

GRANDVIEW WOODLAND AREA COUNCIL

Our mission is to ensure a forum for the residents; to make them aware of services and programs, to ensure they have a venue to express opinions and to take action on problems & needs identified in the area; to promote fact finding, surveys & studies of the community, its needs & its problems; to promote awareness of local issues; to take action when necessary & to represent the area's interest to both government and non-government bodies; to liaise with other groups in both the area & adjacent areas; & to provide an information centre where such information and announcements can be aggregated.

MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, February 3, 2014
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Learning Resource Centre, Britannia
1661 Napier Street,
Vancouver, British Columbia
Chair: King
Present: Barkley, Durrie, Fergie, Irvine, Mosca, Ollenberger, Parent, Scully
Guests: Emily Chu, Bruce Macdonald, Mina Matestinic, John Roberts
Regrets: Anderson, Worrall

Item #	Detail
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1.0 Call to Order

The Chair welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:09pm, introducing the guests and advising all that the group must be out by 9:00pm.

2.0 Acceptance of the Agenda

3.0 Adoption of the minutes of January 6, 2014:

No minutes presented.

4.0 Community Activities & Events:

- a. Chinese New Year
- b. Rogers & Hammerstein's Out of a Dream @ the York, February 5-16
- c. 6th SFU's Discussion of Transit Referendum: Geoff Meggs & Gordon Price
- d. 19th Community Policeman Mike Lemon to speak to the current issues @ JJ Bean, 6th & Commercial
- e. March Service Fair: Under One Umbrella March 16, 2014
- f. 24th Commercial Drive Action Committee, Britannia Board room @ 7pm, all welcome
- g. Online Community Calendar now live on GWAC web site, submit events to vcn.bc.ca/GWAC
- h. March 1st, 50th Anniversary of GWAC

5.0 Community Assembly Report:

King reported that two open houses were held, several of the GWACouncil had attended, as did all of the Citizens Assembly Task Group. King is in contact with Andrew Pask of the City for the findings/results, but they reportedly were not yet available. He will continue to monitor.

6.0 AGM Reminder:

March 9th, 1:00pm in the Canucks Room

Members are invited to both stand for election, and/or to come & vote for those individuals they think best to represent the interests and concerns of the residents of Grandview Woodland.

7.0 Transportation Update:

71 John Roberts read his poem about Commercial Drive's #20 bus called "#20"

7.2 Powell Street Closure: Irvine reported that the work is progressing well, having just passed the 6 month mark and reputedly is on schedule & within budget. The above ground structure will soon be visible, and confirmation of the anticipated completion date will be announced in the spring. If there are any concerns residents are to call 311. The projected opening is July 2014, with resumption of access to Powell Street for all vehicles.

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7.3 Transit Survey: Durrie distributed a questionnaire to attendees inviting them to respond to a Translink feedback link.

8.0 Venables Greenway

8.1 History of Venables

Local Historian Bruce MacDonald gave a history of the development and naming of the area between Commercial Drive, the waterfront, Clark and 1st Avenue, citing the initial developer was Forbes George Vernon and his practice was to name the streets after himself and his father, John Venables Vernon, all of which remain in use today but for Forbes Street which is no longer. He detailed the development of Venables with housing in the upper reaches, industrial development in the lower, and 18 acres being given over to Britannia, as well as the creation of the Commercial Drive diversion.

8.2 Venables Greenway

Emily Chu reported the development of the proposal in response to a 2005 City challenge “21 Places for the 21st Century” by herself, Richard Pennaway and Tom Durrie. It won a prize for its plan to develop Venables as a quiet, tree-lined street servicing low-rise retail, light-industrial, park and cultural spaces. She stated the intention was to see Venables as both an entrance way for Grandview but also a living link between Grandview and Strathcona. The members agreed that a high-rise at Commercial & Venables as proposed by Boffo Properties did not fit in this design concept and would do nothing to improve that part of the neighbourhood.

8.3 East Van Cultural Crawl

Mina Matestinic spoke about the East Van Culture Crawl and, more generally, on the difficulties that artists and musicians have in finding work and display spaces, and how the Venables Greenway could be very useful in this regard. She discussed the ongoing concern for rising rents at 1000 Parker, Powell Street's Ark which no longer houses artists exclusively in its live-work spaces due to its cost of tenancy, the eviction of artists from 901 Main Street and the ongoing diminishment of affordable suitable studio space. Matestinic referenced Toronto's ArtScape program as a model for a similar program to be developed in Vancouver. It was suggested that arts groups and artists lobby hard with both the City and the Cultch to preserve [the Green House](#) which could provide some space.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting: 1:00pm, March 9, 2014
Location: Canucks Room, Britannia Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia