

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Pearkes Recreation Centre, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12th, 2020**

**In Attendance:** Gabe, Vera, Scott, Chris K, Arden, Phil, Russ, Paul, Katherine, Chris B, Pam, BJ Wilson (visitor)

**Regrets**: Ed, Elise, Evan, Lewis, Irena

**Guest Presentation:** Large & Co. (Earl Large) re: micro-suites proposal for 3143 Tillicum Rd.

1. **Agenda Adopted.** Arden motion/Phil seconded. (All in favour.)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from Feb. 2020 meeting.** Vera motion, Russ seconded. (All in favour.)
3. **Reminder:** April Board Meeting to be Tuesday April 7th, (instead of the usual Thursday.)

**Reports & Updates - Board:**

1. **Finances:** See Chris’s report. Vera brought forth a spending request from the Gorge Canada Day Picnic Committee, would like to spend $1295.00 on a second GTCA tent. (To be voted on at next meeting.)
2. **Membership:** Irena away, no report. Approx. 160 paid members so far.
3. **Communications:**
4. **Newsletter:** Latest is just out! We will ask the Library if we can have a stand in their space somewhere, once they reopen (still closed due to the flood.) Chris K to get a quote for an artful looking ‘GTCA’ stand.
5. **Website:** Still room for more content.
6. **AGM Planning:**
7. Frank Ambrosia was confirmed, CRD too. The only concern is the brewing Coronavirus pandemic and it is possible that everything could turn in such a way things will be cancelled. Les Passmore Centre may cancel bookings. Vera put forth motion to cancel. (Arden seconded) Board discussed and voted in favour of postponing our AGM. (Paul and Pam abstained.) Note: AGM’s are allowed to be held as late as 15 months since the last. Vera to put out word of cancellation.
8. Pam will consider running for the role of ‘Secretary’.(Would begin after the AGM.) Scott will run for the newly defined role (subject to a bylaw change approval at the AGM) of Membership Coordinator.
9. **Board Organizational Matters:**
10. See Gabe’s pre-circulated draft document, ‘GTCA Roles’. No discussion on this at this time. Keep it on file to be used as needed.
11. See GT Community Action Plan “Flowchart & Ideas” draft document. Discussion of the idea of the GTCA doing an ‘in house’ renewal of its LAP (Local Area Plan) as Saanich has put many LAP’s on hold. Gabe proposes a new committee. This group would use past visions (LAP, our Charrette, etc.) as resources in helping shape a renewed community vision for our area. Group discussed the depth of such an undertaking. This is a very big ‘idea’ and would take a lot of time and energy. Gabe to lead, Katherine, Arden and Phil to join the initial CAP Working Group -- with others (non-directors, especially) being sought as well.

**Board Activities – Current and/or New:**

**9. Green Spaces & Waterways:**

1. **Green and Blue Working Group**: (see report.) Boulevard Brigade is looking for signs to put in their areas of work to bring attention to their endeavors. Chris K and Pam to follow up. Steve is working on education for storm drains. Stencils of Fish? Signs? Scott reported that he has seen some yellow painted fish stencils done recently at storm drains around Tillicum School.
2. **Gorge Park Community Gardens**: Planning Plant Sale for May. (Again concerns of Coronavirus were mentioned.)
3. **Gorge Park Cleanup:** Spring Cleanup scheduled for April 25th. Saanich Parks is cued up and ready to help out as per usual. Scott andCraig Elder to meet with Katie Turner of Saanich Parks prior to the day and discuss areas of concern.

**10. Developments and other building uses**

1. **Buildings Working Group:** (See report.) Our draft document of Community Development Guidelines has been helpful to developers but the group is now looking at some updates to address both height/mass and also specific zones, to help developers better understand the neighbourhood expectations in specific areas.
2. **Development Updates:**

* Signs are up atGorge/Rockwell, Abstract Developments, still lots of discussion among neighbours about this one.
* The 18 parcel of lots between Tillicum/Albina/Obed have been ‘optioned’ by Townline Developments. They are looking at building condos. Heights of 4 and 5 stories is their initial offer, 5 on Tillicum, 4 on Albina. 260 units, 60% to be 550 sq/ft one bedroom, the others to be 800 sq/ft two bedrooms. They have till March 31st to decide if they will buy the property.
* The property at the corner of Gorge/Earl Grey (where there has been a hole the last two years) has been ‘sold’. We look forward to seeing what happens next.

1. **Revised Saanich Development Process:** March 2nd, Council voted on removing the step of ‘Meeting of the Whole’ for developments. Instead, proposals would go to a regular Council Meeting. For rezoning, proposals go to Public Hearing. The shorter process means less time (the hope is that developers will come to the table with their ‘A’ game -- i.e. projects that will need less work to fine tune) rather than starting with something ‘too big’ or less likely to succeed initially. We hope this to be true.

**11. Mobility and Transportation:**

1. **M&T Working Group:** (See written report) With all these building projects we need to see more transit to go with them. Looking for a route to UVic for example. Group is also looking at ways to measure traffic ‘through’ vs traffic ‘within’ the neighbourhood.
2. **Albina Rd**: Repairs are finally getting started, (road has been closed in the 2900 block for over a year.)
3. **Gorge Rd:** Storm water infrastructure upgrades to be late 2020 now.

**12. Art, Culture & Celebration:**

1. **ACC Working Group:** (See written report) The ACCWG is discussing possibilities for public poetry, a monthly Community House, murals, banners, finding images for the GT areas, and (soon) artistic bus shelters. Arden to take on role as Chair. Chris B earnestly requested the ACC not always be the last WG on the agenda.
2. **Gorge Canada Day Picnic:** Chris reports that lots of vendors have already signed up, Gorge on Art will be happening again.

**13. COVID-19:**

A short discussion about how much this could change in the coming week, weeks, months, etc. and how that might affect us and things like our AGM and Canada Day.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:00pm. Moved by Scott, seconded by Gabe

**The next Board Meeting was scheduled for 7 April 2020 in Pearkes Recreation Centre**

**but was subsequently cancelled “until further notice”.**