



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 11, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendance: 2 residents

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

Presenters: CRPP, Patullo Bridge Replacement Project, Sapperton Business Collective

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, 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.
- Addition of two items: 1) E.Fry Gift Bag Report 2) R.A. Forum
- **Vote:** Carried.

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

Wilf

4. Crisis Response Pilot Project Presentation -

Anita

- **Presenters:** Claudia Freire (resident liaison), Annie Sudenkol, Ria Renouf, and Shawn Sheehan
- They shared a video and presentation on the CRPP.
- The team provides outreach to people in New Westminster dealing with homelessness, mental health crises, and substance use issues. They also respond to toxic drug overdoses. They provide warming kits in winter and cooling kits in the summer.
- They host drop-in events at City facilities and help people build trust in and navigate Social Services as well as connect people to long-term supports.
- They shared statistics on various successes from a year's worth of outreach to individuals in New Westminster. There have been 489 calls to the CRPP since May 1, 2025 and their CLOs have had 3216 contacts with individuals, which works out to approx. 450 contacts per month.
- Operations support include front-line staff from Engineering Operations, NWFD, NRPD, and so on. EngOps helps to deal with cleanliness and maintenance of areas where unhoused people may have set up camps.
- The emphasis with Liaison Officers from the CRPP is on foot patrols who focus on voluntary compliance and building trust and relationships with individuals.

- They shared their policy and advocacy work and noted that they work with many faith-based and non-profit organizations for community support.
- They develop plans and strategies, including 5 and 10-year plans, including action items.
- Some of the achievements over the past year include getting low-barrier washrooms installed in the City and receiving \$1.75 million in funding from Health Canada. They have secured 35 seasonal shelter beds and the 50-bed shelter on Columbia Street is now a 24-hour facility, which should help allay some of the concerns in the community near the shelter.
- New Westminster has been designated a Heart and Hearth Community.
- **The contact number for the CRPP is: 604-527-4502.**
- **Their contact email is: crisesresponse@newwestcity.ca**
- **For people 13+ who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, the contact is 778-727-3909.**
- The CRPP is staffed 24/7, although CLOs do not work 24/7.

5. Patullo Bridge Replacement Project

- **Presenters:** Phoebe Cheung and Pamela Paulino
- The new name of the bridge as announced in December, 2025, is **stalə'wasəm** [stahl-oh-awe-sum], or Riverview Bridge
- The name is featured on the bridge tower crossbeam.
- Anyone can visit the project website to learn about the bridge name and pronunciation.
- The new bridge connects directly to McBride Blvd in New West and has a new direct offramp onto E. Columbia Street. There are also improved walking and cycling multi-use paths, including a connection from the Agnes Greenway to Victoria Hill. New landscaping features are being included.
- Project update: both bridges are currently closed to complete tie-ins on both ends of the new bridge. The new bridge will re-open with 2 Northbound and 1 Southbound lane, as well as 1 Southbound lane open on the old bridge, with all four lanes on the new bridge opening “fairly quickly”.
- In late February, the old Patullo Bridge will officially close.
- Pedestrian and cycling access to the new bridge will open later in Spring, 2026.
- After the bridge opening, there will be key road closures for several weeks on Columbia Street and then Front Street. Major road closures will be sequential; Front and Columbia Streets will not be closed at the same time.
- Resident question re: communications and the impact of the project on local businesses. Phoebe responded that the BIA and local businesses have been understanding. It is not possible to do the work without closing some streets, but the project managers are trying to minimize impacts as much as possible. There is always careful consideration and balance of all variables given to any decisions. Communication roll-outs are ongoing as the process unfolds.
- There will be no further full closures of both bridges. Wilf noted the significant impact on traffic in New West with the closures of both bridges this past week.
- In Fall, 2026, landscaping features will be done.
- Bridge Deconstruction – will be done in three phases from 2026-27, and will include on-land, above-water, and below-water phases.

- Resident question re: environmental impacts during deconstruction. Phoebe responded that their environmental process has been very comprehensive and includes consultation with numerous stakeholders.
- Resident question re: floating walkway to connect Sapperton Landing to NW Quay. Phoebe responded that the CNW will “make it happen”, but the PBRP has ensured protection of the footprint for a future walkway.

6. Sapperton Business Collective

- **Presenters:** Alex Jepson and Mallory
- The SBC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering economic growth in Sapperton and supporting a vibrant business community in the Sapperton and Brunette Creek communities.
- The City approached businesses to start a collective to get grants to support and plan community events.
- Light-Up Sapperton was an event held by the SBC on Dec. 7, 2025. It was first developed between the RCH Foundation and the SBC in 2024. The CNW, Translink, and Wesgroup are community partners. The presenters described the highlights of the event. They will be looking at a “different kind of Light-Up Sapperton” event for Dec., 2026. It may be a bit smaller in scale.
- Soda Fest is a family-friendly event featuring Canadian craft soda and non-alcoholic beverage companies, along with live music. The date for this year’s event is TBA.
- The presenters encourage people to encourage local business to join the SBC, and they are hoping to get more people involved in the organization. They are looking for new board members, especially for Treasurer and Marketing roles.
- An SBS Meet-Up is happening at the Sapperton District Taphouse on March 4 @ 7 pm.
- One major drawback is that the only main facility to hold events is the Pensioners’ Hall.

7. RCH Redevelopment Update

Anita

- Not much new to report. RCH sent an email update out to the community recently.
- The new building may be opening in April/May of this year.
- It was suggested by a resident that RCH share with its employees information about the new traffic patterns in the neighbourhood.
- It was also suggested that we write a letter to the City requesting signage at Sherbrooke and E. Columbia and further up Sherbrooke to notify people of changes, and to fix the signage on the one-way streets so it’s more visible for people trying to turn off Sherbrooke. Suggestion that the signage should say “No left turns – One-way”.
- **Motion: That the RA write to the City to request more signage and clearer signage to notify drivers of changes to traffic patterns in Lower Sapperton and to fix and clarify the signage along the one-way areas. Moved, seconded, carried. Action: Monica will write the letter and circulate to RA Exec for approval before sending.**

8. Trash Mob 2026

Anita

- The planned date is April 25, 2026.
- Anita applied for a grant from the City, but we did not receive one this year.
- She has reached out to CNW to book Sapperton Park.

9. E. Fry Gift Bags

Eileen

- Eileen provided an update on this initiative from Dec., 2025.

- She put together and delivered to E. Fry Society 17 very nice gift bags that contained items donated by local residents or purchased with money donated by local residents.
- She expressed thanks to all community members who supported this initiative.

10. Residents' Association Forum

Wilf

- Wilf attended the Forum on behalf of the SRA and provided notes to Anita on the event.
- He is willing to attend the next forum on behalf of the RA and feels it is a very worthwhile event.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 pm.

Next Public Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7:30 pm – Location: Zoom