



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, February 12, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendance: 5 residents

Executive: Wilf (Chair), Anita, Eileen, Alysia, Jerry, Monica (minutes)

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

City Representatives: Coun. Jamie McEvoy

1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive

Wilf

- Update on Positions of Chair and Co-Chair: Jacob and Sandy have stepped down from their positions of Chair and Co-Chair due to family commitments.
- If anyone is interested, they can put their name forward to join the Executive.
- Reminder to pay \$5 annual dues to Anita, either in person or by sending an etransfer to the RA email.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Wilf

- Motion to approve the agenda.
- Addition of Snow Removal item. Seconded. Vote: Carried.

3. Approval of November 13, 2024, 2024, Minutes - moved; seconded; carried

Wilf

4. RCH Redevelopment Project Update -

Michael K. (E.D.)/Michelle (RCH)

- Construction is going as planned. Substantial completion is on track for the end of May, 2025.
- Winter has slowed road construction on Sherbrooke. This work will be done by April.
- The pathway behind the hospital will be open in about 2 weeks.
- Michael as offered to meet with residents on Sherbrooke Street and has dealt with issues of concern there.
- In June, the maintenance building on Sherbrooke Street will start coming down and landscaping on site will continue for another six months.
- Once the building is complete, the hospital needs to outfit all levels of the building and orient the staff into the new building. The building will “go live” in early February, 2026.
- Phase 3 – renovations to the existing buildings will take place. Design work for this is well underway. There are six subphases to Phase 3. Early construction will start later this year, and in about one year, construction will begin in the current Emergency site location. Most of it will be indoors and will not have significant impacts on the neighbourhood.

- Question: Is it possible to encourage hospital workers to avoid cutting through the neighbourhood? Answer: Traffic calming measures are being implemented to prevent people from turning left off Sherbrooke into Kelly, Fader, Garrett, and Wilson Streets.
- Question related to traffic: Is the United Boulevard Connector being built? Answer: Coun. McEvoy said New West Council will be meeting with Coquitlam Council at Coquitlam's request as they wish to resurrect the issue.
- Alysia suggested a celebration (eg. a barbecue) for the end of construction. Michael said they may do so and noted they've tried to be as supportive as possible of the neighbourhood via the TrashMob, Light up the Night, and other events.
- Michael said people are still welcome to contact him if they would like tours of the new building.

5. Urban Academy Traffic Issues

Guest: Mike Slinger, Principal, UA

- Mike said that UA wants to be good neighbours in the Sapperton area
- He noted that 200 cars go through the school drop-off zone in approx. 20 minutes and that it is "efficient". He acknowledged that pick-up is more limited due to limited space for parking.
- He said that any congestion after 3:30 pm is "not us" and that traffic on Rousseau Street is "unbelievable". He "doesn't have great news" for residents in terms of solutions.
- He said he calls by-law enforcement a few times each year and encourages students to take transit.
- There are 430 students at the school. The ones who are anticipated to join the school will be mostly senior students who, he says, will likely transit.
- He noted that in a few weeks, the 150 Braid Street building will be opening with 1000 residents (all rental) and 400 parking spots. Delivery drivers may also be stopping along Braid in front of the building.
- UA and Wesgroup are working with traffic consultants, Bundt and Associates, to devise traffic management strategies.
- He noted that UA is not allowed to use hospital parking at the Braid Street lot.
- Monica noted that all the problems and issues that Mike described are things that the RA and residents predicted at the time that UA and Wesgroup applied to the City for the school and highrise development project. She expressed frustration that the City ignored these concerns that have now become a reality.
- He recognizes residents' frustrations and wants to work with residents as much as he can.
- He encourages residents to take photos of cars, including license plates, and send to the school so they can talk to parents.
- Diane asked about the safety at the intersection of Rousseau and Braid. Dylan Hayden (UA) said it's a very dangerous intersection. One parent/grandparent has already been hit. Staff refuse to supervise there so UA has hired someone to do the supervision.
- Diane asked about the possibility of an overpass.
- Coun. McEvoy told Mike to send his contact information to him so they can discuss the traffic issues.
- Diane suggested that UA start collecting data about the intersection. Alysia (works at ICBC) said there is an interactive map that shows all dangerous intersections. There is also a road safety program that could perhaps start movement towards the building of an overpass.

- Coun. McEvoy noted that Sapperton Green is currently only hold and will probably be that way for a long time. He thinks it is related to financing issues.
- Mike offered space to the RA for future meetings.

6. Police Committee Meeting – no update.

7. Old Business

- Transit Oriented Development – there is ongoing discussion between the province and City. Public consultation opportunities are coming up in the next month. The City is still responsible for ensuring there are sufficient amenities for residents. Check BeHeardNewWest for more information on T.O.D.
- Light Up Sapperton – the event was really well attended. There was a great response from RA resident for St. Aidan's Food Bank and toys went to the Salvation Army. The Sapperton Business Collective will host an upcoming event called SodaFest.
- Elizabeth Fry Holiday Gift Bags – 19 gift bags were assembled with donations from residents. The gift bags were well-received by E.Fry. Sally's Beauty said to contact them in future for donations.

8. New Business

- Trash Mob** – booked for April 5. Anita has tentatively booked Sapperton Park. Will take place from 10 am to 12 noon. EllisDon will provide lunch for participants and pay for insurance.
- Community Garden** - The New Westminster Community Gardening Society is working with the City of New Westminster to identify new locations for community gardens based on resident demand. To help guide this effort, we have created a short survey to collect input from residents about where they would like to see new gardens in their neighborhoods.
Survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdE6b22n2p9xp7jQur1-yn9Nog-PmAdaXgrH51IT6fw4T-JLA/viewform>
- Hyack Festival** – see the RA newsletter. The Hyack Organization is looking for volunteers for the spring parade. Contact the Hyack Organization if interested.
- Crisis Response Pilot Project** (Eileen) – Eileen went to the first meeting of this organization in November. The purpose is to bring residents into the conversation regarding homelessness, mental health and other social issues
- Peer Assisted Care Team** (Anita) – this group came to speak to the RA a while back. This group helps people in crisis and provides an immediate response. It can also help seniors who are struggling and need help. More detailed information was provided in the RA newsletter.

9. Snow Removal

Ann M.

- Concern from Ann M. in Upper Sapperton re: late attention from City re: snow removal on Simpson Street
- It was suggested that residents can direct concerns to the City directly.

10. Trees

Diane

- Diane wonders if trees which were removed along the bike route on E. Columbia will be replaced.

- Also noted that trees on Buchanan Street boulevard are under stress. Is there some way that the City can incentivize residents to water city trees on the boulevards?
- Jamie said Diane should contact him directly and he will follow up with her.

Jamie McEvoy said residents can reach him via email at jmcevoy@newwestcity.ca or via Facebook if they have specific questions or issues they wish to discuss with him.

Meeting adjourned: 9:04 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

Next Public Meeting: Wednesday, April 09, 2025, at 7:30 pm – via Zoom