



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, September 18, 2024 @ 7:30 pm **Location:** Virtual via Zoom

Attendance: 9 residents

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

Guests/Presenters: RCH Redevelopment – Carol Swan (RCH), Michael Kazda (EllisDon)

1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive

Wilf

2. Adoption of Agenda

Wilf

- Motion to add two items to the agenda. Seconded. Vote: Carried.

3. Approval of June 12, 2024 Minutes - moved; seconded; carried

Wilf

4. RCH Redevelopment Project Update -

Michael K

- Construction is going as planned. Work on the inside and outside of the hospital is progressing.
- Hospital equipment is arriving and being installed.
- Substantial completion is on track for the end of May, 2025.
- Work on E. Columbia Street is going a bit slower than planned. Work on Sherbrooke Street should start in early October. Both lanes will be shut down as deep services need to be installed. EllisDon is waiting for the City to approve their plan.
- Lane behind the hospital cannot be opened til the work on Sherbrooke Street is completed due to grade issues; it should be opened within three months.
- Most truck traffic for deliveries to the hospital will be directed to the lane.
- The external elevator is being dismantled as the inside elevators are now working.
- Michael Kazda is willing to give people tours of the inside of the new building. Contact him directly.
- Trees that were removed for construction will be replaced, although not necessarily on the RCH site. Any trees not replaced on the site will be planted elsewhere in New Westminster as per City's guidance.
- Resident asked a question re: the placement of a streetlight directly outside his window along Sherbrooke Street. Michael stated that the placement of light poles is controlled by regulations, so they don't have much control over this.
- EllisDon will be around to speak to impacted residents about the movement of plants in their yard due to reconstruction of Sherbrooke Street.

- Resident asked a question re: the gap in the concrete of the new sidewalk on E. Columbia Street (safety concern). Michael asked if they can take a photo and send to him and he will get on it.
- Anita asked if EllisDon is willing to be part of November's Trash Mob, and Michael said they are (Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the Trash Mob was postponed til the Spring).

5. Street Tree Planting on Simpson Street –

Ann M.

- Ann wanted to follow up on her question about the City's plan to plant trees along the boulevard on Simpson Street.
- Unfortunately, Coun. Nakagawa could not make tonight's meeting so could not speak to the issue. Ann will follow up with her directly and report back about it.
- Note: Subsequent to the meeting, we received the following information from the City:
"The Parks & Recreation is aiming to complete the planting of 2,200 new trees in parks and open spaces by March 2025. At the same time, a team is working to update the inventory of stumps located on streets and boulevards for removal in October-December. This is the first step to identifying locations to planting approximately we will be planting up to 6,300 new trees along streets and boulevards by 2030 to reach 27% tree canopy cover.

The new planting will be prioritized by neighbourhood, starting in the neighbourhoods with the lowest tree canopy cover. This approach is guided by the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy and Tree Planting Masterplan (2020-2030). The anticipated year for planting in Sapperton is 2027.

This particular location, 300 blk of Simpson Street, has a large number of utilities in the boulevard, including a Fortis gas line below and overhead electrical utility. In any case, there will be a planning stage to confirm feasibility, locations and appropriate tree species."

6. Transit-Oriented Development -

Ann M.

- Ann is wondering if the RA is interested in getting involved with discussion about the new Transit-Oriented Development guidelines
- She is concerned about the kind of density that is happening and she currently has more questions than answers about the guidelines.
- She stated that the City has new density guidelines that allow any RS1 property to have up to 6 units built on it. This information can be found on BeHeardNewWest.
- The province is requiring OCPs to be updated by the end of 2025 to reflect their new guidelines.
- According to one resident, a group on Wilson and Rousseau streets is monitoring the situation.
- Wilf suggested that we ask the City to come to the November meeting to share information with residents. **Note:** Following the meeting, we invited City Staff to present, and they have agreed to come to the November meeting to do so.

7. Lower Sapperton Traffic Calming Update

Monica

- Monica provided an update on the Traffic Calming Initiative for Lower Sapperton.
- Mike Anderson from CNW has informed us that EllisDon will likely be starting construction on Sherbrooke Street in October after they finish work on E. Columbia Street. To prepare for this, ED had the Sherbrooke St design revised to accommodate the traffic calming measures at Fader and Kelly Streets so they will get built as part of the FHA off-site requirements.

- The City needs to get designs done for the TCMs at Garrett and Wilson Streets, and he feels this will not take much time. The City will likely begin building these with “lower-cost temporary materials”.
- Residents will be notified before work begins.
- Michael Kazda noted that CNW has not put in extra work orders for additional work for Sherbrooke Street yet. He said we should keep pushing the City on this.
- Additional traffic issues were noted by residents: 1) Simpson Street is experiencing significant increase in truck traffic up and down the street 2) Wilson Street experiences continuing problems with Urban Academy parents. Suggestion: Draft a letter to the principal of UA to remind parents of respecting neighbourhood in terms of driving and parking. Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the RA Executive sent a letter to the principal, Mike Slinger. He indicated he would be happy to attend a future RA meeting to discuss traffic issues with residents.

8. Pumpkin Carving

Anita

- Date: Oct. 27 @ Royal Farm Market
- Suggested donation of \$5 per pumpkin
- **Note:** Subsequent to the meeting, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Pumpkin Carving event was cancelled.

9. Trash Mob

Anita

- Date: Saturday, Nov. 2; details TBA
- EllisDon will provide support and participation
- **Note:** Subsequent to the meeting, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Trash Mob event was postponed until Spring, 2025.

10. Gift Bags for Elizabeth Fry Society

Anita

- Anita provided a historical overview of this event.
- Putting it out on the radar that collections will start in late November/early December.
- She invited anyone who wishes to help to do so.

11. Rats in Lower Sapperton

Anita

- Anita noted that residents have noticed a significant increase in the activity of rats in the area, perhaps due to all the construction.
- **Suggestion:** Reach out to the City to ask about what it is doing re: rat activity

12. Annual Dues

- Reminder that RA dues are \$5
- Send to Anita via Sapperton RA email, or drop off to Anita's house on Kelly Street.

Meeting adjourned: 8:28 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

Next Public Meeting – November 13, 2024 at 7:30 pm – via Zoom