

P.O. Box 44152

VICTORIA, BC V9A 7K1

**MINUTES**

Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 7, 2019

**In Attendance:** Gabe,Vera, Scott, Katherine, Chris K, Arden, Chris B, Pam, Russ,

**Regrets:** Irena,Evan, Elise, Edward, Phil

**1 Guest:** Sheridan Hawse, (Constituency Assistant for MLA Rob Fleming.)

Sheridan was looking for any feedback she could collect from us. We gave her our concerns for areas where Provincial jurisdiction might apply. We asked her to bring those concerns to Rob, including:

* Environmental concerns around the McKenzie Interchange Project;
* Live-aboard and abandoned boats on the Gorge;
* Homelessness issues (mental health and addiction outreach and services) and camping in our parks;
* Neighbourhood schools’ seismic upgrades;
* Spills from home-heating fuel tanks;
* The need for more support for refugees through, for example, organizations such as the Gorge Tillicum Refugee Sponsorship group;
* Our hope that the Province would work toward passing the leased PCC lands (that are part of Cuthbert Holmes Park) to Saanich Parks; and
* The perceived need for lower speed limits and further traffic calming measures

**2 Approval of agenda.** Approved—Vera motion, Russ seconded.

**3 Approval of January minutes.** Minutes were done by Chris B (in Scott’s absence). Thanks!

**4 GTCA Bylaw Review**

(See Bylaw Draft Document for reference.) We reviewed the document, now in it’s final stages. We looked at recent updates and additions and made some minor changes. We agreed that these final edits will be tabulated and completed and sent out to the board for final approval within the week following this meeting. Once approved (electronically,) this document will be sent out to membership well ahead of the upcoming AGM. We also discussed, in depth, the creation of a new executive position, ‘Communication Coordinator’. The question was called, (moved by Vera, seconded by Pam) and a vote was made. Everyone was in favour with the exception of one abstention.

**5 GTCA Development Design Guidelines**

See Community Design Guidelines document (put together by Vera) for reference.

The Board has been giving Vera input and from this, along with reference to our Charette (2004), the Tillicum Burnside Action Plan (2005), and the Saanich Official Community Plan/Tillicum LAP (2008), Vera has put together a handy document that can be shared with potential developers for use in their early planning stages. We also looked at a variety of sketches that showed many possible building facades of multi-story buildings that ‘might’ be given consideration along the main corridors along Gorge, Tillicum and Burnside and took the time to give these possible building designs a ‘yes’, ‘no’, or ‘maybe’. Vera plans to make further progress on these documents and get back to us.

**6 AGM Planning**

The AGM will be April 4th at VCKC (Victoria Canoe and Kayak Clubhouse.)

We decided to invite the newly elected Saanich Mayor and Council to attend, asking them to RSVP and to give them each 2 mins to introduce themselves and speak to issues in the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood. We will ask to see if Harry Lewis will officiate the election process again for us. If anyone knows of any possible new directors, now would be the time to reach out to them.

**7. Workshop Planning**

Will be Saturday, March 2/19. Review and planning. Gabe to send out more information.

**8. Proposed New Working Groups**

See ‘New Working Groups- A Proposal’ Document. Rather than having committees, we might have ‘working groups’. Putting out a call for more people to join such groups. More information will be forthcoming.

**9. Updates etc.**

**a. Spring Gorge Park Cleanup:** (Saturday, April 27th) Concerns were raised about the larger presence of homeless campers in the area where we usually set up. We decided to set up this time in the Community Gardens. (A break from tradition.)

**b. Newsletter:** Vera is aiming for Newsletter to go out mid March. Gathering last bits together.

**c. Building Developments:**

Earl Grey/Gorge Rd:This development is ‘on pause’ as developers are presently refinancing the project. Hoping to get going again by April. (At the moment there is a large hole the ground.)

RioCan/Tillicum Centre:Just sold to AnthemProperties Group Ltd. and Crestpoint Real Estate Investments Ltd. As far as we can tell, the development permit (to build a residential component on Tillicum Centre land) has been passed on as part of this deal.

Gorge Tillicum (Il Greco): Alan Lowe and property owners had an open house (Jan.29th) and there was a fairly large turnout. Heard both positive and negative comments. Concerns over the likely loss of the large trees on Arnot St. Also concerns over the loss of a community gathering space (presently Gorgeous Coffee.) More to come.

**10. Gorge Canada Day Picnic**

Chris K reported that we did get the Heritage Grant ($2500) and he expects the Saanich Grant to be in sometime in March.

**11. Website**

Gabe had a note from Evan -- looks like we’ll go ahead with Wordpress as it is the best option. More to come.

**12. McKenzie Interchange Project**

Gabe reported on conversations regarding an additional sediment spill and the need for (and implementation of) additional on-site monitoring and preventative measures.

**Adjournment: 9:10pm,** motion Chris B, seconded Arden.