

Burnside Gorge Community Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:30pm - VIA Zoom

- Present:**
- Chair:** Avery Stetski
 - Board members:** John Sanderson, Greg Arnold, Michelle Peterson, Sara Maya Bhandar, Elizabeth Cull
 - Staff:** Suzanne Cole, Executive Director; Rachel O'Neill, Manager, Communications & Development
 - Guests:** City of Victoria: Sarah Potts, Council Liaison
Prospective board member: Kyle Empringham
 - Regrets:** Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison
Sarah Wagstaff, prospective board member
- Welcome and introductions** Avery welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Agenda** The agenda of the April 27, 2020 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes
MOTION TO ACCEPT: Michelle Peterson SECONDED: John Sanderson
CARRIED
- Minutes** The minutes of the Jan 27, 2020 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept
MOTION TO ACCEPT: Michelle Peterson SECONDED: Elizabeth Cull
CARRIED
- Action Items** Action items were reviewed and updated, nothing carried forward.
- City Updates** Sarah
- The City has created a COVID-19 business support page on their website.
 - Mayor Helps is providing updates on Mondays/Fridays on Facebook live.
 - The City has created an online recreation program called Fun for Life Go
 - There will be no increase to property taxes this year but subsequently the budget will be amended and all new programs/projects put on hold. There will be a budget review in August. In Burnside Gorge this includes wayfinding as well as the scheduled improvements to Arbutus Park.
 - Cool Aid has requested a Temporary Use Permit for the Mayfair Motel to house Cedar Grove residents during the renovation of the Cedar Grove site. A public hearing hasn't been set yet but the public is encouraged to write letters to Mayor and Council to share feedback.
 - The City is looking at additional street closures to help support safe social distances.
 - Victoria Immigrant Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) is working on food production and they are looking for homes that would be willing share their yards for garden space.
- Ops** Suzanne shared operational highlights:
- There have only been three layoffs so far. There are a number of childcare staff with reduced hours who prefer to stay on call until programming resumes.
 - Childcare is being provided on site for those working in essential services.
 - Food rescue distribution has also been increased, with food going out to individuals and families in need of support.
 - In terms of financial impact childcare has been the most impacted but there is some provincial

WEB

funding coming as well as Rapid Relief money.

- Recreation and facilities have also been impacted due to lost revenue from rentals and programs but staffing has been maintained.
- BGCA is also receiving a 10% reduction in remittances through CRA.

There was a question raised around the possibility of BGCA being eligible for the 75% payroll subsidy announced federally.

For Discussion: Sarah shared an update on the COVID-19 response for the homeless population.

- The City is keeping pressure on the Province to ensure that the homeless population is able to safely distance and have the ability to practice regular hygiene and hand-washing. There are additional sites outside of Burnside Gorge but locations are not being released.
- BC Housing and Island Health have been doing needs assessments and grouping people accordingly such as youth, those with high needs requiring harm reduction supports. They are working to move groups of 15-20 per day. The number of people going into each hotel is dependent on the number of rooms the Province was able to negotiate with individual sites. There was a question about whether a maximum number has been set for each hotel. Sarah will look into numbers and get back to the board.

Questions:

Is there timeline for reopening the shelter spaces that have closed due to COVID-19?

- No, there has been no timeline set. It all depends on when distancing measures are relaxed and direction from health authorities.

Who are the service providers?

- Island Health and BC Housing are the leads and will be responsible for providing or contracting out support services. Currently there are a number of organizations supporting the street population in tents right now including AVI, SOLID, and the Indigenous Harm Reduction Team. Who will be providing supports in the hotels is unknown.

Is there a process for ongoing dialogue with neighbourhoods to help mitigate impact?

- The Province is acting under a state of emergency so the response has been quick and no communications have happened yet that Sarah is aware of. There may be opportunity for Council to help support those conversations happening in the future. It is Sarah's understanding that the Province has a plan to build modular housing.

There was general consensus that it does not serve the homeless population or the neighbourhood to keep reacting rather than creating a well thought out plan for addressing homelessness in the community. The Board will send a letter to Province to share feedback.

ACTION: Michelle and Avery will draft letter to go to the province to share feedback about hotel placements.

ACTION: Sarah will look into whether or not there is a cap on numbers in hotels and get back to the board.

For decision: Elizabeth shared an overview of the process taken to come to the final document. There was a motion to adopt the strategic plan as presented.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Avery Stetski SECONDED: Michelle Peterson

CARRIED

WEB
Updates

VCAN

- VCAN is discussing how to go about review process and electronic media during COVID. There is a broad discrepancy between neighbourhoods with regards to how involved they want to be. Ultimately the City will need to set direction.

LUC

- Cool Aid has submitted a request for a Temporary Use Permit for the Mayfair Motel to house residents of Cedar Grove during their renovations. LUC has submitted a letter to the City in support.
- Pacifica has submitted plans for the Burnside School to planning and they're under review.
- The proposal for the Speed/Frances project is in with a schedule change. They will be proceeding with the smaller building first with the taller tower to follow.
- 3120 Washington is under review by council and should be coming to public hearing soon.

Board

Avery asked Board members to think about how they want to get involved and increase participation such as writing articles for the newsletter.

Review Action
Items

ACTION: Elizabeth volunteered to take on some newsletter articles.

ACTION: Michelle and Avery will draft letter to go to the province to share feedback about hotel placements.

ACTION: Sarah will look into whether or not there is a cap on numbers in hotels and get back to the board.

ACTION: Elizabeth volunteered to take on some newsletter articles.

Track hours

Reminder to everyone to fill out your volunteer time in Track it Forward

6:35pm

Adjournment

~Next meeting May 25, 2020~