



# 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, October 08, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Attendance:** 5 residents

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

**Regrets:** Alysia, Sandra

**Guests/Presenters:** Replacement Project – Phoebe Cheung, Pamela Paulino, and Stella Forbes

**City Representatives:** None

### 1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive

Wilf

- Positions of Chair and Co-Chair: still vacant.
- 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; Seconded. Vote: Carried.

### 3. Approval of June, 2025, Minutes – moved; seconded; carried

### 4. Patullo Bridge Replacement Project -

Phoebe Cheung et al.

- The team shared a presentation of the project update.
- Lots of progress has been made on the bridge over the summer.
- There will be two lanes in each direction plus a multi-use path for bikes, pedestrians, etc.
- The bridge will connect to McBride. There is a new offramp to E. Columbia (northbound), which should be a major improvement for traffic flow.
- There will be lots of pedestrian and cycling access through a network of paths. There is an overpass that connects to the Agnes bike path.
- The last cable stay was installed this week and the construction of the main span segment is ongoing. The concrete pours for the north approach are ongoing. Roadwork is ongoing in both New West and Surrey.
- They stated that bridge is scheduled to open by Christmas. It will open in phases.  
**Phase 1** – Royal Avenue on-ramp will be closed in Dec. 2025  
**Phase 2** – both bridges closed to enable tie-ins to be completed  
**Phase 3** – new bridge open, with 4 lanes of traffic split between the two bridges; the transition will take 2 weeks.  
**Phase 4** – traffic switch from old bridge to new one will be complete by January, 2026. The old bridge will be closed and new one will be open.

- The installation of utilities, lights, barriers, fencing, and asphalt on the bridge is ongoing.
- Construction of widened sidewalks on both sides of Royal Avenue is complete. Construction of a multi-use path on McBride is ongoing. Paving on Royal Avenue is complete.
- There will be occasional lane closures on Front, Columbia, and McBride happening while the bridge deck construction and E. Columbia exit ramp are being done.
- Construction of a revitalized plaza at McBride and E. Columbia will begin in late October, which will include facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.
- These changes and the phased opening will be communicated to the public in numerous ways. The best way to get updates is to sign up to their email list: [PatulloBridgeProject@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PatulloBridgeProject@gov.bc.ca)
- The phone number is: 1-844-815-6149
- The Victoria Hill strata councils are regularly updated.
- Construction will continue after the bridge opening – there will be continued work on new ramps and multi-use path connections in New Westminster and Surrey.
- The deconstruction of the old bridge will take about two years, and some temporary road closures of Columbia and Front Streets will occur.
- There is no timeframe on when the bridge might convert to six lanes. The Province will monitor the usage and extensive consultation will need to take place before that would happen. The bridge is built structurally and foundationally to expand to six lanes if necessary. Further study would be required on how long it would take to expand to six lanes, and there is no ballpark amount on the cost to do so.
- The presenters said they would be happy to come back and share more information closer to the opening date.

## **5. RCH Update**

Anita

- Anita sent some questions to Carol at the RCH Redevelopment Project. Her responses:
  - a. Hospital delivery trucks going down residential lanes – Carol contacted the Facilities Manager and they reached out to all delivery services to remind them NOT to go through the neighbourhood and lanes when they are going to or departing from RCH.
  - b. Signage for the Emergency – RCH agrees that the Emergency sign should be covered up until it's official opened to prevent confusion for people who think it is already opened on Sherbrooke Street.
  - c. Temporary Maintenance Building – the parking lot that is going on the site of the current Temporary Maint. Building will be completed by the end of the year.

## **6. Police Committee Update**

Eileen

- Eileen attended the meeting on behalf of Sandra.
- Crime is reportedly down overall by 16%.
- Theft is one of the top crime categories.
- Downtown and Uptown New West are the top 2 locations for highest numbers of calls for service.
- Increased number of robberies Downtown.
- The NWPD is asking for 5 additional officers, with 4 being front-line officers.
- We can invite police representatives to attend RA meetings, and Anita suggested we should do this for an upcoming meeting.



- Eileen reported concerns about overdoses and other activities in the lane behind Kelly Street.
- She also mentioned the traffic issues in Lower Sapperton, especially along Rousseau Street. The police would like us to report anything dangerous via online reporting.
- The issue of e-Scooters and incidents in Brow of the Hill came up at the Police meeting. It was noted that e-Scooters are illegal in New Westminster.
- A resident suggested that we should ask NWPD for regular street patrols along E. Columbia.

#### **7. Crisis Response Pilot Project**

Eileen

- The pilot project is winding down, but the organizers are doing an assessment of its impact.
- The team's number is still active, so please call if you see something that requires assistance.

#### **8. City of New Westminster Annual Tree Sale**

Anita

- Starts October 9 at 10 am. The online link was sent through the RA newsletter.

#### **9. Big Brothers Recycling @ Metro Vancouver Recycling Centre**

Anita

- Metro Vancouver is partnering with the Big Brothers Organization, and they are accepting various household items that people wish to recycle. They will do so at the Recycling Centre on United Boulevard on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 9 am and 5 pm until the end of 2025.

#### **10. Elizabeth Fry Society Gift Bag Initiative**

Eileen

- The annual collection by the RA for clients of the Elizabeth Fry building is coming up in November in time for the holidays.
- We are collecting personal items, such as soaps, body wash, lotions, and so on. We also collect cash donations and use them to purchase items in bulk for the gift bags.
- Eileen will be the point person for this initiative again this year, and she will collect all donated items and cash.
- The deadline for collection will be November 21 in order to provide enough time to assemble the bags and have them ready to bring to Elizabeth Fry for distribution.
- Anita will put another reminder note in the RA newsletter.

#### **11. Light Up Sapperton Event**

Anita

- Anita has been in touch with the organizers of this event. It will take place this year on Sunday, Dec. 7 between 12 – 6 pm. It will be located at Sapperton Plaza and the Cap's parking lot.
- There will be a craft market and food and drink vendors, as well as live performers.
- The RA will have a food bank collection.
- The organizers will be looking for volunteers and a sign-up will be sent out in November.

#### **12. Old Business – Lower Sapperton Traffic Calming Initiative**

Monica

- Monica provided updates on the Initiative.
- The concrete barriers intended to prevent left turns off Sherbrooke have been installed. However, they have been only partially effective as many people are shortcutting around them, causing dangerous situations for pedestrians and cars trying to turn right from Garrett

and Wilson onto Sherbrooke Street. Wilson Street is taking the brunt of the short-cutting, with a long line of cars often seen on Sherbrooke, waiting to cut left around the barrier.

- The problem is the barriers are too short. Monica has been in repeated contact with Mike Anderson and Stacey Lee at the City Engineering Department about this. They contend that the barriers cannot be extended with concrete because they need to allow maintenance and emergency vehicles to access the streets. They have suggested using plastic “sticks” installed into the ground instead as these are flexible. Monica has emphasized to them that something needs to be done or else the traffic calming measures will be ineffective. The main problem is that the City has not implemented the entire proposed plan, but only parts of it.
- Other noted problems are commuters cutting down the lanes, often at dangerous speeds. Monica has emphasized to the City that the lanes need proper speed humps and signage indicating they are for resident use only. The City says it is “monitoring” the situation, and will do traffic counts soon.
- A resident mentioned there also needs to be signage at Sherbrooke and E. Columbia Streets indicating that new traffic calming measures are in place.
- Another resident mentioned that Wilson, Rousseau, and Major Streets are not safe during the height of rush hour.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 pm.

**Upcoming Dates: Next Public Meeting:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:30 pm  
– Location: TBD