

South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting
Minutes of Meeting September 3, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. Co-Chair Erin Renwick welcomed guests and gave a land acknowledgement. The minutes from the previous meeting on June 4, 2024 were approved.

Co-Chair Update

- Parkfest: There was a great turnout with the great weather and bands. Beer garden and Barkfest was a success as well. Thank you to our neighbourhood sponsors who helped make this event possible.
- There have been many surveys and updates recently in South Jubilee and in the city. Thank you for taking part and offering feedback in these surveys.
- Leighton Rd Closure will be discussed in detail tonight with guest attendance from the City of Victoria.

Treasurer Update

- Parkfest: An immense success financially as well.
 - Budget was approved at \$5750 but actual cost came to just over \$3800. The SJNA used some of the 2024 base grant (\$4400 per year) to partially fund the event.
 - The SJNA received generous donations from Urban Grocer, Driftwood and Spinnakers that helped lower the cost of expenses.
- The City of Victoria continues to provide funding for the Engagement Coordinator position.
- Due to completion of Redfern Park, we are anticipating a quieter fiscal year.

City Neighbourhood Liaison Update (10 mins) - Gary Pemberton.

Gary Pemberton is our city liaison; he was away and his updates have been added to the minutes:

- **Pemberton Park Playground Replacement Survey:**
<https://engage.victoria.ca/pemberton-park-playground-replacement/surveys/pemberton-park-playground-replacement>
 - This survey is your opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed design of the new Pemberton Park playground (located on Gonzales Ave and Richardson St). Before taking the survey, please review the concept plan at <https://engage.victoria.ca/pemberton-park-playground-replacement> . If you have children, we would love for your input to be reflected in your responses.
 - Your input will help inform the final design that will be shared with the community. The amenity provides fun and engaging play experiences for all ages and abilities for years to come.
 - Please complete the survey by 11:59pm on September 26, 2024.
- **Join Kemi Craig for a FREE Celebration of Creativity and Collaboration:** Victoria's Artist in Residence Kemi Craig is a talented dancer and visual artist. As we head into the last month of her residency, we invite you to join her for some or all of these upcoming free events:
<https://www.victoria.ca/community-culture/arts-culture/public-art/artist-residence>
- **My Great Neighbourhood Grants:** Looking for some inspiration for a community project? Check out the VicMap Gallery of recent placemaking projects:
<https://vicmap.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=74ab60483d104321b5d4ef915eed305e>
 - Watch this recorded session about the My Great Neighbourhood Grant program:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etnvvHhZNkY>
- **Grant Applications:** Applications are now closed for the 2024 grants. The city received strong interest in these grants this year and all funds have been allocated. Applications will open for the 2025 My Great Neighbourhood Grants on February 1. If you are interested in preparing a project for next year, you can read the following documents:
 - My Great Neighbourhood Grant Policy:
<https://www.victoria.ca/media/file/my-great-neighbourhood-grant-policypdf>
 - My Great Neighbourhood Grant Application Guide:
<https://www.victoria.ca/media/file/my-great-neighbourhood-grant-application-guidepdf>. This guide includes all the questions from the application so you can be prepared once you're ready to apply.

City Council Liaison Update (10 mins) – Marg Gardiner.

- The Sundance-Bank School Expansion survey closed on August 31, currently awaiting SD61 data from the survey. Contained three proposals; 1) fence old building 2&3) remove old building.
 - Many residents attended the open house; the survey is now closed. See <https://engage.victoria.ca/> for updates.
- Marg was the acting mayor during the month of August. City Council is meeting this week on Thursday Sept 5. The mayor has a motion to put shelters in parking lots, and remuneration updates will be discussed. Citizens can review meeting minutes and view the agenda for this meeting here:
<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=b607effd-609e-47b9-8fbc-c78907e50066&Agenda=Merged&lang=English>

Guest Attendance from City of Victoria on the Leighton Rd Closure (30 mins)

City of Victoria (CoV) staff attended this meeting: Molly McGrail (Transportation Outreach Coordinator), Ross Kenny (Assistant Director of Engineering, Transportation Section Head), Hailey (Supervisor in Operations), Richard Adam (Manager of Design and Delivery).

The CoV staff shared a presentation - Please see SJNA website for a copy of this presentation.

Presentation summary:

- The Leighton Rd barricades (Duchess to Bank) will be removed at the completion of the Fort St construction project. A few more months remain for this project.
- Mobility needs are individual – what works best for one may not work for another neighbour.
 - The city aims to provide safe options for everyone to get around in Jubilee regardless of income, age, or abilities.
- This is a City of Victoria project – SJNA is not involved. Please direct comments about the project and process to the city (eng@victoria.ca) rather than SJNA.

- The city has received a lot of feedback - both supportive and constructive - from the community. Some feedback was regarding the lack of consultation.
- The city is engaging with SD61 as they have future redevelopment plans for the Sundance-Bank Elementary site.
- Mobility Values – Safety, Livability and Well-being, Equity and Affordability, Climate Action, Accessibility, and Connectivity.
 - Council motion in January 2024 directed staff to: identify, accelerate, and pilot shared street or partial or complete road closures to create or enable new boulevards, community spaces, placemaking initiatives, and green spaces; and to enhance safety for children, pedestrians, seniors, and those with mobility challenges as well as pilots that enhance livability and community vibrancy.
 - Other similar initiatives include 5th street closure behind Quadra Elementary, McClure and Vancouver Street updates.
- The city will be taking a step back to fully engage with the community when there is more capacity.
- Trigger for Leighton closure was the Fort Street construction - sewer main with open trench work with traffic impacts through Fall 2024. Westbound lane will remain open throughout the project.
 - The project is in its third month and Fort St is closed northbound.
 - Traffic management plan proposed closure to avoid overwhelming the neighbourhood with up to 15K vehicles per day. Received many calls about high volumes of cars using Leighton as a pass-through, some local but likely a lot of non-local traffic as Lee Ave connects to the Hospital.
 - Street function from Official Community Plan: Greenway corridor, all ages bike route with new push-button to cross Richmond.
 - Adjacent land use, Kasapi Park and Sundance-Bank School. SD61 consultation and updates being planned.
- Concept drawing was shared. The barriers are low cost and low effort and can be removed easily. The concept is to allow pedestrian movement on the north side, with

bike access. Tables and benches are also proposed. These are early ideas, and more conversation will occur with residents.

- Proposed change was a surprise to the community and negative feedback was received about how residents will move around the neighbourhood.
- Confusion around current closure that is related to Fort St construction, and future of traffic calming.

Questions/Comments:

1. Appreciate opportunity for consultation. Recommend that a sidewalk be added on the other side of the street while it is closed, especially as the prioritization of pedestrians was mentioned.
2. It would be lovely to have more outdoor space in the neighbourhood, especially for apartment residents and those who are raising children. Concern over the amount of resistance for a small section of road. It would mean a lot to have residents support more green space and reduced traffic.
3. Resident of Leighton: Support closure of the street, reduced traffic, and increased green space and the extension of Kasapi Park.
4. Parent of children at Sundance-Bank School: Extra effort to drive around school with the road closed, and to park on the correct side of the road. Insufficient space in the parking lot at school, chaotic traffic at drop-off and pick-up. Many people are parking in residential parking spaces. Suggest installing proper crosswalks at Leighton and Bank.
5. Question: Were emergency services consulted about closure? Answer: Yes, consultation took place with BC EHS, Fire Dept. They are aware and have an alternate route.
6. Question: Is Davie to Oak Bay going to be a bike route? Leighton is a cycling corridor. Answer: No plans to add bike lanes but it will be a corridor like Vancouver Street.
7. Resident: Thank you so much to city staff for the presentation, please share the materials, they were great. Resident is a Duchess block watch captain and would be available for consultation. Question: Closed roads open to local traffic only, can this be done? Ross (CoV): Local traffic only signs are unenforceable, and the city has seen that

they are quickly defeated by commuter traffic use. Resident mentioned that the cones that are currently in place get moved regardless, so it could be a promising idea.

8. Resident of Davie St: Noted number of cars passing through at high speeds on Davie St, including conflicts between drivers and residents. Mitigation of side-street traffic would be helpful. Additional development will add more traffic; hoping this has been considered.
9. Resident: Felt temporary closure was good to deal with traffic. Opinion shared that there is sufficient green space and should not close the only east-west corridor in the neighbourhood. There has already been a lot of traffic calming.
10. Resident of Duchess St: Wrote letter to the editor and feels this is arbitrary. Regularly removes cones. Mentioned that the alternative has been to turn left on Fort St which is anxiety-inducing because of the low visibility and feels that this alternative is more dangerous.
11. Resident: Cyclist who has put cones back, has seen trucks driving on sidewalks to get around barricades. This causes conflict. City needs to set up a barrier that cannot be moved for the duration of the Fort St project. Leighton is the heart of the neighbourhood. There is an opportunity when the school is redeveloped to do something different.
12. Resident: Suggestion to fix the sidewalks as the city has mentioned prioritizing pedestrians. Request to hold in-person meeting.
13. Resident of Davie St: Leighton changes cannot happen in a vacuum. A more thorough discussion would be beneficial, in a less polarised manner. There is an alternative in the middle rather than simply either closing or opening Leighton.
14. Resident: Agree that there should be a conversation about options, there is some middle ground. Attended some OCP events with city planners which was helpful. Suggest this method to gather ideas for our neighbourhood as they felt heard at these sessions.
15. Resident: Has lived in this neighbourhood for over thirty years; avid walker, cyclist, and transit driver. As a transit driver, it is challenging to access streets that have been closed off; the same for emergency vehicles. Answer: City (summarised): "We meet regularly with Emergency Services (including BCEHS, Vic Fire, Vic PD) - they review our projects,

provide input and we adjust and/or modify plans / designs as per their feedback. City staff meet with our emergency partners on a regular and on-going basis and have open dialogue about these types of issues. No concerns about temporary or long-term closures on Leighton have been raised.”

16. Resident: Lived here since 1986, The City hired a facilitator to work through traffic calming conversation when bump-outs were added.
17. Resident: Lives in an apartment; there is a family with four children next door. There are a lot more people in smaller dwellings, not everyone has a house with a yard. a. Question: what are the volumes expected along Oak Bay Avenue and has there been consideration for an advanced turn signal at Richmond? Hailey (CoV): Contractor plan was developed a couple of months prior to work being done, permits are required. Oak Bay Ave is part of the Fort St detour route; it is at or over capacity at peak times. Adjustments have been made to signals during road work. Ross (CoV): had hoped Fort St could continue with 2-way traffic. This was not possible and there are limits to what can be done. Oak Bay runs signals at Oak Bay and Foul Bay. Left turn lane added at Richmond and Oak Bay ave. There are a lot of projects, and it is challenging to ensure all changes are made. Collaborating with city teams to better manage impacts of projects in the city. b. Question: Can lines be painted at Bank and Leighton as a continuation of the lines at Richmond and Leighton. Hailey (CoV): Crosswalks are on the city’s radar, need to improve curb ramps as well.
18. Question in Zoom chat: Have any vehicle density studies been done on Leighton since the diverter was put in place on Amphion?
 - a. Answer (CoV): We have recent counts on Leighton, Duchess, and a number of streets in the vicinity. One advantage of the pilot project would be the ability to reassess traffic patterns with Fort St reopened.
19. Comment in the Zoom chat: Folks on Davie have been requesting traffic calming for some time. It is very narrow and cannot manage speeding but is getting faster cars. There are many children on the street. So far, we’ve received no response. It would be great to see basic safety measures on Davie prioritised over closing Leighton.

- City of Victoria presentation on the Leighton Rd is available on SJNA website in our Updates section.
- If anyone has questions or comments about Leighton that didn't get a chance to speak or hasn't reached out to the city already, please feel free to contact them directly at eng@victoria.ca.
- **The rest of our meetings will be in person at the Lai Brothers Lecture Theatres at Jubilee Hospital.** The September meeting could not be accommodated due to construction at Sundance-Bank (the gym is being used as a classroom) and the lecture hall was not available.

Greening Committee Update

Erin shared this update on the behalf of Kathleen who is not present.

- Happy 1st anniversary to Redfern Commons. We recently shared 55 bags of soil. Next volunteer day is Sunday Sept 8 at 10 AM.
- Get Growing Sept 20 at Bank St School, more info will be available on our website. Compost, leaf mulch and woodchips will be dropped off for residents to pick up.

Gail - Land Use Update

- Residents may view the development tracker on the City of Victoria, which can be sorted by neighbourhood. There is an update on the project at Fort and Davie. See SJ website "Updates" for this development plan.
- Ledcor is proposing a 6-storey rental building for Bouchier (where the "Telus building" is currently). There will be a meeting for this (not through SJ). More to come.
- Aryze has contacted the SJNA about the Amphion and Oak Bay Avenue project at the old Discovery Coffee site. No details available at this time.
- Life Cycles: Gail shared that this non-profit has come to pick overgrown fruit from her backyard tree for free. The extra fruit is taken and donated to food banks.

Engagement Coordinator Update

- Parkfest was an enormous success; music, kids activities and Barkfest were great. Amazing sponsors, Urban Grocer provided free food. Huge thanks to our volunteers.
- Next year Parkfest is scheduled for Sunday, August 17, 2025.

Open Discussion

- Marg Gardiner - Council remuneration on the city agenda soon. City budget under discussion.
- Marg suggests that if residents are contacting councillors regarding developments, to forward emails to mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca, as this goes to staff first rather than councillors. If you are sending a political note that the staff do not need to see, please forward this to councillors@victoria.ca.
- Resident has shared that there is a group working towards preserving the Bank St School, and if interested in joining this group, please contact Murray at travelmg@lightspeed.ca.
 - Please note that the SJNA has not taken a stance on the Bank Street School project; the neighbourhood association represents all residents and is not associated with campaigning to save Bank St School.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

The next SJNA Community Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7pm at the Lai Brothers Lecture Theatre at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (Room S169 by the main entrance), and also via Zoom.