

GNA Directors Meeting – February 13, 2024 at St. Jean Baptiste Church

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

Regrets: Nic Humphreys, Phil Hoen

Guest: Matt Dell, Council Representative

Discussion with Matt regarding issues that are of concern to the GNA; namely

1. *Separate Neighbourhood Assn for Gonzales*

Matt committed to bringing a request for funding to city council for the GNA in order to cover costs like membership newsletters, website, mailbox, room rental and supplies

Action: GNS to write a short proposal outlining a budget as well as describing programs and special events planned for the community

2. *Richardson road closure*

There are still significant issues with Richardson as it is now. Putting in bike lanes which would then allow for cars and a thoroughfare is being proposed. Matt is reluctant to take staff time away from new bike lanes to address problems with existing ones.

Action: Chris Ford - retired road safety engineer will be asked to recommend a cost effective solution. Matt to speak with Head Engineer for the City - Ross Kenny - to state that our intent is to get Richardson in the queue for reevaluation.

Meeting called to order at 8:20 pm.

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

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

Motion by Robin to adopt January 9, 2024 minutes; seconded by Darryl, approved.

2. **Treasurer's report:**

Robin reported there is \$2678.37 in the bank.

3. **Isabella Ross Memorial**

Phil absent so nothing to report at this time.

4. **Lantern Festival**

Motion by Susanne to pay Wendy Buckland for 5 hours to prepare another proposal to the city under the My Great Neighbourhood grant. Robin seconded.

5. **VCAN Biodiversity and parks map**

The VCAN biodiversity proposal is in the works. Rockland is taking the lead and the focus will be on Garry Oak in Victoria. Susanne mentioned that the VCAN parks committee will be pushing the city to adopt a policy of protecting 30% of the city landbase for Biodiversity as a 100 year initiative similar to the Bowker Creek initiative. Right now it is roughly 12%.

6. **Safety Concerns/Unhoused camping**

Susanne mentioned that Alan Dibb and Shannon Geer are trying to get a meeting with Marianne Alto and/or Laura Parent to follow up on the previous meeting. Questions that

were asked were never answered so the hope is that Mayor Alto would become available in the near future.

Robin suggested that the GNA send out an e-mail asking for Neighbourhood Watch captains to contact us and that we would include their information on the website.

7. St. Matthias Church redevelopment

Subsequent to the previous board meeting whereby it was stated that St. Matthias was going to be sold Susanne has since found out that the Diocese is withdrawing from the sale for a year. A letter from the Diocese was sent to the parishioners to that effect.

8. Glenlyon Norfolk Meeting

David and Robin met with Shannon Drew from Glenlyon and she affirmed the desire of the school to include community space in the rebuilding plans. And that GNA would be able to hold meetings there whenever the space is built. The timeline for when the building may be built is unknown but the overall plan for the school rejuvenation is 10 years.

9. Townhall meeting date

The proposed meeting date for the GNA townhall is Tuesday, May 14 at 7 pm

Motion by David to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Lori, approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Next board meeting date - March 12 at 7 pm at St. Jean Baptiste Church