

## **GNA Directors Meeting – January 9, 2024 at St. Jean Baptiste**

**Attendees:** Susanne Rautio (chair), Robin Jones, David Rittenhouse, and Lori Petryk

**Regrets:** Nic Humphreys, Darryl Stein, Phil Hoen

**Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm.**

*Motion to approve agenda by David; seconded by Robin, approved.*

**1. Approval of previous meeting minutes:**

*Motion by Lori to adopt October 10, 2023 minutes; seconded by Robin, approved.*

**2. Treasurer's report:**

Robin reported there is \$2757.27 in the bank. The outstanding cheques from the lantern festival have all been cashed and the remaining monies in the account are available to use towards the community map.

**3. Isabella Ross Memorial**

Phil absent so nothing to report at this time.

**4. Lantern Festival**

**Robin to spearhead the organization of the next lantern festival.** She has created a list of all potential volunteers so will organize the first meeting in the coming months.

**5. VCAN Biodiversity and parks map**

Nothing new to report at this time.

**6. Glenlyon Norfolk Redevelopment Plans**

**David to take the lead on liaising with Shannon Drew on the future plans for Glenlyon school; including working to get community meeting space approved as part of the redevelopment plan.**

**7. Safety Concerns/Unhoused camping**

Susanne mentioned that a meeting occurred with Marianne Alto's assistant Laura Parent on October 16 with herself, Alan Dibb and Shannon Geer. As Laura was relatively new to her job she was unable to give much detail on this issue but she did say that determining which neighbourhood would have overnight camping was based to a large extent on the amount of calls the city received on issues such as cleanliness, noise disturbance etc. Since that meeting occurred council announced a reduction to the number of parks that would allow camping and Hollywood park was removed from the list. **Susanne to continue to work with Alan and Shannon on next steps, if any, should there be problems associated with Pemberton Park and Gonzales Beach Park.**

**8. St. Matthias Church redevelopment**

Susanne relayed that she and a representative from Rockland Neighbourhood Assn. met with a representative of the Anglican Diocese and the Wiser Group on Dec. 4. We were informed that a year-long process assessing all the churches in Victoria was almost over with the result being that St. Matthias was going to be sold and that a MOU was to be signed

in January 2024. The initial purpose of the meeting was to determine whether there was any opportunity for the city and community to buy the church for the benefit of the community; but it would appear that a decision has already been made as to what will happen to the church.

9. **Priorities for 2024**

**The following priorities were endorsed for 2024:**

- 1. Actively organize/advertise Solstice**
- 2. Host another lantern festival in the fall**
- 3. Virtual townhall in the spring**
- 4. Write a letter to city hall/parks department asking them to please inform us of proposed changes in our community**
- 5. Continue to push for a separate neighbourhood Association for Gonzales**

*Motion by Robin to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Lori, approved*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm**

**Next board meeting date - February 13 at 7 pm at St. Jean Baptiste Church**