

GNA Directors Meeting – October 8, 2024 at 359 Richmond Ave.

Attendees: Phil Hoen, Susanne Rautio (chair), Robin Jones, Darryl Stein, Nic Humphreys

Regrets: Lori Petryk

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Motion to approve agenda by Darryl; seconded by Phil, approved.

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Motion by Robin to adopt May 14, 2024 minutes; seconded by Nic, approved.

2. Treasurer's report:

Robin reported there is \$3490.71 in the GNA bank account but there are still significant bills to pay as a result of the Gonzales Children's Festival.

3. Resignation of Board Member David Rittenhouse

David submitted his resignation on October 3 effective immediately due to the fact that he moved out of the neighbourhood.

4. Isabella Ross Memorial

This item carried forward to next month as nothing has been done with respect to it.

5. Gonzales Children's Festival

Robin reported on the success of the festival held on Saturday, September 14. Good turnout; lots of activities for children and a nice variety of food options. Pictures and video of the event are up on our website as well as recognition for the various businesses that supported the event. Thank you to the volunteers who came and helped out. This year there were roughly 25 volunteers of all ages.

6. Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Biodiversity and parks map

A meeting with all neighbourhood representatives from VCAN is to occur at the neighbourhood city space at Crystal gardens on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1 to 4pm. The purpose of the project is to spur the city on to consider, should money become available, the best places in each neighborhood to consider buying land for green space. The 3 areas nominated by the GNA include any property that comes up for sale adjacent to Pemberton or Hollywood Park and 615 Foul Bay road. 615 Foul Bay road contains 50 Garry Oaks in addition to many other mature trees and likely represents the single biggest source of trees on private property here in Gonzales.

7. Safety Concerns/Unhoused camping

Safety concerns continue at Gonzales beach now that there are officially only 3 places for people to camp in Victoria; two of them here in Gonzales. It does not appear that there are concerns about safety at Pemberton Park; at least not that we have heard of. Added to that it appears that boats are intentionally or unintentionally being abandoned in Gonzales bay which may be polluting or dangerous to people and dogs. The board will continue to press council to close down Gonzales Beach as a destination for unhoused; mainly because it is

unsafe for unhoused people and is too small for people to camp in. Unfortunately the board has tried for a full year to meet with Mayor Alto and she has refused to meet with us.

8. **Budget to submit to Matt**

This item has not been completed

9. **Solstice Event**

The board agreed not to pursue funding for this event as the primary organizer/creator asked that it not be formally organized in any way. Instead the board will send out an e-mail to the distribution list inviting people to attend and help clean up the tea lights at the end of the evening.

10. **Townhall meeting May 29 at 7 pm**

The townhall meeting was very successful in that it was well attended with around 60 people present plus two councillors: Matt Dell and Marg Gardiner, and there were many questions and answers given by the councillors. A summary of a questionnaire asking Gonzales residents their opinion on various issues was presented at the meeting and subsequently e-mailed to councillors. The main items that were discussed were the Official Community Plan (OCP) consultations, proposed changes to Richardson, and getting the abandoned boats removed from Gonzales Beach.

11. **Set AGM date**

The board determined that the AGM should be held on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 pm. Susanne to book a meeting room and send out an e-mail invite to the GNA distribution list.

Motion by Phil to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Darryl, approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next board meeting date - Tuesday, January 14, 2025