



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

**Present:** Tricia Demacedo, Rick Daykin, Terry Eckstein, George and Vicki Blogg, Dorothy Chambers, Yogi Carolsfeld, Laura Kravac, Adam Steele, Melissa Huston, Morley Eldridge, Sara Stallard, Craig Elder, Edmund Duggan (VCKC), Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd

DECISIONS				
1	GWI will not co-facilitate a water-themed event for Vic West Neighbourhood Plan process			
2	GWI will submit comments to View Royal regarding the Christie Pt redevelopment plan			
<b>Next Meeting: Wednesday January 18, 2017</b>				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Provide a summary of bird surveys on the website		Dorothy/ Kitty	When available
2	Name tag for Laura Kravac		Kitty	January
3	Possible letter of support for a staged approach to construction along the Colquitz River for Beaver Lake sewer upgrade project		All	December
4	Contact View Royal planner/TownSquare to determine timing of Christie Pt redevelopment application		Kitty	ASAP
5	Prepare comments on Christie Pt redevelopment for VR, when application is submitted		Kitty/All	When available
6	Provide input on GWI comments to Burnside Gorge neighbourhood plan to Kitty		All	Nov. 18

### Information

**Review of action items from September meeting:**

- Tour of Beaver Lake Sewer Upgrade project with CRD Parks staff and engineers– November 23, 10- 11:30am
- Vic West Neighbourhood Plan process: CoV suggested that GWI lead a water-themed community event, but members decided against this, feeling that it should be a CoV-led event

**Gorge Waterway Park Zone update: Adam Steele, CoV**

- Environmental assessment has not gone to council so cannot be shared with the public
- Not sure when it will be in front of council, item has been put back to January agenda
- Media release Oct 28, since then 3 boats have left voluntarily
- Need to get an injunction to remove remaining boats
- Looking at the 2 sunken boats as well, request for proposals has gone out to remove those
- One of the live-aboards brought his boat up to Portage Inlet, “Captain Mike boat” has been paid for and moved, he still has 8 boats there that he rents out to others

**Discussion: Updated plans for Christie Point Redevelopment**

- Several members attended the View Royal public meeting last week
- Several GWI members met the consultant team on site in September, expressed concerns about trails, footprint of buildings in relation to the trees
- Sara Stallard is on the environmental consulting team
- Revised plan has removed two 9 story towers, now five proposed buildings are 6 stories high, two are 4 stories
- For the presentation to community, they used fog lenses to show the view of the buildings at night from surrounding areas
- Terry spoke with John Rogers at the council meeting, feels that council is hearing concerns but have changed nothing, Realstar Management VP Heather Grey-Wolf walked them through the process
- Schedule – when are they submitting a variance application and firming up the development plan?

**ACTION:** Contact VR and developer, requesting timing for application

- Major comments for GWI letter:
  - Very concerned about the heights being proposed
  - Lighting on the buildings – night lights and impacts on fish, concern for bird strikes on the building windows
  - Significant impact to shoreline with 1000 people living there, concerned about dogs, trampling and degradation of habitat on the shoreline, including biofilm on the mudflats
  - Concerned about the images used in the presentation for night lighting, highly unlikely that this many buildings will be that dark
  - Proposed dock in the mudflat – must use Green Shore approach
  - Increased planting along the shoreline, should be a 5m vegetated buffer
  - Age and height of trees, existing trees might hide buildings now but won't for very long, as some of these will have to come down and be replaced with small trees; what is the replanting plan?
  - Concerned about the construction impact
  - 4 story buildings could be more compatible with the rest of the development
  - Where else in VR are there buildings at this height? Is this the right place to build such high-density?
  - Consider donating part of this property back to park, potential land swap
  - Concern about possible impacts to eelgrass and oysters during construction
  - Two major creeks nearby support salmon runs
  - Recognize that they have considered the environment, appreciate that GWI was consulted early in the process, disappointed that there do not appear to be many changes from original plan after all the feedback we have provided

- What about stormwater management from all the roofs?
- Will look like a cruise ship in the midst of a bird sanctuary
- Members like the fact that new buildings will be on the same footprint as existing buildings and parking lots
- Parking areas for lots of these areas are actually shown on drawings, there will be one grass-covered parking structure for each building
- The density is too high for this location, obvious traffic issues – already issues at Craigflower/Admirals junction

**ACTION:** GWI will provide comments to VR mayor and council; individual groups encouraged to respond as well, once the final development application is submitted

### **Discussion: GWI response to Draft Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Plan**

- Reviewed the draft comments sent to the group with agenda
- Section 4.1.8 does mention that shoreline area should be protected by development permit area, request clarification on what that looks like and what it entails
- Also concern about building a pedestrian bridge across Rock Bay
- Trail between Gorge Rd Hospital and Harriet is private property, how would it work on private property?
- How would you get from Selkirk Trestle and the Galloping Goose Trail to Arbutus Park?
- If a trail is to be built, certain environmental criteria need to be met
- Regarding stormwater management, consider mandating LID in development permit criteria, all development meet their pre-criteria state

### **Coordinator Updates**

- Urban Sanctuaries Project, Dec. 8 Speakers Series – hand out for the bird sanctuary not quite ready, also planning to have 2 speakers series in support of this project, talking to Ann Nightingale (April), one in the fall (Nov), maybe focused on herring, possibly at the Bateman Centre
- Meeting Schedule 2017 was handed out
- Draft Work Plan 2017 – hand out, what are we doing about the anchored boats?
- Green Shores Level 2 workshop next week at UVic

### **Update on CRD Harbours Program**

- Harbours program 2015 annual report (including GWI annual report) was presented at CRD board meeting in October
- Direction from CRD board to prepare a staff report on the anchored boats issue; board may be interested in implementing a regional approach, perhaps through a model bylaw

### **Partner Updates**

- WFT/GWAS – new program at the nature house, working with the Bateman Centre to offer art in nature programming
- SIASS – AGM this week, brought up idea of facilitated and recorded elders talking about fish stories, “fireside fish talks”; could partner with the GWI, stories could be recorded and added to the oral histories about the Gorge, UVic researcher did this a couple of decades ago
- COV - sent the new stormwater utility bills out recently, staff are answering lots of questions about that

- PIPS - highly motivated and engaged with the Christie Pt development, concerned about the paddling loop trail being proposed
- BGCA – affiliated with Hillside Night of Lights, proceeds will go to the community association; pancakes and Santa Dec 3rd at the Community Centre
- PISCES – Christie Pt development and highway interchange project are the key things they are working on
- Esquimalt: Adventure park being built next to the Esquimalt Rec Centre, will be a destination park for kids; rain garden will receive the water from the water park; first big structure is already up, there will be a mega soaker; there will be some parking issues
- WFT - Nature House closed for winter, except for special events and group tours; hope to get it going again next year. Oyster project – new larval settlement is high at nature house; as part of mitigation for VR emergency boat launch on Shoreline Dr they will put some reef balls in place next to the footings of the Craigflower Bridge, to recolonize areas with native oysters, peak of larval settlement seems to be in June; Yogi will attend PICES conference, giving a talk on herring and focus on forage fish
- GTCA – Clean up session at Gorge Park two weeks ago, counting salmon at Swan Creek, counted 34 fish that they could see from the shoreline, seems to be a popular spot for the spawning salmon, can see them actually spawning
- Dorothy (Colquitz fish counting fence) – 1,100 wild coho (12-18 lb), still jumping in Portage Inlet, Sara doing lots of sampling; there was some poaching at the fish fence, Saanich is putting up a big interpretive sign at the fish fence, lots of school kids and seniors coming through to see the spawning fish; similar numbers of salmon going up Craigflower Cr, more than 1,600 fish counted there (30% hatchery augmented)
- Saanich – LAP for Uptown Douglas corridor – baseline conditions assessment done, area goes from Swan Lake to the border with Victoria; public engagement happening, senior planner Shari Holmes-Saltzman has offered to come to the GWI to speak about this plan; have a look at the website:  
<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-planning/centre-corridor-plans/uptown-douglas-corridor-plan.html>

**Adjournment: 9:30pm**