

South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting
Minutes of Meeting November 6, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. Co-Chair Erin Renwick welcomed guests and gave a land acknowledgement. The minutes from the previous meeting on Sept 3, 2024 were approved.

Co-Chair Update

- Busy planning for next year's Parkfest. The date for Parkfest 2025 is August 17, 2025. Please send us feedback and suggestions if you have any.
- Otherwise, no other updates to report.

Treasurer Update

Ryan is our treasurer; he was away and Erin provided his update:

- No new financial updates to report.

Guest Presentation from the Emergency Management Community Liaison from the Victoria Fire Department – Doug Clarke (45 min).

Doug Clarke is the Emergency Management Community Liaison from the Victoria Fire Department. He has been invited to this community meeting to share important information about emergencies and how to plan for them.

Presentation summary:

- Preparedness looks different for everyone.
- It is important to know who your neighbours are for emergency preparedness.
 - Say hello to who is walking in your neighbourhood, pay attention to who has been injured recently, build connectivity, and check in with each other.
- View the city's webpage on emergency preparedness:
<https://www.victoria.ca/community-culture/safety-emergencies/emergency-preparedness/plan-prepare>
 - This webpage has links to the "Prepare Yourself" booklet and the "Grab & Go Bag Essentials" checklist that was shared in person.

- View the city's map for planning:
<https://maps.victoria.ca/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=VicMap>
- Know your home insurance and know how long you are covered if your home is damaged.

Earthquake history:

- We live in one of Canada's most seismically active regions.
 - January 26th, 1700 around 9pm was the last Cascadia subduction earthquake. This date was developed from Indigenous storytelling and Japan's "ghost tsunami", as there was no written record in the 1700s.
- The patterns of Cascadia subduction earthquakes are gathered by the silt of the ocean floor and measuring the patterns - goes back approximately 6000 years. There is a pattern for every 250-500 years.
 - We are currently at around 324 years since we have had a Cascadia subduction earthquake.

General information on earthquakes:

- Recognized that it is hard to take earthquakes seriously when nothing happens in Victoria.
 - We have only had 2 relatively small earthquakes measuring at around 3.5.
- Earthquake Early Warning System via mobile phones
 - It notifies via cellular device like an "Amber Alert", approximately 0-10 seconds before an imminent earthquake.
 - It is important to take this notification seriously as it will be triggered by earthquakes with 5.0 or above.
- Drop, Cover and Hold On:
 - To physically get on the floor, preferably under a table, and hold onto it to create safety during an earthquake.
 - If there is nothing to get under, use your arms and protect your head and neck.
 - Stay in position for the duration of the shaking, which is approximately 2-3 min, plus one more minute after the shaking stops.
 - You could be injured and not know it. Please take that minute for aftershock, and for you to figure out if your surroundings are safe and you are physically uninjured.

- 2011 Christchurch New Zealand seismic earthquake is a good comparison to Victoria: Similar soil types, similar building styles, infrastructure, and timelines.

Earthquake preparedness:

- Determine hazards in your house such as on high-shelves in kitchens or art above the bed.
 - If you're in bed, you can stay and cover yourself with your blanket which is generally considered safe. If you have heavy objects above, roll to the floor and get under the bed if possible.
 - If your bed is near a window, move away from the glass.
- There is a saying that the safest place during an earthquake is where you are.
 - The ability to move locations safely during an emergency is limited.
- Downtown: Inside buildings are safer than outside because buildings fall twice the length of the building. There are many old brick buildings in Victoria.
- Look around where you are, anywhere you are. It is important to be familiar with exits and surrounding objects for Drop, Cover and Hold On.
- Wood flexes in earthquakes: Prepare and build relationships with your neighbours, stockpile some food and water.
 - "Quake-bolting": Earthquake retrofitting companies bolt wood frames to the foundation itself and reinforce the sheer walls with plywood.
 - The risk of homes collapsing and "pancake-ing" is very rare in Victoria. Most homes will be left standing to a certain degree.

Tsunami preparedness:

- Victoria's risk of an off-shore tsunami is relatively low, but there was one in 1964 that hit Port Alberni from the Alaska Earthquake that was above 9.0.
- View the city's Tsunami Hazard Zones Map:
<https://vicmap.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=79f6a0eabd6d43cfb6f7e8793e98f0da>
 - On this map, green is coded as dry, yellow is wet.
 - As residents, it is important to know and be familiar with this map near your residence and community.
 - This map is important to reference when purchasing a new house as well.
- We are not immune to tsunamis within our region.

- Decisions have started to be made throughout the city to ensure that essential supplies and tools are not in danger zones in case we require them during emergencies (near Garbally Rd).
- Make plans instead of living in fear
 - Ensure you have portable chargers for phones, water, and take a bicycle.
 - Ensure children know where high ground is whenever visiting a new area. Tell them the plan in case you get separated.
- A reminder that we live on an island: Supplies like fuel and food are imported.
 - Fuel supply is typically stored north of the Malahat.
- Tsunami risk in Victoria is the coastline.
- There are two warning systems: Mobile devices and you!
 - Your mobile device will send you a warning if a tsunami is potentially coming off-shore.
 - If you feel a large seismic event, don't wait for mobile warning systems to tell you to get to high ground.
- CRD Tsunami Portal: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9b18fae1bcac4640afcb40dcb6471644/>
- Alertable App <https://alertable.ca/#/>

Family planning:

- Grab & Go Emergency Preparedness Kits: Something that you can manage and carry on your own. Store this at your front door.
- View Grab & Go Bag Essentials here: <https://www.victoria.ca/media/file/grab-go-bag-essentials>
 - Could store comfort items, car keys, dog leash, ID, medication, deck of cards, first aid, whistle, hand sanitizer, cash (in case card machines are down), etc.
 - It could be a backpack, wagon, cart, etc.
 - Add a luggage tag to identify what's not in the bag that needs to be grabbed before you leave (medication, ID, car keys, toothbrush, etc).
 - Medication in Grab & Go: At least 1 week's supply of medication should be in the backpack.
 - There is a lot of emphasis on privacy in this generation, but it is important to make your neighbours aware of your life-saving medication so that

everyone can check in on you (e.g. if you have diabetes, to ensure that you have insulin).

- Recommended to print your medication list in case of power outages as pharmacies will not be able to view your prescriptions and dosages.
- Make sure to communicate with your family about expectations of where to meet in case of emergency, where to go for high ground, etc.
 - Know where your children are, or ensure children know where to leave notes in public spaces (parks) in case of emergency and no mobile devices.
 - Know who is picking up children if an emergency occurs during the day.
- Can you camp in your backyard? Will you have access to your basement?

Food during emergencies:

- To not create waste, eat from your fridge first, then freezer, then pantry.
 - Stock extra high-protein items (peanut butter, tuna).
 - Goal is to be able to eat for a week, including water.
 - Dehydrated meals last for a long time, but now you require hot water, etc to eat them.
 - Ensure you have a can opener in your emergency kit.
 - This is where neighbours come into play. You don't need everything to survive an emergency, you need relationships with your neighbours.

Water during emergencies:

There is one pipe that serves the regional district (approximately 400,000 people). Although we have plenty of water here in Victoria, it is vulnerable (sometimes can have debris).

- Due to this, it is important to have 4L of water a day, for a week, per person (including for your pets).
- It is relatively simple to store water and is free but requires maintenance. You can store tap water in a clean bottle for 6 months.
 - Camping jugs or hot water tanks can be used. Store under places like stairs.
 - Use 1-3 drops of household bleach will sanitise water that has been stored for too long.

Alertable: A mobile app for the City of Victoria to directly communicate with you.

- Online version here: <https://alertable.ca/#/>. Download the app through your App Store or Google Play Store.
- Sends alerts for evacuations like gas leaks or civil unrest (to avoid a certain area in town for some time).
- You have to sign up for it to receive notifications.

Question from resident: Are there any instances of communities purchasing or having a centralized location for things that some people may not have (like a camper)?

- Answer: Since it is private property, it would be a neighbourhood discussion, not a City of Victoria initiative.
- Follow-up: What if it was an inexpensive second-hand camper?
- Answer: The city would not be able to park this on city property. You must follow all by-laws and normal restrictions even with emergency planning.

There was a conversation regarding the SJNA trailer – there are recycling materials, barbeque, and tents stored inside.

There are around 20 storage containers around Victoria. Tables, chairs, cots, generators, pet items are stored.

- Water and food are your responsibility.
 - There are current projects in place that can filter seawater into drinking water. However, it is important for you to store water so that you do not have to rely on the city for drinking water until day 5-7 post-emergency.

Question from resident: Has any work been done around epidemics more virulent than COVID-19?

- Answer: No. The city takes pandemics more seriously now that we know how to handle pandemics. The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) guides pandemics because the city is not health-trained.
- The city looks at climate change, weather, seismic hazards, ammonia leaks, evacuations, etc.

This Emergency Preparedness presentation is offered monthly.

- The next open Emergency Preparedness Workshop is at Firehall #1 – 1025 Johnson Street – Tuesday, November 26th at 7pm. Register here [Emergency Preparedness Booking Page](#) or email emvic@victoria.ca.

Volunteers opportunity Friday, Nov 29: The City of Victoria is looking for volunteers for a city-wide seismic event, Victoria Ready.

- Exercising the city into recovery for one day to make sure everything is working effectively.
- View this volunteer opportunity at [Emergency Preparedness | City of Victoria](#), or email emvic@victoria.ca with the subject line “Exercise Volunteer” and include your name and phone number in the message.

Thank you to Doug Clarke for attending our community meeting. If you have any further questions, please reach out to dclarke@victoria.ca.

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:

The 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan and a summary of public engagement input to date, were presented to Council at the [October 24, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting\(External link\)](#). Currently, Council is considering a 12.17% proposed tax increase in 2025 to continue to deliver more than 200 high-quality services and programs that Victoria residents and businesses depend on. The City’s 2025 Draft Budget proposes to invest \$365.6 million in operating costs and \$94.6 million in capital improvements.

- View the [2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan](#) (Draft 2025 Budget) to see what's *proposed* for investment next year. For a quick read, check out the highlights in the [2025 Draft Budget Summary](#).
- Read the [2025 Draft Budget Public Input Report](#) and [Public Engagement Summary](#) to see the [results of a random Ipsos telephone survey](#) with 700 City of Victoria residents that measures investment priorities for 2025. The Public Engagement Summary also

includes what we heard during [community conversations with eight local equity-seeking groups](#).

- Read [VicPD's 2025 Provisional Budget](#).

Special Committee of the Whole Meetings:

Council deliberations on the 2025 Draft Budget will take place on the dates below. The proposed property tax increase may be adjusted during Council's budget discussions. Watch the [livestream meetings](#), which will be archived for viewing later.

- Monday, November 4, 2024, at 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 9 a.m.

Have Your Say - Now is the time to provide feedback on the 2025 Draft Budget to help inform Council's budget decisions.

- Submit written comments:
 - Email: legislativeservices@victoria.ca
 - Mail: Legislative Services, 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6
 - Drop off: to the Ambassador in the City Hall foyer (use the Pandora Avenue entrance)
- Submit a pre-recorded video:
 - Email: legislativeservices@victoria.ca for instructions on how to upload your video. You will be asked for your first and last name, the subject (Draft Budget), and your home address.
 - Your video must be:
 - Maximum five minutes in length
 - **New Program for Strata Climate and Energy Upgrades**
 - File formats: MP4 video, QuickTime Movie, M4A file

Deadline: The deadline to submit feedback on the 2025 Draft Budget is **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, November 17, 2024**. All community input received will be presented to Council for consideration.

New Program for Strata Climate and Energy Upgrades:

The City of Victoria and the District of Saanich recently launched the Strata Energy Advisor program to help condo buildings in Victoria go all-electric and lighten their carbon footprint. The

program will help make homes across Victoria more energy-efficient and comfortable for people, while also lowering energy bills.

The program provides strata councils with an energy advisor who will visit your building and provide hands-on guidance for climate and energy upgrades, like heat pumps and switching from natural gas to renewable electric heating. The energy advisor will create a personalized decarbonization plan that aligns energy and climate upgrades with required building replacements to keep costs low and stay on top of new regulations.

Victoria and Saanich partnered with the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) to deliver the program. This program will contribute to the City's commitment to help all buildings become 100% powered by renewable energy by 2050.

For more information, read ZEIC's news release at: <https://zeic.ca/news/>

Crystal Pool Replacement Project:

Upcoming Information Sessions

Check out information kiosks at Mayfair Mall, the Bay Centre, and in the Crystal Pool lobby, and connect with staff at an event near you. See dates and locations below.

- Saturday, November 23, 2024 from 11:00am - 4:00pm at the West Coast Winter Market pop-up
- Thursday, November 28, 2024 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm at the Crystal Pool Lobby
- Saturday, November 30, 2024 from 10:00am - 5:00pm at the Mayfair Mall pop-up

In June 2024, Council approved the Crystal Pool Replacement Project moving forward to referendum. [Victoria voters](#) will have the chance to weigh in on the loan required to build a new facility plus a preferred site option. Information on where, when, and how to vote will be shared in fall 2024.

Two locations in Central Park are being considered for the new Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre:

- The current location of the Crystal Pool (North)
- The location of the playground, tennis and basketball courts (South)

Please check out the [Crystal Pool Replacement Project](#) website for more information.

Yard & Garden Waste

Drop-Off Program:

The City's yard and garden waste drop-off program is available to residents of Victoria from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, except the following dates:

- Saturday, March 30, 2024
- Saturday, May 25, 2024
- Saturday, July 13, 2024
- Saturday, August 24, 2024
- Saturday, December 21, 2024

The yard and garden waste drop-off is located at the City's Public Works Yard (417 Garbally Rd).

City staff will be present at the garden waste drop-off to direct traffic, but residents will need to unload their own garden waste. Staff will direct residents to where garden waste can be unloaded while maintaining a safe physical distance.

Accepted items:

- Leaves, small branches, grass clippings.

Items not accepted:

- Rocks, sod, soil, stumps, Invasive plants, and branches greater than 1.8 m (six feet) in length or 50 mm (two inches) in diameter.

Second Collection for Jubilee December 16th.

Festival Project grants call for applications:

The City of Victoria recognizes the importance of cultural festivals to the economic, social and creative life of the city. Since 1999, the Festival Investment Grant (FIG) Program has provided annual grant funding and in-kind support for festivals produced by not-for-profit organizations that deliver significant social and economic impact, community vitality, and artistic vibrancy across the City, particularly the downtown core. Now called the Festival Project Grant, the program guidelines have been updated for 2025 to clarify eligibility requirements for applicants across four funding streams. Applicants are encouraged to attend the online information session or reach out to staff with questions or to confirm eligibility. Important Dates:

- Applications open: November 8
- Application deadline: December 20 at 11:59pm
- Online information session: November 27 at 6pm.

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

- Determining the city budget will be difficult this year. Reserve funds have gone down.
 - Most people have had an 18-27% increase in property tax compared to last year. Reasons for this were because the portions for the city (60%), CRD, school, etc, increased.
 - There was a meeting on Monday, and another meeting coming up in November regarding adjusting the budget.
 - Public Input Opportunity on the 2025 Draft Budget (this is not a survey): <https://engage.victoria.ca/2025Budget>. The deadline for this opportunity is November 17th, 2024, at 11:59pm.
 - When filling out this engagement, Marg believes that it is important to declare *where* you think the money should be going instead.
 - View the [Draft Financial Plan](#) prior to sending your opinions.
 - As a guide and reminder, an increase of 1% is \$1.8 million.

Question from resident: Is there a space to comment on the money being spent at Centennial Square?

- Answer: Since the \$11 million for the splash park at Centennial Square has been put aside but has not yet been spent, it should be open for comments.
 - The construction cannot go to tender until the technical design has been completed.

Crystal Pool:

- The referendum for the pool is coming up, but the date has not been set. The referendum cannot occur until the province has approved.
 - There is a current pause due to the election, but the date will be published as soon as it is set.

Engagement Coordinator Update

- We are always taking newsletter excerpt submissions. Email engage@southjubilee.ca if you have any local business highlights, positive interactions within the neighbourhood, or anything that you would like to showcase to South Jubilee residents.
- Otherwise, no other updates to report.

VCAN Meeting Update

There are 12 neighbourhood associations in the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN).

- Rockland Neighbourhood Association has received funding to map all the Garry Oak trees in the City of Victoria to preserve, protect, and have knowledge on where they are. This has not been done before.
 - Every neighbourhood will do its count to make a large map of the entirety of Victoria.
 - This project is to map street by street and involves counting the oak trees in your backyard or the street.
 - If anyone would like to volunteer and help with this project, email engage@southjubilee.ca.
- Neighbouring North Jubilee received a grant from the city to paint an Indigenous reconciliation mural on the side of Oaklands Elementary School.
- Please don't hesitate to reach out to Susan (via engage@southjubilee.ca) with concerns to bring up anything at the VCAN meetings on behalf of South Jubilee.

Greening Committee Update

- The Redfern garden is going well.
- Kathleen, our Volunteer Coordinator, is stepping down from her role. We are currently in search of a new coordinator.
 - Paid part-time position from a \$10,000/year grant from the city.
 - This role involves working with the community. There is plenty of room for development.
 - Please email engage@southjubilee.ca or Erin Renwick at eerenwick75@gmail.com with questions or with a note of interest.

CALUC Update

- There is still the development at Davie and Fort (75-unit condo by Three Shores Development).
 - In review by the city. Can still make comments and send them to mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca.
- Two new developments:
 - Bouchier and Foul Bay (Telus building) by Ledcor.
 - Proposed a 6-storey wood frame apartment (83 units and 60 units of parking) with no commercial businesses.
 - Plans are now on the development tracker at: <https://tender.victoria.ca/webapps/ourcity/Prospero/Details.aspx?folderNumber=CLC00459>.
 - Opportunity to give direct feedback to developers: November 20 at 7pm in the Sports View room at the Oak Bay Rec Centre. There will also be a meeting online for those who cannot make it.
 - Please see the [South Jubilee website](#) for further details and the online meeting link.
 - Amphion and Oak Bay by ARYZE.
 - Very early stage of development.
 - Proposed an 86-unit, 6-storey building for commercial businesses only. No parking is available.
 - There are no community input opportunities yet as it is very preliminary.
 - It was shared with the developers that a 6-storey building is high, especially on the north side of the street because of shadows.

Open Discussion

No questions or comments were brought forward during the open discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

The next SJNA Community Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2024, at 7pm at the Lai Brothers Lecture Theatre at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (Room S169), and also via Zoom.