

# West Southlands Residents Association

October 4, 2021 Annual Meeting Notes

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Linda Jinks, WSRA Board co-chair, welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting.

## Administrative items

- **Minutes of the 2019 meeting** were distributed. Their approval was moved by Steve Hodder, seconded by Brenda Welock, and approved by attendees.
- **Treasurer's report** was given orally by Robert Matas. Briefly, funds over the last 2 years have ranged from \$250 (prior to 2021 meeting) to \$750 (after 2019 meeting). They are spent mainly on costs associated with the annual meeting and printing notices distributed by hand to WSRA's approximately 300 households. Report approval was moved by Joe Krapiec, seconded by Bruce Anthony, and approved by attendees.
- **Revised purposes of the WSRA** were distributed and briefly discussed. Their approval was moved by Roma Palmer, seconded by Steve Hodder, and approved by attendees.
- Linda indicated that the WSRA currently has 5 **board directors** and was seeking 2 to 3 more. Mary Ruhl volunteered prior to the meeting; her joining the board was moved by Valerie Hodder, seconded by Troy Iwanik, and approved by attendees. Troy Iwanik volunteered at the meeting; his joining the board was moved by Keiko Honda, seconded by Russel Mark, and approved by attendees.

## Update on **Fraser River Trail**, by Vancouver City Councillor Michael Wiebe

- **Trail is a decades long proposal** recently revived by David Grieg (Blue Heron Way advocate). He gathered support from neighbourhoods along the Fraser in late 2020. Our neighbourhood was consulted, and WSRA canvassing of our households found near unanimous support.
- David contacted Michael Wiebe with the results of his work and the councillor convened an April 2021 meeting with representatives of neighbourhoods, Musqueam, Metro Vancouver, many others. The support expressed resulted in Wiebe's **motion to restart interjurisdictional talks, approved by Vancouver City Council in June 2021**.
- **Region is very important to First Nations**; one of the oldest settled regions in North America (20,000-30,000 years old). Proposal supported by Musqueam First Nation.
- Proposal now supported by Marine Drive golf course (previously an obstacle to proceeding)
- **Connections envisioned by the Trail**: east to Arbutus Greenway, Fraser River lands, and Hope; west to Musqueam cultural Centre, Pacific Spirit Park and UBC; south to Canada Line walking/biking bridge, Richmond, and Boundary Bay (Blue Heron Way vision)
- Expect the trail to include **foreshore restoration** projects for wildlife habitat, and **flood treatments**. (Wiebe indicated that habitat restoration and environmental improvement are

similarly part of the nearby Iona Sewage Treatment Plant project upgrading the plant to tertiary treatment.)

- Many possibilities and points of discussion:
  - Event space, piers, seating, washrooms along the way
  - Surfaces/space for people on foot, bikes, mobility devices, horseback, and for dogs
- Wiebe indicated that there **may be some quick connections** made (as with the Arbutus Greenway), but also major planning and design work. **City staff will come to neighbourhoods with proposals and ask for feedback.** Some progress *may* be as early as next year (with the caveat that 2022 is an election year).
- Comments from neighbourhood associations like ours are welcome.

#### Neighbourhood news

- New **benches in Musqueam Park** are the result of a multi-year push by WSRA co-chair Mary Tataryn.
- Mary is also championing **traffic calming** and has City approval for speed humps along 51<sup>st</sup>.
  - Dunbar St., Collingwood, and 49<sup>th</sup> also discussed as needing traffic slowing
  - Possibilities for slowing traffic include neighbourhood-wide 30 km/h as in Southlands, a traffic circle at 49<sup>th</sup> and Dunbar, and raised crossings at 50<sup>th</sup> and Dunbar where the sidewalk changes to the opposite side of the street and at the Wallace trail crossing of 51<sup>st</sup>
- Linda described the successful interactions, starting over 7 years ago, with MetroVancouver and the Parks Board about the **Highbury Interceptor** at the west side of Musqueam Park. They resulted in secluded visual placement, an attractive design, a grasscrete driveway, cleanup of the stream beside it, and a washroom facility that is typically open during the day and cleaned daily.
- Linda indicated that WSRA is looking for help to create an **on-line presence/community**; Keiko Honda volunteered to work on this.