

West Southlands Residents Association

September 14, 2023 Annual Meeting Notes

Linda Jinks, WSRA Board co-chair, welcomed everyone, and described our wonderful neighbourhood of about 300 homes in a beautiful setting on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people. She introduced Board members and chaired the meeting. 38 residents attended.

Administrative items

- **Notes of the 2022 meeting** were approved. Their approval was moved by Mary Tataryn, seconded by Cynthia Fung.
- The WSRA currently has 5 **board directors** happy to stay on (Linda Jinks, Mary Tataryn, Cynthia Fung, Troy Iwanik, Kay Teschke). Rhona Raskin volunteered to join the board. The nomination of existing and new Board members was moved by George Hrennikoff, seconded by Gloria Tam, and approved by attendees.
- The **treasurer's report** was given orally by Robert Matas. We currently have \$1158 in the bank, after taking in slightly more than we spent last year. Our income came from \$20 membership fees (paid by 49 people last year). It is spent on costs associated with the annual meeting (space rental, coffee), printing notices, website fees, and registration of the association.
- Linda indicated that Robert is stepping down from the treasurer position and thanked him for all his work over the decades. Troy has agreed to take over as treasurer.
 - **To pay your \$20 membership fee** (if you haven't already), **please email Troy at t.iwanik@gmail.com** for instructions about how to do so.

Flood Control

- Board member Troy Iwanik reported on correspondence and neighbourhood walkthroughs with Jeannie Lee, City of Vancouver Flood Management Engineer.
 - Follow through on an engineering report done by the City a few years ago has no capital funding allocated yet, so work cannot begin before 2026 (possible items included in this work are storm sewer upgrades, rain gardens near low-lying properties, regrading roads)
 - Some prep work was done this summer: a topographical survey of the neighbourhood to identify homes at flood risk.
 - A walkthrough in April with Jeannie identified areas that aren't draining properly and places where rain gardens might be placed.
 - Maintenance and oversight work that has been done since the 2021 storm includes:
 - Dunbar & Wallace tide gates fixed
 - storm water drainage fixed at Collingwood & 49th, 48th & Alma, 49th east of Dunbar, and 50th west of Dunbar
 - ditches cleaned out & dug deeper
 - catch basins checked & cleared

- curb inlets installed to control runoff across Marine Dr
- pump placed at foot of Wallace during the rainy season, to allow pumping from the ditch to the river when tides gates are closed
- frequent neighbourhood checks during heavy rains & high tides
- sandbags made available to residents at the entrance to Deering Island in the rainy season
- Other items raised by residents
 - We haven't had updates on City plans about what to do with flood zones. In 2015 meetings were held about several possible long-term approaches: dike raising, buying up homes in these areas, rewilding the Fraser shoreline
 - Catch basin problems at the foot of Highbury – reported, but insufficient action to date

Musqueam Park

- A well loved, well used children's fort in the woods was demolished by a Park Maintenance crew in April. Linda got in touch with the new Parks Board commissioners, and this was immediately followed up by an apologetic visit by the Parks Board Director who agreed it shouldn't have been removed.
- Linda and Mary then toured the park with the director to identify other areas needing work, including path leveling, dead branch and tree removal, blackberry and other invasive plant removal. Some, but not all, of this has been followed up by Parks staff.
- Mary approached the Parks Board last year about installing a **children's playground in Musqueam Park**. She is still waiting for it to get the go ahead. It took two years for the benches she requested to be installed in the park.
- Other items raised by residents
 - Dead trees and branches in the grassy areas of the park, used by children and others posing a hazard
 - Some residents would like lighting in the park, others would prefer not
 - The potential to re-clear a path (called the June Binkert trail) that started near 50th and the Wallace trail

Traffic Control

- Mary was successful in her efforts to have speed humps installed on 51st Avenue. The block was also signed 30km/h, and the Wallace Trail crossing of the street was repainted.
- There has been no action so far on our other requests (Collingwood, neighbourhood-wide 30 km/h)
- Other items raised by residents
 - Blackberries are growing over the street at the corner of 49th & Collingwood forcing cars into one lanes to round the corner – with little visibility
 - Traffic on Collingwood and the block of 49th east of Dunbar is too much and too fast for streets without sidewalks. These may have become worse with the stop sign at 49th & Dunbar and after the speed humps were placed on 51st

Iona Sewage Treatment Plant & Barge Berth

- Robert Matas reported on the **Iona Sewage Treatment Plant** (south side of the river) which is being upgraded to **tertiary treatment** pursuant to 2012 federal legislation. The estimated cost is \$10 billion. As part of the 10-year construction project, it has been proposed that wharves be built across from Deering Island to accommodate barges for material removal. Alternative barge sites may be considered. Another alternative is large numbers of dump trucks.
 - MetroVancouver is hosting a **public meeting** on October 5, 2023 from 6 to 8 pm, at the Dunbar Community Centre or via Zoom. To confirm your participation & receive the Zoom link, email Ionawwtp@metrovancover.org.

City Multiplex Zoning

- Linda reported on the **City multiplex proposal** which was being considered by City Council on the day of our Annual Meeting. (*Note that it was approved that evening*). The plan simplifies and consolidates residential zoning throughout the City. It allows up to 4 units to be built on all 33-foot lots and up to 6 units to be built on all 50- to 66-foot lots. There are some exceptions: homes with heritage designations; and lots in designated flood zones. Both affect some homes in West Southlands.