South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting
Minutes of Meeting November 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with an introduction and Land Acknowledgement by Erin Renwick, SJNA acting President. The adoption of June AGM meeting minutes was voted on and approved. A quorum was present.

Chair Update – Erin R.
Molly, who was the President of the SJNA, has recently stepped away from the position for health reasons. Molly has been crucial to the Board and we express sincere appreciation for her dedication, leadership, and valuable contributions throughout her tenure, especially on our annual event, Parkfest. Erin will be the acting President until the AGM in June.

Erin noted that this was the first time the community meeting has been held in the Sports View Lounge at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. She expressed her appreciation for the collaborative meeting setup.

Erin was curious about what is important to the residents of South Jubilee, and what they would like to see from SJNA:

- Erin would personally like to see action on the Bank St. School – whether that be a renovation or a new build – as there has been no action for approximately 6 years. The last communication that Erin had received from the School Board Chair was that there was no funding for this project.
- A survey on the priorities of residents of South Jubilee will be created. Please stay tuned via social media, the SJNA newsletter, and emails for this link.

Treasurer Update and a Year in Review – Charlotte G.

- SJNA finances are in a good position and up-to-date.

South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Finances (as of Nov 5, 2026)

Operating account	$22,009.33
Garden Coordinator (Redfern Commons care & Coord)	$9,131.61
Get Growing (seedling & soil-building materials giveaway, Coord)	$6,246.44
Engagement Coordinator	$29,923.29
TOTAL	$67,318.67

The Operating account is used to pay for the recycling program and collects any donations received through that initiative. It also receives grant funding from the City of Victoria and is used to cover expenses for events like Parkfest.

The Get Growing account has received funds of approximately $2000 from the City of Victoria for improvements around the Get Growing program. However, there has been no expenses except for one garden cleanup for approximately $75.

- Charlotte indicated that there is a concern surrounding the lack of spending from this account as there are expectations from the city that the funding gets used. Otherwise, SJNA runs the risk of losing that program.
    - Charlotte will be looking for the Get Growing report that was filed by a SJNA member who is no longer active on the board.

Charlotte noted that now added to our Operations cost is renting of the community meeting space at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. However, there is a consensus that this meeting space is easier to access and advertise than the previous meeting location at the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Charlotte created and shared a page for board timelines regarding grant applications, report deadlines, and more.

Get Growing Update – Christina C.
Christina has recently taken over from the previous Get Growing coordinator. The dates of the next Get Growing seedling and soil-building material distributions will be posted as soon as it is confirmed.

The Get Growing, Victoria! program supports communities in need through partnerships with non-profit organizations. This City of Victoria program helps distribute seedlings and soil-building materials to residents who face barriers to growing their own food.

- It has been increasingly harder to find volunteers. It is a great event and lots of fun. If you are interested in supporting the Get Growing program in South Jubilee, please reach out to engage@southjubilee.ca.

Recycling Program Update – Murray G.
A monthly recycling program is hosted by the SJNA. It runs every second Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm at the Bank Street School parking lot. Payment is by donation.

- The CRD recently started a program for recycling plastics called Beyond the Curb, which may affect SJNA's program. Murray believes that SJNA's program has regular residents who drop off plastics not only to recycle, but to connect with neighbours.
    - That being said, the program may not yield as much in earnings as it has in the past.
        - To bring in more donations and make the program more accessible, the recycling program will start to use a debit/credit card reader. It is important to note that fees will be deducted from the proceeds for debit and credit transactions. Signage will be posted regarding the recommended amount for donations to avoid SJNA paying more in fees than revenue generated.
- Murray also noted that the program is still looking for volunteers who can drive the refundables to the depot. This volunteer position requires the ability to use a car. Please reach out to engage@southjubilee.ca for any questions or if you are interested in volunteering.

City Neighbourhood Liaison Update – Gary Pemberton. gpemberton@victoria.ca

- This year's My Great Neighbourhood grant program closed at the end of October, fully allocating its $200,000 budget to 50 community-led projects across 11 of Victoria's 12 neighbourhoods. The projects help bring residents together, strengthen connections and build neighbourhood resilience.
    - Funded projects included fall fairs in North Park and Fernwood, a street mural in Hillside Quadra, a boulevard garden and beach cleanup in Vic West, a children's garden in Fernwood and a new community board in Gonzales.
    - In 2027, a Community Safety and Wellbeing lens will be added to the grant program. Applications open in February.
    - If you are interested in applying for the grant and would like to connect with Gary, please reach out to him directly.
- In addition, Local Champions – a grass roots community leadership program – graduated 22 participants in October. This program takes place in NeighbourSpace. Through interactive workshops, participants learn how to bring people together and build stronger neighbourhood connections. They put their learning into action by leading a small community project supported by a My Great Neighbourhood Grant.
    - If you're interested in becoming a Local Champion, 2027 applications open in February.
- The first leaf collection for the Jubilee area is November 9th, and the second collection will be the week of December 21st.
    - A resident had noted that the first collection may have been completed early.
- The 2027 Youth U-Pass applications open November 16th. Youth aged between 13 to 18 can receive a pass to ride transit for free for the year.
- Applications for the City of Victoria's Poet Laureates and Youth Poet Laureates open until November 19th. Details can be found here.
- If you are interested in receiving tailored newsletters from the City of Victoria, you can sign-up here. There are newsletters dedicated to recreation, Crystal Pool Replacement Project updates, street upgrade updates, and more.
- As most are probably already aware, the Crystal Pool has closed permanently. Some services will be transferred to the old YMCA building downtown after completion of renovations and repairments. There is no expected open date for the YMCA at this time.
- A question regarding the use of the NeighbourSpace was brought forward.
    - Centrally located at 708 Douglas Street, beside the Victoria Conference Centre, the NeighbourSpace is an accessible venue for residents and non-profit organizations focused on fostering community building and social connection. The City of Victoria provides this space at no cost to strengthen community engagement and social ties among residents.
    - The City has been making improvements to this space for its users.
- A resident expressed gratitude to staff who had put up signs requesting that cars be off the street for leaf collection. Gary will pass this feedback to the Parks department.
- A question was brought forward regarding the timeline of when a new City Council Liaison will be assigned to South Jubilee. Gary stated that it is an informal process, and

he believes it may be a few weeks to a month. As soon as the decision has been made, the neighbourhood associations will be contacted.

- A question was brought forward regarding who to contact about the possibility of having an enclosed dog park at Redfern Park. Currently, it is an open field. Gary recommended that photos be sent to parks@victoria.ca, or Gary himself who can forward it to the Parks department. He also recommended that those concerned about the lack of fencing should send their own email to the department, as it can be more powerful than sending one.
- A question was brought forward regarding the lack of lighting at Kassapi Park, and if it would be wise to send individual letters to the Parks department. Gary recommended getting more residents involved or collecting signatures. He also reminded residents that speakers can address Council by filling out a form. More information can be found here.

CALUC Update – Ruan W.

CALUC is the Community Association Land Use Committee. One of the main roles of the CALUC is to facilitate the dialogue between applicants and the community in order to identify and resolve issues (both positive and negative) regarding land use applications. Applicants are required to contact the applicable CALUC representative to initiate this process.

- New applications:
    - The City is considering a Delegated Development Variance Permit application for a deck under construction. Information can be found here.
    - The application for 1513 Amphion St. at 1964 Oak Bay Ave. is back with the applicant. This means that the applicant is making changes of suggestion by the City, though we will not know what these changes are until they have filed an official change. Information can be found here and here.
    - The demolishing of 1908 Foul Bay Rd. has begun and will most likely continue for another few weeks.
- A question was brought forward regarding a possible change to Amphion St. that was discussed related to the Bourchier and Foul Bay project. Ruan noted that he has not seen anything mentioned about that in the Development Tracker. Additionally, if there was any kind of change to a street related to a project, he noted that it would most likely be through a different department, like Traffic.
- A question was brought forward regarding CALUC's insight into the building permit process with the City of Victoria. Erin stated that unfortunately, CALUC does not – nor SJNA – have any say in these matters, and that they merely report information from the City to the residents of South Jubilee. Erin suggested reaching out to Gary Pemberton as he may know who to connect with (gpemberton@victoria.ca).

Garden Coordinator Update – Christina C.

- Gardens are lush this year! Christina received feedback from volunteers that were involved in planting that this was the year that plants were thriving.
- Christina thanked volunteers at Redfern Parkfest (August 16) who gave out leaflets and talked to attendees about the garden. Christina reminded the residents that this is a

community garden, and that anyone who walks by can pick the herbs and flowers. This is a new concept for many who think that 'community garden' means allotments.
- New signage has been posted about volunteering at work parties and feedback about these events. There have not been many responses yet.
- Deer have found their way into the raised veggie beds despite the netting around the garden. However, the roots are still there and plants are regrowing. It is a priority for Christina to get metal mesh fencing around the veggie bed as the deer manage to get through the plastic fencing.
- Christina plans to purchase and install a grass barrier along the fence that separates the dog area from the community garden.
- There has been a lot of graffiti through the spring and summer, but it has decreased since. Christina has been painting over this immediately, as recommended by VicPD.
- There were five people that attended the Compost Tea workshop that was held at the end of summer. This was good feedback for Christina when planning for next year, and to schedule the workshops during the spring.
- Many had come by for the free strawberries that were offered in October.
- Currently, Christina is working on general tidying of the garden.
- The next and last work party of the year is Saturday, November 21st from 10am to 12pm.
- There was a $500 grant received for an extra project. Christina is working to arrange with her colleague a 'free seed library' at the park.
- A question was brought forward regarding setting up a workshop or work party with Sundance School. This may provide exposure to parents regarding the community garden and the park. Erin volunteered to connect with the Principal.

Neighbourhood Talk – Christina C. on Fall Gardening

Christina, the Garden Coordinator with SJNA, had shared a short presentation on fall gardening.

- It has been a dry August, September, and October. There has been very little rain.
- This year was the first year that Christina was watering her plants while starting to rake the leaves. If you are not sure whether to keep watering, she suggested digging approximately 4 inches and seeing whether the soil is dry.
- Christina discussed the importance of not raking leaves in areas where you can leave them. She suggested continuing to rake sidewalks, steps, decks, and lawns, but to leave them everywhere else (eg. gardens, veggie beds). This helps the ecosystem have a habitat.
    - A resident asked whether to leave them even if they are oak leaves. Christina shared that there is a butterfly that winters exclusively in the fluffy duff layer that is created by oak leaves, so even oak leaves are important to leave untouched if possible.
    - Leaves are as much a habitat as mulch. They protect the soil, reduce evaporation, help with compression, feed the soil organisms, which helps the entire cycle. While the leaves are not broken down, there are countless organisms living in there.

- Additionally, it is important to avoid cutting down stocks and shrubs for the sake of tidiness. There are organisms that bore holes into stems, such as thimble berry stems, and live in the pith inside over the winter.
- Leave some ‘wild corners’ in your garden. Christina suggested not being very tidy over the winter. What’s a mess to humans can be food and shelter to other organisms.
- If you wish to purchase mycorrhizal fungal powder for your plants and trees to get good relationships in the soil with symbiotic fungi, Christina sells them at her store. You can connect with Christina at gardencoordinator@southjubilee.ca.
- Seedy Saturday is Saturday, February 13, 2027.

Other Business & Open Discussion

Charlotte inquired about researching and purchasing a webcam for future meetings to improve the online meeting experience for those who cannot attend in-person. Charlotte will send the Board a link to get final approval prior to purchasing.

There was consensus that the new location, the Sports View Lounge at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre, is the preferred space for future meetings due to the staff who can direct attendees to the correct room, the walkability, and free parking.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. The next meeting, the SJNA Annual General Meeting, is scheduled for June 3rd at 7pm at the Sports View Lounge at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre.