

WSRA board co-chair Linda Jinks chaired the meeting. In attendance: Directors Linda Jinks, Mary Tataryn, Kay Teschke, Troy Iwanik, Robert Matas and resident Keiko Honda

Meeting began on Zoom at 8:10 pm

Administration

- **Vivian Bevis plaque** - Linda Jinks provided update on efforts to erect a plaque in recognition of Vivian Bevis' commitment to West Southlands and work for WSRA. She reported that a plaque on a boulder would cost around \$1,000. As an alternative, directors endorsed construction of a Little Free Library stand with a plaque on its side. Vivian's husband Richard has offered to pay the costs, estimated at around \$300.

Discussions were held on the location for the structure, whether it would be rain-proof, and the possibility of having a community bulletin board on its side. Proposed design of the structure and plaque, and location are to be circulated to directors for a final decision.

- **Annual meeting** - Mary Tataryn is to confirm location for a meeting on May 10 or May 17.
- **Financial report** - WSRA has \$734 in its account.
- **Converting newsletter subscribers to WSRA members** - Robert Matas reported WSRA has 74 email addresses on its digital circulation list but only 31 households in West Southlands have paid annual WSRA membership fees of \$20. After discussion, the consensus was the next WSRA newsletter on activities in the neighbourhood would include a special appeal to households to pay the membership fee. Directors also discussed the possibility of discontinuing the paper newsletter. The consensus was that WSRA should continue door-to-door newsletters until more residents have signed up for the digital version.

Unfinished Business and Reports

- **Mitigation of impact of heavy rains/ flooding** - Troy Iwanik reported that he and Mary Tataryn did a walk-about in the neighbourhood with two city employees. They looked at flooding on 49th and 50th avenues, and at spots where water pooled and overflowed. Kay Teschke reported the city has not repaired the broken pipe on the north side of 49th Ave. The ditch on 49th did not drain during the November rains.

After the walk-about, city officials promised a follow-up email and that has not happened. Troy is to contact them again. Troy said city officials assured him that the issue was high priority, that they were taking it seriously and working on it.

During the meeting with Troy and Mary, the officials suggested a few possible approaches, including using natural solutions such as indigenous plants and creating pooling areas in the neighbourhood for water to drain into. A pumping station would be a last resort. The city officials said a lot of the drain pipes throughout the neighbourhood are very old and may need to be upgraded.

Also, they advised that the city is in the process of adjusting the drainage ditch along the Musqueam Reserve, possibly moving the ditch five to 10-feet eastward. The process requires archeology surveys before digging begins.

Troy spoke about the importance of finding out the city's maintenance schedule for cleaning out the drains. So far the city has not provided the information. Troy has also reached out to various sources for more information about the river trail, the dykes and the river's edge but has not received any responses.

Directors decided that a senior staff member should be invited to speak at the annual meeting about flooding mitigation.

- **Traffic calming** - Kay Teschke & Mary Tataryn wrote to the city documenting issues related to speeding on Dunbar, and 49th, the lack of proper sidewalks on Dunbar and elsewhere, and asking about speed bumps and a speed limit of 30 kph. City response was "No" to every request. Inquiries about sidewalks were referred to another city department. Directors suggested a senior city official be invited to speak also on traffic calming at the WSRA annual meeting in May.

Kay suggested WSRA consider an initiative dubbed tactical urbanism to push for change by placing planters at busy intersections (Collingwood and SW Marine Drive, and 49th and Dunbar) or painting art on the road to suggest street narrowing. No decisions were made. WSRA will continue to explore how to push this issue forward.

- **Website** - The website is now operational. During a discussion on how the website can be used Keiko Honda said board minutes and reports on activities in the neighbourhood could be posted on the site. Kay Teschke - who is in charge of posting content on the site - said she sees the website as an archive of West Southlands activities, notice of meetings, minutes of meetings, historic records of the neighbourhood. Social media could be used for engagement. Troy Iwanik set up a West Southlands Facebook page. Anyone could post on the fb page.

Kay spoke about multiple methods for residents to stay in touch, including the website, fb, door-to-door newsletters, posting on telephone poles and bulletin boards possibly on the Interceptor and the Little Free Library. Linda Jinks is to contact Metro Vancouver about bulletin board on side of Interceptor building.

- **Newsletter** - Robert Matas raised the issue of decision making - who decides what is circulated to residents. Directors decided the newsletter would be run on a consensus basis, with newsletters circulated to all directors before circulation to the wider community.
- **Fraser River Trail** - No new developments were reported.

New Business

- Mary Tataryn and another board member will attend a meeting of the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods to find out more about its operations and whether WSRA should join the coalition. Joining the Coalition would raise WSRA profile and could establish allies for WSRA requests to the city.

- Mary Tataryn is to find out whether the Southlands Plan still governs development in West Southlands and how the Vancouver Plan relates to the Southlands Plan.
- In response to the Vancouver Park Board motion on co-management of city parks with three First Nations, Linda is to write a letter to the park board about our interest in being involved in any conversations or decisions about the co-management of Musqueam Park. The correspondence is also to inform the park board of WSRA's new website and contact information.
- Also, directors decided to reach out to the Musqueam Indian Band to see if they are receptive to holding jointly-sponsored events in Musqueam Park. Mary Tataryn is to write a letter to the Musqueam, introducing WSRA, advising them of our website and inviting feedback.
- Civic elections - Directors decided WSRA could notify residents of election events in other parts of the city but would not sponsored any events or circulate any political material or commentary.
- Throughout the meeting, various ideas for community activities were raised, including street parties, garden walks, and forester -walks through the forest. No action was taken on any of the suggestions.
- Keiko brought to the directors' attention a city program of grants. Grant applications open up on March 1. Information about the grants is at www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.