

MINUTES
Camosun Community Association
Zoom Video Conference
Thursday March 10, 2022 7 P.M.

Call to Order: 7:00 PM. Present - Meralin Young, Leigh Urquhart, Lisa Timmons, Vernon Lord, Andrea Gleichauf, Angus Whitmore, Jamie Dopp, Evan Fryer and guest Basil Langevin

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Lisa - second by Angus

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Lisa - second by Angus

Guest Basil Langevin:

- Basil is a candidate for Saanich council and the CRD and can be described as thoughtful leader who is highly involved in street safety advocacy and environmental restoration within Saanich as well as Innovator, collaborator and problem solver. As Executive Director of an LGBT nonprofit for the last 7 years, Basil has developed a unique ability to bring people together despite their differences. For more about Basil and his campaign, please visit his website [Elect Basil Langevin](#)

Reports:

President: Lisa

- Met with the Gordon Head, Quadra Cedar Hill, Cadboro Bay and Cordova Bay community associations to discuss housing, parks and bylaws issues. A special area of interest was the Shelbourne corridor. This group will meet again in the near future.
- Regarding the Abstract meeting for their 3405 Shelbourne and Freeman project, surveys to local residents were delivered by Andrea, Jamie and Lisa. Common issues heard from residents were **lack of parking onsite, traffic and the height of the six story building**. Adam Cooper and staff from Abstract hosted a community update meeting on February 24 regarding their resubmission for the project (original February 2020) - view the meeting here [Abstract community update](#). Lisa and Andrea attended the meeting. The six townhomes have been eliminated from the design.
- Mail received advocating a 10K cycling road race through Saanich.
- Lisa attended a meeting with Soren Henrich and Ian Graeme and brought a motion to endorse a legal letter written by a pro bono lawyer relating how the SD61 land sale disposal is unlawful. Andréa seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- Discussion of the upcoming “Lie in” protest March 13 at the former Richmond school property, to raise awareness of the third reading of the SD61 land disposal on March 14.

Treasurer: Vernon

- As of February 22, the bank balance is \$2316.90. Vernon will have membership forms available for the lie in rally on the 13th.

Communication: Evan

- Continual Facebook postings for our rallies and community events, see here [Facebook](#). There have been many shares and likes of the posts and a few comments. Four Mailchimp emails have been sent out, with a 70-80% opening and engagement. Tom is keeping our website current with excellent current information on The CCA and community affairs – see [CCA](#)

SCAN (Saanich Community Association Network): Jamie

- Report from the March 10th meeting. The meeting began with the introduction of Brent Rens, the new CAO of Saanich. He said a few words about himself.
- Then Mayor Haynes spoke. He initially lauded the Uptown Redevelopment Plan and reminded us of the July 8-9 Uptown fair. Then he did a chalk-talk about villages, centres, and corridors. Eventually it became clear that he was saying that doing more neighbourhood plans was costly and time-consuming, and that the city is intended to do a city-wide plan based on the villages, centres, and corridors model. He said Council had made it a priority to improve the efficiency of the development process. He also said that the Provincial Government had told municipalities that they had to “get their acts together” (that is, to make development easier and more efficient) or the Provincial Government would take action—perhaps this fall.
- There was quite a bit of discussion after the Mayor’s presentation. My overall sense is that people were struggling to balance the need for new housing (which everybody recognized) with the protection of neighbourhoods. The Mayor suggested that with the new model, developers would be “strongly encouraged” to concentrate their proposals in designated areas.
- I suggested that one way to make the development process more efficient was to only accept for consideration proposals that met the requirements of the various plans, that developers “pushing the envelope” tended to create resistance—and delay. I used the Shelbourne Street corridor as an example (developers seeking six story developments in areas designated for four). The Mayor replied that developers couldn’t “make a profit” with only four story developments. I

expressed my skepticism of this claim. He agreed to supply me with financial information about developments to prove his case.

- The other items at the meeting went by quickly. Apparently there have been concerns about the Council's use of the "consent agenda." The Mayor reassured the group that there was nothing nefarious about how items get on this agenda: council just guesses which items are non-controversial and puts them on. If someone objects, the item is removed so that it can be discussed.
- There was also a discussion of road safety—a serious concern in some neighbourhoods (like Falaise Road). The Mayor's response was that there had been many years of infrastructure neglect in Saanich and there is a lot of catching up to do.
- There was also a discussion of the tax increases proposed in the new five-year plan (6% a year) and whether enough had been done to find efficiencies.
- The Mayor also championed the "Living and Lives" guide that Saanich has produced for UVic students. It looked great. There is some hope that recently approved developments, and the new UVic residence, will ease the rental environment for students a bit.

Land Use:

- Re the Urban Thrive 9 townhome project at Alenby and Richmond- the developer wants another online meeting to share new design concepts.
- Abstract is gathering the returned surveys from their Freeman-Shelbourne project

Environment:

- Discussion re banning the use of rodenticide entirely in Saanich involving the death of birds and animals and the suggestion we need to make a posting on Facebook.

New Business:

- Andrea started discussion of our notice boards at Alenby Park. The board decided to relinquish one to the ball park and to refurbish or replace the existing sign with a new one – a decision to be made at a future meeting.
- Plans for a family event will be discussed at the April meeting.

Next Meeting: April 14

Adjournment

