

GTCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES –8 June 2023

Thursday 7-9 p.m., Saanich Neighbourhood Place

Present: Vera, Phil, Chris K, Meaghan, Paul, Gabe, Jennifer, Scott, Mauricio, Chris B., Katherine

Regrets: Michelle, Reb, Arden

Guests: Nik White, Xi Yao

1. Meetings
 - a. Agenda---Approved Phil, Chris B.
 - b. May minutes. After two amendments by Gabe, Approved Gabe, Paul
2. Communications
 - a. Newsletter. Delay in arrival due to production glitch. Need to be out before Canada Day. Arrangements needed to cover Gabe's role owing to his absence on holiday.
3. Finance Report

Chris K noted that the report had been circulated and invited questions. Grant notification letter from Saanich has been delayed.
4. Working Groups
 - a. Arts Culture and Celebration Working Group.
 - Burnside Buzz happening in four days' time. Volunteers need to be there at noon.
 - Music in the Park at Rudd Park on August 22. Michelle coordinating. Please contact her to volunteer.
 - b. Natural Areas/ C and E Working Group
 - Garage Sale has gathered 50 sites. Map on Facebook. Tricia is coordinating this.
 - Phil's letter to Saanich regarding tree replacement. Though Parks expressed some reluctance but promised to reconsider, the Engineering project manager said that a tree planting plan is now being developed.
 - Boulevard Trees. Tricia heading up campaign for these. Would be more successful if, as in Oak Bay, Council staff went round to solicit these. Tricia's partner has won the contract for trees around Tillicum School.
 - c. Food Resilience Working Group
 - Has done survey of food outlets in Saanich, Victoria etc.
 - Looking at organizations like the Native Friendship Centre, Saanich Neighbourhood Place and seeing what they need in terms of volunteers and what type of food donations they use.
 - Also exploring possible ways of linking agencies with the G-T Urban Farmers (GTUF).
 - d. Land Use Committee
 - Meeting in which Saanich CAO and Director of Planning accepted that staff shortages, culture, processing system and IT problems had caused delays in building and development permits. Senior staff seem to have recognized most of the major problems and are working to address them. Planning staff suggested that the GTCA could volunteer to have Tillicum and Burnside used as pilots for the idea of pre-zoning.

- Discussion of the OCP, corridors and centers, and the fact that other places like Calgary do not require parking for new restaurants etc. A critical part of the new planning approach is to decouple LAPs from the OCP.

5. Canada Day

--Report from Chris K. Good roster of market vendors (65) and artists (40+), but low number of food vendors (14)

--Hazelwood/Saanich indicate that the road will be paved for July 1, but that sidewalks and floating bus islands, painting, signage and bike lane separation will come later.

--Board members need to sign up for times at the GTCA booth. Vera will be there all day.

6. Miscellaneous.

- There were indications that SCAN members were beginning to understand the link development and ecological footprint.
- Multicultural event at Uptown, 11-5 on July 15 needs SCAN volunteers for 2 hour shifts
- Rebel Ink are having a Grand Opening on July 29 and would like our involvement. We agreed this probably meant simply being there and perhaps making a welcoming speech from GTCA. Several Board members said they would attend. However we noted that there is a conflict with a music event organized by the ACC WG on the same day. I'm not sure this is correct as the Rebel Ink event ends before the ACC WG open mike event starts. There is also an Indigenous event at Rudd Park that same evening.
- Gorge Park Wharf news. DFO has signed off on this project; the next step is for the provincial government to consult First Nations.
- Saanich has purchased the house for sale adjacent to Meadow Park. While they will rent it at first, the plan is to extend the Meadow Park area.

7. Motion to adjourn. Phil, Chris B.