



# Sapperton Residents' Association

*The purpose of the association is to preserve and enhance the livability and quality of the Sapperton neighborhood.*

## Sapperton Residents' Association Public Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 7:30 pm

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Attendance:** 10 residents

**Executive:** Jacob (Chair), Sandy, Anita, Jerry, Dee, Eileen, Sandra, Wilf, Monica (minutes)

**City Council Representative:** Jamie McEvoy **City Representative:** No longer attending due to staff shortages at City

**Presenters:** Nicole St. Thomas, PACT

- 1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive** Jacob
- 2. Adoption of Agenda** – one item added: Climate Action Course Jacob
- 3. Approval of February 8, 2023 Minutes** - moved; seconded; carried Jacob
- 4. Whistle Cessation Issue** - Jamie McEvoy – City Councillor
  - Jamie McEvoy provided updates on the whistle cessation issue and complaints the City has received from Sapperton residents.
  - On December 12, 2022, there was a Motion at City Council to look into the issue.
  - A report was provided on April 3 regarding short-term, medium term and long term goals re: whistle cessation in Sapperton
  - The at-level crossing at Braid and Brunette is a long-term situation.
  - Jamie and Councillor Tasha Henderson are working together on this issue and have taken over from former Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, although Puchmayr is still assisting. McEvoy and Henderson have set up a Railway Technical Committee.
  - The City needs to work with Transport Canada, the Federal Government and other agencies. There are complicated processes involved. The City can get new crossings if we pay for them.
  - The CNW has hired a railway technologist.
  - Residents can help by contacting individual railways with complaints – eg. Burlington Northern – re: the disruptiveness of the whistles.
  - The City will provide quarterly reports. Once CNW has done its work, other agencies have to do their assessments.
  - Question: Can this Railway Technical Committee work on the traffic light at the Braid crossing? McEvoy said he would directly contact the resident who asked this question to discuss it.

- Question: Can Counc. McEvoy provide contact information for the railways?
- Question: Would CNW advocate for an end to at-level railway crossings?
- McEvoy offered to meet with residents who have any concerns about this or any other issue as he is the Council representative for Sapperton. He is happy to meet with residents for coffee or for a walk and talk.

#### **5. New Westminster P.A.C.T. Presentation -**

Nicole St. Thomas

- P.A.C.T. = Peer Assisted Care Team
- This is a pilot project funded by the BC government that will be expanding across BC
- It is a mobile, community-led care team to support people experiencing mental health or substance use crises
- The team consists of a mental health worker and substance use worker. This is an effort to help move away from police attending to these types of crisis calls.
- People can call PACT and the team will go to them – at their home, in public places, and so on.
- The program is voluntary and consent-based, client-led and centred.
- The program runs seven days per week from 12 – 8 pm.
- Examples of calls they attend: helping with people with thoughts of self-harm or suicide; seniors experiencing extreme loneliness; people experiencing grief or loss.
- Sometimes the team members will speak to people on the phone, meet them in person, connect them to other resources, help or accompany them to appointments or with advocacy. The program is flexible with a range of supports. Nicole provided some concrete examples of recent situations they have dealt with.
- It is accessible to residents of New Westminster who are 13 years and older.
- Limitations: the team cannot attend anything that is unsafe. They try to avoid calling 911 but if necessary, they may need to do so.
- It is not meant to be a replacement for emergency services but another “tool” in the “toolbox” of social care.
- They are trying to raise awareness throughout New Westminster via word of mouth, flyers, and so on. Nicole can send electronic brochures to Sandy to share with Sapperton residents and Dee can send these out via the newsletter.
- They are meeting with the DPAC and have reached out to the Business Improvement Associations to spread word through those groups as well. She will reach out to the Sapperton Business Association.

#### **6. Old Business - Lower Sapperton Traffic Calming Initiative Update -**

Monica

- Monica provided a brief update: She and other members of the Traffic Calming Committee met in early March with Erica Tiffany and consultants from McIlhenny & Associates. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Committee’s proposal, review the consultation process we undertook with the community, share the main areas of concern and ideas the community generated to deal with the traffic problems in the area. The consultants will be taking this information and doing further analysis, including traffic counts, before determining the feasibility of the proposal we provided them. The City continues to emphasize their criteria of “quick, cheap, and nimble”.

**7. Royal Columbian Hospital Update -** Monica on behalf of RCH Redevelopment

- Carol and Gregg were unable to attend the meeting, so they asked Monica to share the following on their behalf: “We are now seeing almost the full scale of the tower as the walls, stairs and columns go up on the tenth and top floor. On the lower floors, workers are doing interior framing and installing plumbing and electrical conduits. The demolition of the old laundry and maintenance building is now complete and excavation is underway by the future loading dock. We are expecting after-hours concrete finishing to take place one evening in April. We will send out a notice when we have the date.”
- There was discussion around workers gathering outside of the E.Fry building where vulnerable women and children live and often sit outside. Monica will contact Carol to ask if any action has been taken on having picnic tables set up on the edge of Sapperton Park for the workers to take their breaks. Concern was also expressed about trucks backing up onto Kelly Street and the safety hazards of blocked sightlines and the increased number of construction workers parking in the neighbourhood. Anita asked Jamie McEvoy if he can look into the City increasing by-law enforcement in the area, especially in relation to parking infractions.

**8. Patullo Bridge Replacement Project Update –** Phoebe Chung, Jody Rogers, Avneet Gill and Michael Nguyen

- The representatives of the project gave a detailed presentation on the project
- The new bridge is expected to be completed in 2024
- There will be modern lane widths and a median barrier
- There will be wider walking and cycling paths separated from the traffic
- There was discussion around connecting road networks in New Westminster and connections to walking and cycling pathways
- There will be upcoming lane and road closures on Columbia Street and Royal Avenue for utility work. This will be widely advertised with flyers, social media and newspaper advertisements, and signage will be placed to notify commuters.

**9. Massey-Victory Heights Meeting Follow-up** Jacob

- Jacob attended their meeting at the end of March. The meeting was about the development along East 8th Avenue
- All questions and concerns to the City should be directed toward the BeHeardNewWest site
- Concern was expressed over the onus shifting to residents to inform themselves about projects in New Westminster via this site rather than the City informing residents

**10. SRA Open House will be held next Thursday, April 20, outside the Starbucks**

**11. Newsletter -** Dee

- Dee reminded people to send information to the RA if they want it published in the newsletter. Please send the information at least ten days in advance. There was some discussion over whether we will meet again in person. Jacob is looking out for spaces where we can meet.

**12. Climate Action Plan Course -** Anita

- Anita, Jacob and Sandy attended this course that was put on by the NW Public Library

- There was lots of valuable information
- If anyone is interested in the information from the course, please feel free to contact Anita Meeting Location – discussion over the possibility of booking a meeting at Skwo:wech Elementary School. This could include a tour of the school.

**Reminder:** \$5.00 membership fees are due. Please e-transfer to Anita via the SRA email address: [sappertonra@gmail.com](mailto:sappertonra@gmail.com) , or drop off to her. \$5.00 membership fees are due. Please e-transfer to Anita via the SRA email address: [sappertonra@gmail.com](mailto:sappertonra@gmail.com) , or drop off to her.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:17 pm.**

**Upcoming Dates: Next Public Meeting** - Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7:30 pm – via Zoom