

**South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting**  
**Minutes of Meeting September 3, 2025**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. Chair Molly Sullivan welcomed guests and gave a land acknowledgement. The minutes from the June 4, 2025 meeting have been posted on the website for review and have been approved.

**Guest Introduction – Emma Goulding, Community Connector of Oak Bay Volunteer Services**

- Emma explained her role as a Community Connector, supporting residents 55+ across Victoria.
- Focus is on non-clinical support, including housing, food security, funding, and social connection.
- Works primarily with individuals lacking family or support networks.
- Program is funded by United Way BC and now includes over 100 Connectors across the province; Emma is the first in Victoria.
- Expressed interest in collaborating with SJNA to connect with community members who may benefit.

**Chair Update – Molly Sullivan.**

- Vice President Erin R. was unable to attend.
- Molly reported on the success of Parkfest, held two weeks earlier:
  - Approximately 1,000 attendees counted.
  - New additions included seed-bomb activity and an Art Walk
  - Strong volunteer support and excellent turnout.
  - Parkfest remains SJNA's major annual event, alongside monthly recycling, greening and garden activities, and Get Growing.
  - Parkfest 2026 is scheduled for August 16.
- Priorities for the coming year:
  - Building community connections, particularly engaging residents of multi-unit buildings.
  - Emergency preparedness planning.
  - Input into the Official Community Plan (OCP), with a public session scheduled for September 11, 2025.

### **Treasurer Update – Charlotte G.**

Charlotte presented her first report as Treasurer following her election at the June AGM.

She has a background in accounting, IT, and project management.

Funding sources include:

- Operating account (supported by recycling program, City of Victoria grant, and Parkfest revenues).
- Engagement Coordinator (City of Victoria grant).
- Garden Coordinator (City of Victoria grant, micro-grants).
- Get Growing (City of Victoria grant).

Parkfest financials:

- 2024 budget: \$5,750; actual expenditures: \$3,840.
- 2025 budget: \$4,500; actual expenditures to date: \$3,259.
- Recommendation to consider reducing 2026 Parkfest budget further due to consistent under-spending.

Finances remain stable; no questions from attendees.

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

Gary was absent at our meeting – his notes have been added to the minutes. These notes have also been sent as e-newsletters by the City of Victoria.

You're invited: ABCD Community Workshop. Join the [Tamarack Institute](#) and the City of Victoria for a powerful, hands-on workshop exploring Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD).

- Whether you're a grassroots organizer, service provider or community member, this session will offer practical tools for implementing strategies that center people and place, support resident-led action aligned with broader goals and build strong, connected communities that drive long-term change.
- Using Victoria's new Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan as a real-world example, we'll look at how ABCD can be applied to any local initiative.
- Apply now! Space is limited.

Date: Monday, October 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Location: Victoria City Hall, Antechamber

Price: Single registration: \$199

Group registration: \$149 per person

- A light snack and lunch is included.

The NeighbourSpace has moved.

- We're excited about the new location of the NeighbourSpace at 708 Douglas Street. The beautiful space beside the Victoria Conference Centre includes a larger room for community groups to gather. It will be opening later this fall.
- The City of Victoria is committed to making this free space available to help foster collaboration and connection among residents. If you are a Victoria resident or local non-profit organization focused on community building, the NeighbourSpace could be a great place for your meetings or activities.

Lending Library in the NeighbourSpace

- Did you know the NeighbourSpace has a lending library? Next time your group reserves this space, check out the recent generous donation of books with themes of community building, facilitation, conflict resolution, teamwork and group dynamics.
- You're welcome to sign out these great resources when using the NeighbourSpace.

Last chance to apply for a 2025 My Great Neighbourhood Grant

- If you have a community project that you'd love to have funded this year, now is the time to speak to us about a My Great Neighbourhood Grant.
- This program provides residents with funding for initiatives that develop and enhance a sense of community in their neighbourhood.
- Apply for up to \$7,500 for placemaking and community resilience projects and up to \$1,500 for events and activities. The community must match the funding through volunteer hours, in-kind donations and/or other funding. This funding program was created to help create connections between residents. Community involvement is an important part of each approved project.
- Looking for some inspiration for a community project? Check out the [VicMap Gallery of recent placemaking projects](#).

Thirteen Local Champions prepare to graduate

- Local Champions is a leadership program that empowers Victoria residents with the skills, confidence and connections needed to build community in their neighbourhoods.
- The City of Victoria's fourth Local Champions cohort has had an amazing year of learning and then applying their new skills.

- The 13 participants are currently wrapping up their practicum projects on downtown beautification, accessibility, climate action and social capacity building.
- To date, Local Champions has graduated 65 participants who are now acting as community connectors in their neighbourhoods.

#### Meet a Stranger: Building connection, one conversation at a time

- What started as a simple idea—pairing strangers for one-hour, one-time platonic conversations—has grown into a powerful community movement.
- 'Meet a Stranger' began with the goal of fostering connection but quickly evolved into something deeper: a collective effort to reduce social isolation and loneliness in Victoria.
- Participants weren't just showing up to chat—they were seeking belonging. Some traveled over an hour by bus just to be part of a community working toward a more connected society. With early gatherings at Ross Bay and a growing presence at the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, the project gained momentum and support.
- Thanks to local media coverage, 'Meet a Stranger' has become a well-loved initiative, proving that when strangers come together, something extraordinary can happen. It's not just about conversation, it's about community.

#### Free Dish Library

- The Downtown Residents Association has created a free Dish Library to provide up to 75 table settings. All organizations in Victoria can use this resource when hosting large gatherings.
- The library includes plates, mugs, cutlery and cloth napkins. Pick up and return during business hours from the Zero Waste Emporium (1728 Douglas Street). To inquire about a booking email [coolkit@victoriadra.ca](mailto:coolkit@victoriadra.ca).

#### Building Neighbourhood Emergency Resilience

- The City is helping set up Resilience Hubs at Community Centres to help neighbours support each other before, during and after emergencies, like earthquakes, tsunamis and extreme weather.
- Resilience Hubs focus on three essentials:
  - People: Build neighbourhood connections, share knowledge and strengthen preparedness

- Supplies: Stocked with essentials, including food, water, first aid, hygiene items and radios
- Places: Safe, comfortable and upgraded spaces, resilient to hazards and power outages.
- Connected communities are stronger in emergencies.
- Stay tuned for ways to get involved!

#### Help Shape E-Bike Share in Your Neighbourhood

- A new e-bike share system is coming to Victoria that will provide residents and visitors with more options to get around. Share suggestions for your neighbourhood bike share parking zones by Sept. 24.

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

Marg is the liaison for the South Jubilee neighbourhood.

- OCP updates to be discussed at Council, including third readings of bylaws.
- Upcoming discussions include residential parking policy. Marg expressed shared concerns regarding:
  - Lack of prior consultation.
  - Potential impacts on trades and service vehicles.
  - Limited alternatives for residents without driveways.
  - Fire safety concerns with new BC Building Code changes allowing six-storey buildings with single stairwells. Risks include mobility-impaired residents and limited fire truck access.

Questions from residents focused on delegation of zoning decisions to staff and implications for public input.

#### **CALUC Update – Ruan W.**

Ruan is a SJNA board member and is on the CALUC.

- 1908 Foul Bay (Telus building) – rezoning application under current OCP.
- 1513 Amphion/1964 Oak Bay (former Discovery Coffee) – application under review, returned to applicant.
- Davie Street – application due for Council in fall.
- 2000–2002 Richmond (Turner Building site) – approved for eight storeys.
- 2600 Richmond – proposal for 101 units, with applicant.

- Missing middle infill ongoing on Shelbourne and Bay.
- New policies remove parking requirements for developments; incentives offered to builders who exclude parking.
  - Anticipated impacts on hospital area, trades, and service vehicles.
  - Concerns about ride-share vehicles, EV chargers on boulevards, and accessibility parking.
  - Discussion of impacts on health-care workers who require vehicle access.
  - Cycling was raised as both an opportunity and a challenge — safety concerns due to narrow streets and mixed use.

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

- Parkfest was a success – significantly higher attendance than in past years.
  - Urban Grocer donated most of the food and will support again next year.
  - Parkfest 2026 is scheduled for Sunday, August 16, 2026.
- Encouraged members to help distribute newsletters in apartment buildings to reach more residents.

### **Garden Coordinator Update – River S.**

- Summer activities included a vegetable workshop, plant ID and tour with the City of Victoria, seed-bomb making and tabling at Parkfest.
- Raised concern over potential reductions in City of Victoria grant funding for community gardens.
- The garden remains active and well attended.
- Sept 7th – work party, volunteer appreciation lunch, and herbal medicine workshop.

### **Get Growing Update – Susan W.**

- Plant distribution held in August; leftovers were shared at Parkfest.
- Soil, compost, and mulch delivery scheduled for Sept 19 at the Bank Street School parking lot.

### **Open Discussion**

- Molly noted that SJNA has been encouraging residents to provide feedback on the OCP, including engagement sessions held last year. However, little feedback has been received to date. As a neighbourhood association, SJNA can only advocate based on

input from residents. Residents are encouraged to send comments to [board@southjubilee.ca](mailto:board@southjubilee.ca).

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

**The next SJNA Community Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Lai Brothers Lecture Theatre at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (Room S169), and additionally via Zoom.**