



Sapperton Residents' Association

The purpose of the association is to preserve and enhance the livability and quality of the Sapperton neighborhood.

Sapperton Residents' Association Public Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 08, 2021 @ 7:00 pm **Location:** Virtual via Zoom

Attendance: 12 residents

Executive: Gagan (Chair), Jerry, Dee, Geoff, Monica (minutes) **Regrets:** Anita, Eileen, Sandra, Wilf

City Representative: Janet Zazubek (Planning Dept.)

Presenters: Dianne Simpson, New Westminster Hospice Society
Gregg Cernes and Carol Swanson, RCH Redevelopment
Courtney Pankratz and Const. Oliveira, Overdose Community Action Group for NW

1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive Gagan

- Reminder to pay annual dues of \$5 if you have not done so yet this year
- Residents can e-transfer fees to Anita or drop off cash or cheque to her home,

2. Approval of November minutes - Moved, Seconded, Vote: Carried. Gagan

3. New Westminster Hospice Society Dianne Simpson

- Dianne first gave the history of the NWHS.
- Its purpose is to raise awareness and normalize conversations around dying and death.
- She explained the purpose and function of the Compassionate City Crew who receive six weeks' training. They go into the homes of dying people to help and coordinate with their family and friends on ways to help.
- The Society is planning to resume these activities once Covid bans are lifted.
- They have two annual events: 1) the Festival of Grief and Loss 2) a River Walk fundraiser and memorial event. Whether and how these events will go ahead this year will depend on the Covid situation and how it evolves.
- In the future, the Society is hoping to open a thrift store to provide income for the society. They are currently searching for a location for the store.
- They would like to have other services associated with this, such as a small appliance repair service.
- They will be hosting a virtual Advanced Care Planning seminar in the near future.
- The long-term goal of the Society is to develop a hospice in New Westminster.

4. Purpose Society

Courtney Pankratz & Const. Oliveira, NWPD

- Constable Oliveira is the Police Liaison for our Community and works with vulnerable persons in our community.
- Courtney started the presentation by showing statistics on the number of overdose deaths.
- She noted the factors involved in the high number of deaths: stigma, unregulated drug supply, trauma, and poverty. These factors have all been worsened by the pandemic.
- Since 2016, NW has lost 125 individuals to drug overdoses.
- She provided information about fentanyl and how it is impacting the overdose numbers.
- The majority of drug use is happening in people's homes, which puts them at higher risk for overdoses.
- She discussed the strategy of harm reduction.
- Const. Oliveira provided strategies on how to help someone who is experiencing an overdose.
- Members of the community can get Naloxone kits from the Purpose Society and receive training on how to use them.
- She discussed some of the myths around overdose prevention sites.
- She provided tips for how to deal with people in the community who may be dealing with drug use and also homeless members of the community.
- She provided some safety tips for residents, especially for the night-time.
- She also suggested resources, especially for picking up used needles in the community.

5. RCH Redevelopment Project

Gregg Cernes and Carol Swanson

- Gregg Cernes introduced himself as the temporary replacement for Sharat Chandra who has been seconded to the vaccine rollout with Fraser Health.
- He also introduced Michael Kazdan, the Project Director from EllisDon, the company in charge of the current Phase of the RCH Redevelopment.
- EllisDon will be joining all meetings with the RA moving forward.
- The official start of construction began with the ground-blessing ceremony.
- Sherbrooke Tower is now completely down.
- The Interim Support Building is being constructed and should be completed by August, 2021.
- The E. Columbia Street paving finishes this week; there were some hiccups today so they will be adding flaggers tomorrow.
- The South parking lane on Sherbrooke Street has now been designated as a dedicated lane for trucks accessing the project site.
- ED is constantly monitoring traffic around the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Wellness Centre. They are working to "correct bad behaviour of drivers" around Allen Street at Brunette.
- ED would like a noise by-law exemption for Saturday mornings. After hearing about concerns from the neighbourhood, they pulled the application from the Council Agenda and want to deal with the neighbours' concerns. ED stated that Saturdays are "catch-up days" and feel that a 7 am start is a way to stay on top of the project timeline and keep workers who want longer hours on Saturdays.

- Gagan had a meeting with EllisDon to address residents' concerns; Michael from ED went over how they have addressed these concerns.
- ED plans to limit early AM activities on Saturdays so they will not be extremely noisy. They do plan to work every Saturday but will limit the noisy activities to after the 7-9 am period. The trucks will be staged in a separate zone and they will not be allowed to idle. Michael committed to personally address all issues that arise, and he committed to ED being a "good neighbour" to residents.
- They have installed a flashing pedestrian marked crosswalk.
- He acknowledges that they need to talk to the contractors at the 408 E. Columbia Street project to coordinate with them to ensure there is not a doubling up of issues between the two projects.
- Geoff expressed concern about the lack of dust control on the site and he also expressed concerns about the noise impact from the early Saturday morning start. Michael said he is committed to doing a better job of dust control and said he is happy to meet with individual residents about their concerns. He commits to problem-solving issues. For example, regarding the dust on Geoff's house, he said that their crews should come to clean the dust.
- Geoff requested to see a full site plan to see how far the new building will be set back from Sherbrooke Street. Michael will connect with the City to get updated site plans.
- Michael and Gregg listed their April construction goals.
- ED has put jersey barriers along Sherbrooke and would like to make this permanent.
- Parsons Consulting will be doing a study on truck traffic. ED is thinking of having one-way traffic westbound on Sherbrooke with local traffic only able to turn left from E. Columbia Street onto Sherbrooke.
- They also want to protect cyclists by putting in a separate bike lane. Down the road, there will be a permanent, dedicated bike lane on Sherbrooke.
- Towards the end of April, the first of four tower cranes will be set up.
- Ross expressed concerns over the impact on Major Street of making Sherbrooke one-way. He also expressed concern about construction workers parking in the neighbourhood and trucks coming through the neighbourhood. Michael said workers are supposed to park at the Braid Street RCH lot and not in the neighbourhood. He suggests that if residents notice workers parking on neighbourhood streets or trucks coming through our streets, we should take photos and email them to him. He commits to penalizing the companies violating the rules. He suggested that he can fine the companies and donate the funds to the NW Hospice Society. He said their site typically shuts down at 3 pm each day.
- Gregg emphasized the importance of and need to coordinate with the City of New Westminster and said Lisa Leblanc is currently working on this.
- Dee had a conversation with by-law about enforcement of parking regulations. She said they will come if they get a complaint, but it disrupts their regular schedule.
- There will be 1000 construction workers on the site when the project is running full steam.

6. Update on Ongoing Projects

Janet Zazubek, City of NW Planning Dept.

A. 100 Braid Street Street

- They are finalizing the steps of their rezoning process.

B. Urban Academy

- The development permit has been issued and they are moving into the Building Permit stage.

C. Brewery District

- Building 7 is under construction.

D. Elizabeth Fry Building on Sherbrooke Street

- This project is moving in the Building Permit phase after almost nine years of no action on this project.

E. 408 E .Columbia Street

- Construction is well under way on this site.

F. Cannabis Retail Store Application – E. Columbia Street at the site of the current RCH Thrift Store. This is going to a Public Hearing on April 19 via Zoom.

7. Police Report

Sandra

- Sandra was not in attendance. There was no Police Report.

8. New Business

A. Street Boulevard Tree and Planting Issue

Monica

- The RA was contacted by a concerned resident from the West End who claimed that the City arborists were cracking down on “illegal” installations by residents under City trees on boulevards adjacent to or in front of residents’ homes. He claimed that the City was planning to fine or charge residents for planter boxes, decorative rock gardens, and so on, that residents install themselves. Given the significant number of these installations throughout Sapperton, we sought clarification from Dean Gibson with the Parks Department, which oversees tree-related issues in New Westminster. At a Zoom meeting with him, he stated to us that the City is not going to be charging or fining people for such installations, but that it did raise the issue of what is allowed and what is not allowed to be planted or installed under City trees. Arborists do have concerns if installations may damage tree roots. The City also wants residents to know that any work that might need to be done by the City on its property that could involve the removal of these plantings or installations will not involve the City workers replacing the work done by residents. Therefore, any losses of plants, wood, rockery, and so on, will not be replaced or covered by the City.
- Dean said that he would like some of his staff to put together a presentation for an upcoming RA meeting to educate residents on issues related to such plantings and the tree by-law in general.

B. Classified Section in the RA Newsletter

Diane J.

- Diane is wondering if we should include a Classified section in the RA newsletter to allow residents to advertise basic things – eg. Kids who may offer their services to shovel snow or mow lawns; people who wish to give away their plants, etc. Overall, people expressed support for this idea but wondered about the process and whether to include local business advertisements.

C. Annual Sapperton Garage Sale – due to the pandemic, this will not be happening in June of this year.

D. StrEATS Festival – Gagan sent a letter of support for this Food Truck festival on behalf of the RA after a request for support by Guy Ciprian who organizes it.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:17 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 03, 2021, at 7:00 pm – location likely Zoom but dependent on situation with the pandemic.