

# NOTES

## MVHRA Residents Meeting

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*April 8 2021, 7pm*

**Executive members present:** Dale Bradley (President), Kathleen Carlsen (Vice President), Kaleigh Johnston (Treasurer), Deb Thomas (Secretary), Sherry Messenger, Ron Bain, Leona Zheng, Danielle Karlsson

**Regrets:** Gail Conzatti, Jason Lesage, Terry Tomcko

**City staff present:** Kathleen Stevens (Heritage Planning Analyst), Rob McCollugh (Manager Museums and Heritage Services)

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**Residents present:** 31

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Meeting opened at 7:05 pm. Dale welcomed everyone in attendance.

### **Dale reviewed the MVHRA follow-up on concerns expressed by residents at the AGM:**

Surrey Street/Tenth Avenue intersection – After concerns expressed to the City from residents on Surrey and Burnaby Streets, the actions taken were revisited and additional consultation with affected residents took place at which several executive members were present. A revised plan has been proposed and is generally approved by residents. Changes to traffic flow at the intersection will begin soon.

Communication concerns – Residents noted that the BeHeard entirely on-line approach to communicating with and consulting residents on issues was not working for everyone. When City staff were approached, they said they were aware of this problem and were working on other additional avenues of communication.

Heritage preservation – Some residents expressed concerns that houses from the 1950s and 60s were being torn down and replaced by mega-houses – and that the City was not supportive of residents retaining original architectural features during renovations. The City has not yet given a clear answer on this but the executive hopes to find a City staff person to do a presentation on this at a later date. Kathleen Stevens spoke on this issue later in the meeting and noted that there is a plan by the City to preserve architecture older than 50 years.

Street sweeping and cleaning – Residents spoke to the need for more cleaning of streets at strategic times during the year. The executive followed up with the City and more street sweeping – including in side streets – is being done.

New sample LED street light – Residents were concerned about the design of this sample new street light. They felt it did not conform to the heritage aesthetic in the neighbourhood of mid-century modern. City staff said that the most of the current street lights needed replacement and they are willing to consult with residents on a design to be adopted throughout the neighbourhood. Ron Bain commented later in the meeting that a street light near his home now sported an LED bulb in the old pole design.

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**Dale also reported on some current developments:**

Little Free Library – The MVHRA executive is currently working with the City to install a Little Free Library in Victory Heights Park.

Recycling Depot and new Aquatics and Community Centre – Construction is now underway on the new recreation centre. The recycling depot area and the parking lot off of Sixth Street are part of the construction site.

Kathleen (VP) noted that parking is only accessible from the Cumberland Street entrance / exit.

Hume Park Pool – After receiving a petition with a substantial number of neighbourhood residents' signatures, the City is revisiting the decision to close the pool for a second year. Issues are the cost of keeping it open, maintenance needed, and a shortage of trained lifeguards.

**The current officers then gave reports:**

Vice President – Kathleen thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged that due to regularly changing restrictions set out by the Provincial Health Officer we cannot in good conscience make any plans for future in-person events at this time. She confirmed the executive will continue to work on the issues the membership brings forward and looks forward to the time when we can all meet in person. Kathleen also recognized and thanked resident Allan Hunter who built the Little Free Library and residents Ron Bain and Jim Messenger who will be installing the library in Victory Heights Park. She noted that Ron Bain is also now representing the MVHRA on the Police Advisory Committee and thanked President Dale Bradley for all of the behind-the-scenes work he has been doing for the residents of MVHRA.

Secretary – Deb reported that a Spring newsletter will be coming out shortly.

Treasurer – Kaleigh reported that we now have 132 members – the highest in recent memory. The current bank balance is \$2978.57 + \$20 not yet deposited. She thanked John Cooke, the sponsor of MVHRA, for his annual contribution and the City of New Westminster for the annual residents' association grant.

**Presentation by Rob McCullough:**

Rob gave a fascinating presentation about the history of New Westminster that included family's stories about the development of Massey Victory Heights. He acknowledged the various First Nations who were the first inhabitants of the area. Development of New Westminster as a city began in 1859. His slides will be made available as a pdf and linked on the MVHRA website. Anyone with information to contribute on the neighbourhood or who has questions can contact: [museum@newwestcity.ca](mailto:museum@newwestcity.ca) or [archives@newwestcity.ca](mailto:archives@newwestcity.ca)

He noted that many of the images collected by the Museum & Archives are available online.

For more information on street names, go to

<http://www.nwheritage.org/heritagesite/history/content/streets/ac.htm>

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The presentation was very well received by those attending and a number of residents contributed their own stories of the earlier years in the neighbourhood.

**Concerns and issues:**

A resident raised the issue of trimming foliage in Westburnco Park to clear sight lines and remove areas where drug activity and overnight camping can take place. The executive will raise the issue with the City and report back.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm.