

2023 AGM MINUTES
Camosun Community Association
Zoom Video Conference
Thursday November 16, 2023 7- 8:30 P.M.

Call to Order: 7:00 PM by president Lisa Timmons.

Present: Directors - Meralin Young, Vicki Sanders, Leigh Urquhart, Angus Whitmore, Jamie Dopp, Mike Kory. Guests -Pat Walker, Ian Graeme

Regrets: Evan Fryer

Approval of AGM Agenda: Motioned by Vicki, seconded by Jamie

Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes: Motioned by Meralin, seconded by Angus

Welcome introduction from President Lisa Timmons:

o About the CCA

The Camosun Community Association is a neighborhood organization in the District of Saanich. Liaising with the municipality on matters of interest to the community

- Fostering a sense of community by planning and promoting neighborhood events
- Providing relevant information to community residents
- Upholding local plans for the community
- Working with developers to ensure concerns from neighboring residents are met during development applications
- Supporting community services in the area
- Helping restore natural areas in the community including Bowker Creek

Guest Speaker: Zoe Cilliers - CRD Environmental Stewardship Specialist with Parks and Environmental Services. The 20 minute topic was Rainwater Management in the CRD and learning about your municipal zoning regulations and regionally available resources for installing water harvesting equipment on your property.

- o Zoe narrated an informative slide presentation followed by a question period highlighting the following areas: What is a watershed, how we impact it and discover your watershed, Local stormwater issues, Urban stormwater in the CRD, How can we manage rainwater and stormwater, Understanding stormwater and how to harvest it, Benefits of a rain garden, current research and resources.

- o Some additional links related to the presentation are : District of Saanich Rain Gardens [Rain Gardens](#) Rain Water Management, City of Victoria [Water Management](#)
- o For more information you can contact the CRD at waterwise@crd.bc.ca and zcilliers@crd.bc.ca
- o The CCA can provide a pdf of Zoe Cilliers presentation by emailing camosunca@gmail.com.

Reports:

President: Lisa Timmons

- o Thank you to the present board for their contributions this past year and to our webmaster Tom Celuszak.
- o Areas where we excelled in 2023 were the environment and community action, specifically our involvement with the Kings Community Nature Space (KCNS), the Biodiversity Day at KCNS and the weeding of invasive species and replanting at this site. In the community we successfully campaigned with partners to save the property at Lansdowne South Middle School. Further community awareness was raised with our Facebook, Website posts on Emergency Preparedness, Bowker Creek preservation awareness, Active transportation plans, and urban forest protection. We actively participated to discussions on the Saanich Overall Community Plan and on local development open forums. Continued support of the Shelbourne Community kitchen is an ongoing CCA initiative.
- o We are particularly proud of hosting by zoom presentation guest speaker Patrick Condon, a renowned Canadian urban designer, planner, professor and author of several books. We plan to do more presentations like this in the future.
- o Priorities for 2024 will be to concentrate on our membership, both in increasing, tracking and use of our Google drive and related software.
- o We have been without a treasurer for one half of the year. Present bank balance is \$737.31 with outstanding expenditures still owing. Last year at this time the balance was \$1913.00. We need to apply for Saanich community grants for 2022 and 2023 as well as continue to fund raise.
- o I have enjoyed working with everyone and look forward to our Christmas social dinner upcoming.

Communications: Evan Fryer

- o Some highlights from the year:
- o We still have around 200 subscribers to our Mail Chimp newsletters and community announcements
- o Our engagement on our Facebook posts have never been higher and we continue to have new “Likes” to our page every month.
- o This year, I have noticed that a lot of other Community Associations around town follow our Facebook Page and share some of our relevant stories on their platforms

- o Communications surrounding the Lansdowne South campus over the last year have been the biggest endeavor with multiple posts to our website and Facebook page. I think this consistent posting and communication really helps get the word out there about these important issues
- o As always, a huge thanks needs to go to Tom, our volunteer webmaster, who does a remarkable job in making sure the Website always has up to date information and “speaks” with our Facebook page posts.
- o Goals for next year:
- o Over the last year, we have had multiple requests from news/media for interviews (CBC, CTV, etc.). We have not responded to these requests, but it might be worth coming up with a plan for the future on how we might respond (if we should?) to these request.

Secretary: Leigh Urquhart

- o Re SD61 land sale at Lansdowne South: A large thank you to all in the CCA and community partners for supporting actions to keep the SD61 Lansdowne South property in public hands. Special thank you to Lisa for her letter writing, public speaking and organization. Thanks to Meralin Young for her work on the CCA letter to the Approving Officer and Pat Walker for researching and creating an information flyer that was delivered to hundreds of local households, as well as Tom Celuszak our webmaster and Evan Fryer for their Website and Facebook postings. Lastly, thank you to the FOBC and other community association partners for support in keeping the campaign alive.

Community Association Liaison Committee: Meralin Young

- o CALC, the community association Liaison committee at UVic meets four times a year to discuss local concerns connected to the university, university building plans that might impact surrounding residents, new projects that require community input and items of general interest.

The highlights this year include the opening of the two new university residence towers and food services. They are passive energy buildings with triple paned windows, recycled heat from the food services area, hepa filtered air circulation, electric induction cooking (no gas) and reusable food containers for students. Together they house 783 students of the 2,900 students in residence at UVic. The current UVic student population including undergraduate, masters and PhD students is approximately 22,000. More information can be found on the university website UVic.ca.

There is a new strategic plan, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the university that includes indigenous values, ways to address climate change and plans to build more housing for students and staff outside the university on university lands, e.g. the old Racquet club property. They will liaise with the community involved and include amenities like small grocery stores etc. The strategic plan

can be found on the website.

Improved east- west bicycle and pedestrian pathways have been built, with a new on -demand crossing on Gordon Head Rd near Campus View School coordinated with Saanich municipality.

Construction continues on an Engineering building addition and a new high roof testing building. An indigenous law extension to the law building is also well underway and will encompass native plant landscaping.

An interesting planned project is electrification of one of the boilers in the new power plant and electrification of the university vehicle fleet.

Residents are encouraged to contact the CCA if they have any concerns they want raised at the meeting.

Election of Officers: Presided by director Angus Whitmore

Executive:

There were no further nominations for the position of President and secretary and the present incumbents agreed to stay on another term. Current director Jamie Dopp put his name for treasurer. Motion to approve candidates- Angus and seconded by Meralin. Voting was unanimous in favor.

- **President** : Lisa Timmons
- **Vice President:** vacant
- **Treasurer-**: Jamie Dopp
- **Secretary:** Leigh Urquhart

Leigh put forward a motion of one vote for the 3 executive positions.

Election of Directors:

No further nominations for directors- Angus moved to approve and Meralin seconded. The voting was unanimous in favor

- **Vicki Sanders** : Land Use
- **Meralin Young** : UVic Community Association Liaison Committee (CALC)
- **Angus Whitmore** : Director at Large
- **Evan Fryer:** Communications
- **Mike Kory:** Director at Large:

Having heard no more nominations Angus announced the election of officers closed.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM
