

**South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting**  
**Minutes of Meeting February 5, 2024**

This meeting was moved to online-only due to the icy road conditions.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. Co-Chair Molly Sullivan welcomed guests and gave a land acknowledgement. The minutes from the previous meeting on Nov 6, 2024 were approved.

**Chair/Co-Chair Update**

Molly presented the co-chair update.

- Recently had a Board-only meeting: Discussed roles and responsibilities and reviewed financial statements.
  - The Board has decided to hold internal Board-only meetings prior to community meetings to improve preparedness.
- Welcome to River Stevens (they/them), our new Garden Coordinator. See River's update below.
  - Thank you to Kathleen Laird for her years of dedication to the Redfern Commons. Her expertise has been invaluable.
- We are seeking additional volunteers for the Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC).
  - The CALUC connects developers, the city, and community members with project plans.
    - SJNA CALUC remains neutral in this facilitation.
    - Ruan (SJNA Board member) is connecting with those who have already applied.
    - Thank you to Gail Anthony for her dedication to this role and the many hours of volunteer work.
- We are seeking volunteers who live in rental apartments and condos in the South Jubilee.
  - It has been difficult to represent and connect with the many residents who live in rentals in South Jubilee.
  - These volunteers will be crucial to distributing newsletters and South Jubilee events in each apartment/condo complex.
- Reminder that the Crystal Pool Referendum is on Saturday, February 8th.

## **Treasurer Update – by Molly Sullivan.**

The SJNA Treasurer role is currently vacant so Molly Sullivan (Co-Chair) provided an update on the finances.

- SJNA extends its sincere gratitude to Ryan Shore for his dedicated service as a volunteer Treasurer for the last three years. Ryan will retain his role as a Director at Large.
  - We are currently looking for a new volunteer to fill this Treasurer position. Thank you to those who have reached out, we will be in touch soon.
- A bookkeeper, Paddy, has been hired to support financial management. Paddy's responsibilities include updating financial statements, performing reconciliations, and maintaining a clear understanding of funding sources and allocations.
  - SJNA finances are currently being reorganized to better understand priorities and allocations; our financial position is stable and there is no cause for concern regarding available funds.
  - By the next SJNA community meeting, we will have a more comprehensive financial update.

## **City Neighbourhood Liaison Update – Gary Pemberton.**

- Seedy Saturday 2025 – February 15th, 11am-4pm at the Crystal Gardens.
  - The event is to celebrate all seeds.
  - Opportunity to learn about gardening, community food resilience, climate adaptive food growing, and a chance to buy locally grown climate adaptive seeds and plants, exchange seeds with fellow gardeners, and attend free workshops.
  - An all-ages event.
  - Kids activities will be available.
  - There will be speakers at this event.
  - <https://events.downtownvictoria.ca/event/victoria-seedy-saturday/>
- My Great Neighbourhood Grant application has opened February 1st, 2025
  - 3 categories for grants: Placemaking, Community Resilience & Activity
  - Grant process is a rolling intake and the first grants will be distributed within a couple of weeks of March.
  - Similar budget to last year with a total of about \$140,000.

- Connect with Gary to discuss your idea: [gpemberton@victoria.ca](mailto:gpemberton@victoria.ca).
- Local Champions 2025 Program – applications will open February 10th until March 30th, 2025.
  - Local Champions is a grassroots community and leadership development program.
    - For anyone who wants to become a community connector. There is an opportunity to take on a grant project as part of the practicum for this course.
    - Takes place at NeighbourSpace Downtown (709 Douglas Street).
    - 8 sessions in total, with a mix of Saturdays and Wednesday evenings.
    - To date, they have had 50 graduates.
      - 4 graduates are now community coordinators for neighbourhood associations here in Victoria.
    - <https://www.victoria.ca/community-culture/neighbourhoods/local-champions-program>
- To sign-up for newsletters from the City of Victoria, visit <https://www.victoria.ca/city-government/news/sign>.
  - Through this site, you can tailor the information you receive from the city.
- Crystal Pool Referendum – February 8th.

### **City Council Liaison Update – Marg Gardiner.**

- Several months ago, Esquimalt changed their name to Xwsepsum (pronunciation similar to the former name).
- Budget considerations will occur after the Crystal Pool Referendum on Saturday, Feb 8.
- Missing Middle Housing – information in the Development Tracker under “Delegations” (<https://www.victoria.ca/building-business/permits-development-construction/development-tracker>).
- Recommends that someone from the neighbourhood stay up to date with this as there are no public notifications about Missing Middle.
- New initiative in Blenkinsop Valley – Blenkinsop Community Agricultural Centre
  - A group of farmers has purchased 14 acres and is creating a centre for those wanting to become farmers.
  - The Blenkinsop Community Agricultural Centre ([bgardens.ca](http://bgardens.ca)) will offer rentable community gardens.

- The centre is set to open on March 1st.
- It is a private initiative and will not use taxpayer money.

Question from resident: Where are the plans for the proposed development of Centennial Square?

- Marg responded that there will be more discussions surrounding the Centennial Square that will come up with budget discussions.
  - Many are advocating to save the giant sequoia tree in the square.
  - Marg is not directly involved, but the Parks Development team is aware of the feedback and arguments against removing the sequoia.
  - The budget decisions will come first.
  - Information about the sequoia is available on the website, though there are concerns that the talk about the tree doesn't align with the reports provided.

#### **Neighbourhood Engagement Update – Anna Golovkina.**

- Art Walk – information gathering meeting on Saturday, February 8th at 1pm.
  - This event is focused on showcasing the artists in South Jubilee. Stay tuned to our social media and websites for more information on this event.
  - It has been decided that an art component will be added to Parkfest.
- Parkfest planning is underway. Please reach out to [engage@southjubilee.ca](mailto:engage@southjubilee.ca) if interested in donating or volunteering.
- 2025 SJNA Survey is now open – available through the link on our Instagram and on the homepage and “Updates” section of website (<https://southjubilee.ca/updates/>).

#### **Garden Coordinator Update – River Stevens ([gardencoordinator@southjubilee.ca](mailto:gardencoordinator@southjubilee.ca)).**

- River is taking over for Kathleen Laird as the Garden Coordinator (started in January). Big thanks to Kathleen!
- Currently writing grants and planning projects.
- Work parties will begin in March - stay tuned on our social media and emails from [gardencoordinator@southjubilee.ca](mailto:gardencoordinator@southjubilee.ca).
- Planning two major 2-hour workshops for the community.
  - Will coordinate with volunteers to set a date.
- Contact River if you're interested in volunteering for work parties!

- Big thanks to Kathleen Laird for her work!

### **VCAN Meeting Update – Susan Wetmore.**

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

- Each neighbourhood can have up to three members in VCAN.
- We've tried multiple methods to connect with apartment and condo residents, but nothing has worked so far.
  - If you live in an apartment in South Jubilee and would like to help share updates (e.g., distributing newsletters), please reach out!
- Gary Oak Mapping Project – the most up-to-date map of Gary Oaks.
  - The majority of oak trees are on private property
  - Advocating for more protection for greenspace in Victoria through the OCP.

### **Get Growing Update – Susan Wetmore.**

- SJNA receives free seedlings from the city for the Seedling Distribution program
  - An important initiative for our neighbourhood – helps residents grow their own food.
- Compost, leaf mulch and bark mulch will be distributed on Wednesday, March 12 at Bank St School site starting at 12:30pm.
- The first plant giveaway of the year will be a vegetable distribution on Saturday, May 17th at Redfern Park.
- If the library kiosk at Redfern Park can be fixed, there may be a possibility of having a seed distribution.

### **CALUC Update**

- There are five active applications on the Development Tracker
  - A 3-storey, 4-unit building is proposed to replace the existing structure at 1646-1648 Davie.
  - A garden suite is proposed one block north on Davie.
  - The 6-storey development at Fort and Davie continues.
    - Unit count reduced from 79 to 75.
    - Parking significantly reduced to 22 spaces.

- Two lots at Fort and Duchess are being converted into mixed multi-residential.
- A 5-storey building is under review.
- A 6-storey building on Foul Bay is still in pre-application stages.
- Conceptual drawings for a possible 6-storey project at Oak Bay and Amphion, where Discovery Coffee was, with no parking included.
- Looking for volunteers to join CALUC.
- The Development Tracker list will be updated on the website.

Comment from resident to Marg (councillor): Noting that the development on Fort and Davie has decreased unit numbers from 79 to 75 and parking has been significantly reduced to 22 spaces. They questioned the feasibility of these rentals, expressing doubt that tenants would be interested given the limited parking.

- Marg responded that the reduction in unit numbers was due to demand for more diverse room sizes. She also noted that housing needs vary depending on factors such as location, proximity to schools, and workplaces.

### **Open Discussion**

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

Meeting adjourned 8:02pm.

**The next SJNA Community Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2, 2024, at 7pm at the Lai Brothers Lecture Theatre at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (Room S169), and additionally via Zoom.**