

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FORUM

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 – 7:00pm-9:00pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

AGENDA

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 26, 2019

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.2 Residents' Associations Boundaries

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Residents' Association Updates

7.0 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 7 p.m. in Committee Room #2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT



RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FORUM

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Chair
Doug Bjornson	- Glenbrooke North
Mike Bohn	- Connaught Heights
Ken Bourdeau	- Brow of the Hill
Wilf Brodrick	- McBride Sapperton
Harry Crosby	- Moody Park
Briana Harris	- Victoria Hill/Ginger Drive
Kathleen Langstroth	- Queen's Park
Jason Lesage	- Massey Victory Heights
Shelley Murphy	- Downtown (arrived at 7:45)
Laura Ranalletta	- Queensborough (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)
Elmer Rudolph	- West End

REGRETS:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Council Member
Vickie Turvey	- Quayside Community Board

STAFF:

Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the June 26, 2019 Residents' Association Forum meeting be amended to include the following items:

- 5.2 *Climate Change*
- 5.3 *Indemnification for RA members and Executives*
- 5.4 *Recycling Depot*

CARRIED.

All members of the Forum present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 27, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 27, 2019 Residents' Association Forum meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Forum present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Formation of Victoria Hill/Ginger Drive Residents' Association

Briana Harris, Representative of the Victoria Hill/Ginger Drive Residents' Association (VHGDR) noted that, since the last meeting, the RA has become fully established and is functioning and busy.

In response to a question from the Forum, Ms. Harris noted that, unlike the Quayside Board, no money has been contributed from the stratas in the areas.

4.2 Residents' Associations Boundaries

The RA Forum members discussed re-defining some Residents' Associations' boundaries, noting the following issues:

- Some re-organization between Brow of the Hill and the West End boundaries may be useful;
- There may be an opportunity to adjust the boundaries for Uptown, as it may make sense for it to be more associated with Brow of the Hill than Moody Park RA, or for a new RA to be formed;
- Housing type may also be a factor to be discussed in the context of new and common RA boundaries;
- Re-organization of the boundaries between Massey Heights and Sapperton may be appropriate;
- It would be worthwhile to have a broader discussion once all RAs have had an opportunity to discuss amongst their members and to connect with neighbouring RAs;

It was decided that the September RA Forum meeting would be designated as a time to discuss RA boundaries in more detail, with more time and a map of the City, and to invite a representative from the Planning department, who could attend to give advice on housing types and neighbourhoods.

4.3 Space Allocation in City Facilities for RAs

Councillor Nakagawa provided an update on the City's policy about space allocation for RAs at City facilities, noting the following:

- The policy in place allows RAs to book one meeting on a complimentary basis in a City facility once per month;
- As Century House programs are run through its partner organization, any rental space available is prioritized to programming and then to public rentals; and,
- The public library has recently re-opened and has sufficient space to accommodate groups; RAs are able to book rooms at the library by sending an email.

RA Forum members noted the following comments:

- It is understandable that Century House prioritizes space for seniors programs, but it would be helpful for outside groups such as RAs to be able to use other spaces at the facility that may otherwise be empty;
- Often the Spruce Room is not large enough for RAs' needs, and booking in other venues may require insurance;
- Perhaps when the Century House Association lease is renewed, the City could review the rental policy and consider renting out the larger rooms to RAs, once all programming has been allocated;
- Other locations suggested included:
 - Police station meeting room;
 - Churches, although these may require liability insurance, and some are reserving space for groups that are involved with the church;
 - Committee Room 2 at City Hall, although it holds a small number;
 - Anvil Centre community spaces;
 - School District rooms, although fees are charged; and,
 - New Community Centre, once complete.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the RA Forum recommend that Council direct staff to look at creative ways of providing meeting space for community groups, for example revisiting Century House agreement, Anvil Centre, City Hall, and other spaces in the City.

CARRIED.

All members of the Forum present voted in favour of the motion.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Heritage Revitalization Agreements (Queen's Park)

Kathleen Langstroth, Queen's Park RA Representative, discussed the RA's observed increase in heritage revitalization agreements (HRA) in the Queen's Park area, and associated requests for variances, and inquired whether other neighbourhoods had experienced any concerns with HRAs.

In response to a question from the Forum, Ms. Langstroth noted that the RA's main concern is that, increasingly, fewer benefits to heritage houses are being observed and more benefits are being given to the new houses being built through the HRAs.

RA Forum members noted the following comments:

- Increased density is being observed throughout the City and helps to deal with the housing shortage;
- This may be a more important issue for residents of Queen's Park than the rest of the City; and,
- The West End has a fair amount of heritage homes in the area; however HRAs have not presented any issues.

5.2 Climate Change

In response to questions from the Forum, Councillor Nakagawa provided the following information:

- Currently, there is no plan to set up a Climate Change committee; however community involvement would take place to ensure that residents are involved in the discussion about climate change; and,
- A report on the City's plan to meet IPCC Climate Change measures should be in front of Council before summer.

Forum members requested that any report on the City's climate change strategy be made available to the RAs and the wider community.

5.3 Indemnification for RA Members and Executives

RA Forum members discussed the subject matter of indemnification in the context of legal action that could be brought against an RA and its members or executives, and whether it would be best for RAs to register as a non-profit society, and/or purchase indemnification insurance policies.

RA Forum members noted the following comments:

- The issue lies in that City policies require RAs to review development applications, and if any comments made about a development are interpreted the wrong way, there could be potential for a lawsuit;
- The anti-SLAPP legislation has recently been passed, which is geared towards protecting individuals and organizations against legal action;
- It may be best for RAs to gather advice from a non-profit law society on the subject;
- Purchasing indemnification insurance would have a large impact on RA budgets; and,
- Physical indemnification may also be an issue for RAs, as insurance is usually required to protect against potential damage from renting public spaces for events.

5.4 Recycling Depot

In response to questions from the Forum, Councillor Nakagawa provided the following information:

- The City is committed to the new recycling depot and would not be looking to change plans or to keep the depot in its current location, as the plans for the new aquatic centre necessitate the change;
- Other locations for a new depot would have included Queensborough or Sapperton Industrial area, but the latter is quite close to the proposed joint facility;
- Currently, the City is looking at how to mitigate concerns from residents, such as pop-up recycling sites;
- As per the current location, there would be no fees for recycling at the new depot; and,
- The new recycling depot site would be administered by Metro Vancouver.

RA Forum members noted the following comments:

- There is understanding about why the change is occurring, however exploration of other sites in the City is desired by residents;
- There are many questions that remain about the new site, therefore more information could be communicated by the City;
- This is primarily a single-family home issue because most rental buildings have their own recycling; and,
- It may be worthwhile looking into events to encourage disposal and recycling of greenery, glass, and other recyclables, as these are the materials that are unavailable through household pickup which may end up in the garbage.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Residents' Associations Updates

Brow of the Hill

Ken Bourdeau reported the following information:

- There has been recent discussion on the potential of the City purchasing a vacant property on Cornwall, which stemmed from an approach by RA members who were concerned about a shortage of parks and trees in the area;
- The City has recently completed a parklet in front of St. Barnabas Church and a planting session recently occurred;
- The RA has received a grant from the TD Bank park program which would potentially be used for the following:
 - Neighbourhood walks highlighting parks;
 - An event in Moody Park, such as a Movie Night; and,
 - Human Library in the park, in which participants may “check out” people to talk to.

Connaught Heights

Mike Bohn reported the following information:

- Grant money has been received and is being put towards the beautification of some areas in the neighbourhood, including a flowers for bees project; and,
- OCP Consultation in regards to the 22nd Street station area will be a forthcoming topic discussion in the area.

Glenbrooke North

Doug Bjornson reported the following information:

- A garage sale on June 15 received a good turnout and raised over \$500 for Monarch House;
- The RA has concerns about curb bulges and a crosswalk at Fifth Street and Eighth Avenue, which needs followup.

Massey-Victory Heights

Jason Lesage reported that a large amount of construction is occurring in the neighbourhood, which is a growing safety concern.

McBride/Sapperton

Wilf Brodrick reported the following information:

- The new Urban Academy building is creating concern for residents in lower Sapperton, as they are having issues with traffic and parking, especially during the afternoon pickup time, as parents are parking in the neighbourhood;
- Residents are also concerned about Urban Academy's proposal to add another level to the building and 100 more students; and,
- The RA is holding a "Trash Mob" on September 21, which encourages garbage pickup.

Moody Park

Harry Crosby reported that three developments on the boundaries of Moody Park had recently been considered by other RAs and suggested that notices of consultation could go out to all RAs to make sure that members can be made aware of open houses in neighbouring areas.

Queensborough

Laura Ranalletta reported the following information:

- Residents are extremely concerned about the childcare crisis in Queensborough and the RA appreciated recent motions made in Council to look at collaborative efforts for providing a long-term situation;
- Traffic issues are an ongoing concern in Queensborough due to residential and heavy industry;
- The community is requesting transparent engagement on the Summit Earthworks proposal on land owned by Metro Vancouver;
- Upcoming events in Queensborough include:
 - Nagar Kirtan festival, taking place on June 30 at Ryall Park, celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar this year;
 - Queensborough festival, taking place on September 14; and,
 - Queensborough Shoreline cleanup, taking place on September 29.

Queen's Park

Kathleen Langstroth reported the following information:

- The City is going to implement traffic changes in Queen's Park so that drivers would no longer be able to turn left onto Royal Avenue from First Street and access to Park Row from Royal Avenue would be restricted;

- The RA is concerned about filming on Queens’s Park, as some areas are often overused, creating traffic and parking issues;
- The RA has concerns about the new Patullo Bridge and how it would affect McBride Boulevard; and,
- As noted in item 5.1, HRAs in Queen’s Park are an increasing concern.

Victoria Hill/Ginger Drive

Briana Harris reported the following information:

- The RA has held three general meetings since its founding, and there are currently 80 paid members;
- The RA’s main priorities are as follows:
 - Recommendations on traffic and safety concerns for the area;
 - Alleviating parking issues;
 - Cleaning up the Victoria Hill entrance gates;
 - Anticipating increased concerns concerning the Patullo Bridge;
 - Improving communications with members; and,
 - Applying for a grant from the Vancouver Foundation.

West End

Elmer Rudolph reported the following information:

- Concern was expressed that a cannabis store on Twelfth Street was recently approved at a public hearing; however, the RA had not received any prior notification;
- Similar to Moody Park, the RA would appreciate notice from the City in regards to proposed developments in the surrounding neighbourhoods; and,
- At a previous RA Forum, the topic of safety regulations and the development of a bylaw for temporary pools had been raised, and is currently being worked on by the Building department; however, it likely would not be ready for six months, meaning this year’s summer season would be missed. Given the importance of the regulations, and public safety awareness, the RA suggests that it could be expedited.

Downtown

- Concerns have been raised regarding the building on the south side of Columbia Street, at Fourth Street, as it is in disrepair and is an eyesore;
- There are no upcoming events being put on by the RA;
- An ongoing issue downtown is that residents’ garbage bins get put out for collection, and get picked through.

Councillor Nakagawa discussed the City's See, Click, Fix app, which can be used to make the City aware of issues, and also reminded the RAs of the City's Canada Day celebrations at Queen's Park and Pier Park.

Quayside Community Board

No report was provided.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. in Committee Room #2, City Hall

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Chair

Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk