in principle, which will considerably increase locations for charging. Currently considering electrical capacity and convenience for users. Public feedback accepted. Cost and scale of growth required is being considered.
- Check our SJNA website for the City's report.

2. City Council Update

- Two of the main things that we're working on: budget and updates to strategic plan.
- Bank St School and motion made asking School District 61 (SD) to communicate with the SJNA; Mayor asked to encourage these communications.
- Police did quarterly update on crime stats and expressed concerns about level/severity of crimes in Victoria and other municipalities. This increase appears to be tied to mental health and addictions. Province bringing forward some complex care to provide more supports for people with these challenges
- Garbage green bin pick up – residents are now required to roll out their bins. However, if this is challenging there is a helping hand program that is in place for those who need help.
- Q: Re the recent SJN survey on amalgamation – 24 votes from people in NH and more from people who don't live here. What is the breakdown of the 24 votes.
- A: This info has been broken down and will be made public when the agenda is published on Oct 17. Council hasn't yet seen stats.
- Q: The 30 days has passed since submitting our FOI. Rob Gordon says it's still awaiting sign off. Is this still "in camera", or can you share anything?
- A: No nothing to share as staff is still going through report to see what needs to be redacted.
- Q: Chuck Morris reiterated that the SD has asked for demolition permit. You told us there was no record of this permit, can you please check on this?
- A: yes

3. Treasurer's Report

- Our new treasurer, Ryan Shore extended a warm thank you to Dave who left meticulous records, which made the transition easy.
- Switched banks for a few reasons; helping us to go paperless with statements; e-transfers and phone deposits. Major vendors are now on EFTs.
- All our financial reports are now on google drive for ease of reference.

- Grants are being used by things like Get Growing which came in under budget and provided many with useful garden projects. GoFundMe was also a success and will provide for a new NH library. Also a SJN mural project was under budget and we've been given permission to use the excess for our upcoming Parkfest at Redfern.
- Q: The money in the bank is allocated for various items is it not?
- A: There is some surplus and we could consider investing it but still learning about what we can use the \$ for. We have the spreadsheets on the Google drive if you're interested. There is money that could be used for SJN initiatives. It was noted that there will be further draw on those funds for the Heritage Walk Project.
- Q: Could we have some kind of SJN banners that would define our NH and help to identify us better?
- A: Oak Bay Ave splits SJN and Gonzalez. The Oak Bay corridor will address this to focus on villages. Encourage you to participate in online surveys and in person activities to look specifically at creating space. When we cross Foul Bay we're in Oak Bay, which doesn't make much of a difference to us, but if we put up signage we need to consider these things and how to work with the NHs within Victoria and work with OB as well.
- Q: What is the timeline for our NH plan?
- A: We're behind because of COVID and we don't know when we'll be able to finish engaging people in current NHs and then be able to move on to this NH.

4. Bank Street School Update

- Matt shared a brief update about the meeting the SJNA invited City of Victoria and SD reps to come and talk with us about how plans are progressing with Bank St. School (previous Art College location). There wasn't much new information gleaned from that meeting. Susan shared the process about filing a FIPA application and that unfortunately we have still not been given access to the report.
- One issue that was noted is that permission was given to us to relocate the basketball hoop to one of two possible locations, neither of which is ideal. We need to be concerned about the location re nearness to traffic, etc. We need to ask those who used to use the basketball hoop for suggestions so we can take next steps.
- When you're planning a school you need x number of feet to have recreation, to have a safety zone, etc. At this point it doesn't appear this site is large enough to accommodate those types of details as well as having the school. Years ago schools were closed due to the design construction methods re the seismic requirements.
- Q: If the old building was converted to a community centre and SD refurbished the existing Sundance school, is there funding for that purpose?
- A: this would require more conversations with SD. This kind of idea is not likely at the top of the City's plans.

5. Redfern Parkfest Update

- Matt went through the program of the event.
- City Councillor encouraged us to give consideration to the fact that COVID is still in play so it's necessary to take whatever precautions are necessary. We need to have signage about this. We may need to limit the number of children in the Bouncy Castles. We need to have a supply of masks and hand sanitizer available. Set up some sanitation stations so people can visit those before they have their food for example and at other times. Consider renting a hand washing station along with the porta potty. We could have welcoming tables at both entrances of the park so the asks can be available at both locations.

6. Redfern Park Book Box

- Matt shared update about the building of a new book box for Redfern Park. Funds are in place and a builder is needed. One recent possibility is to engage the students at Oak Bay School to take on this project.

7. Greening Committee Update

- Very successful Get Growing event recently with thanks to all the volunteers who helped and thank you to City of Victoria for the plants.
- We had 80 to 100 people with more taking soil as well.
- Redfern Park design has elicited positive feedback from the City and we'll be addressing all suggestions and resubmitting soon. We'll be displaying the plans at the upcoming Parkfest.

8. "Do The Loop": SJNA Fundraiser for Threshold Housing Society

- Matt shared an update about this fundraiser. 82 people have registered so far and we're hoping to turn this into an annual event. We're hoping to engage 100 people and raise \$10,000.

9. CALUC Report: please check out our recent newsletter for this update.

10. New Issues / Open Discussion

Q: Is there any information available about the state of the Turner Building?

A: Graffiti is the major problem and City putting pressure on the building owners but the development they had planned is not going forward and the owners are not responding to requests to take responsibility and clean up the building. The Bylaw Dept is extremely busy but we're looking at a property maintenance bylaw. If this goes ahead then owners who do not take responsibility will have the cost of graffiti removal added to their taxes. Have also tried to contact owners to see if they'd consider doing a mural but they haven't responded.

Q: Can we investigate idea of speed bumps on Fell St, especially considering increased traffic with school?

A: Thinking back to previous conversation with SJNA about where to put the speed-reader, our City NH liaison recalls we didn't think we had a speeding problem in our NH.

Q: Would we like to use survey monkey to provide a survey for our NH asking about speed bumps, lower speed limits access to EV charging stations etc?

A: Excellent idea to talk with residents. If you do a survey, keep the survey questions neutral otherwise if there are leading questions people become cynical about the outcome. NH City liaison offers to organize a walk shop with staff after looking at the survey. There may be funds available to support NH orgs to gather info from residents and she offered to check on the status of things with the City Planning Dept. She suggested having a poster board up at Parkfest with sticky notes so people can share their thoughts about traffic in the NH.

DECIDED: to go ahead with surveying our NH about flow of traffic. Murray and Marc have agreed to design such a survey and will prepare a draft for approval.