



**Massey Victory Heights Residents Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2023 – 7:00 pm  
Mount Zion Lutheran Church**

**Minutes**

20 Attendees [not including executive and guests]

1. Land acknowledgement
2. Introduction of:
  - a. Executive Members:
    - i. Sid Johnson – Vice President
    - ii. Sue Johnson – Director at Large
    - iii. Terry Tomcko – Web Master
  - b. Guests
    - i. Daniel Fontaine
    - ii. Paul Minhas
    - iii. Dave Wharf – Evo Car Share
3. **EVO Car Share** - Dave Wharf gave a slide presentation of the BCAA EVO Car Share Program. Learn more about EVO at their website <https://evo.ca/>
4. **Recent City Initiatives** – Daneil Fontaine provided updates as follows:
  - a. Block Party – When the city withdrew the cost for a permit for Block Parties, city staff then required \$5 Million in liability insurance before they would issue any permits. As a result, Block Parties went underground with no permits. City has reviewed the process and now have a blanket insurance policy for Block parties. This has gone into effect immediately and shouldn't be an issue next summer.
  - b. Use of E-scooters on city streets/sidewalks – City is reviewing the policy as currently New Westminster does not allow these scooters on streets or sidewalks. They are looking at how to enforce any future policy. In the interim they are asking users to slow down when on sidewalks and in crowded areas.
  - c. Patullo Bridge – A community celebration is being planned for 2024 which will shut down the bridge for several days prior to it's demolition to allow residents to say farewell.
  - d. Budget Decision – The City budget is currently in the works; residents should weigh in and provide your feedback if you not done so
  - e. Open Drug Use– The city is working on a policy where the open use of drugs will not be allowed in any public park or playground, especially where young children are present.
  - f. Special Advisory Committee – The city is in the process of setting up a Special Advisory Committee made up of 36 committee members. Application can be made currently on-line on the City's website. Community member will receive some remuneration. This new committee will replace many individual committees at city hall. The details how this committee will interact with Council is unclear at this time.
  - g. Crime and Safety Forum – Councillors Daniel Fontaine and Paul Minhas, are inviting community members to attend the forum, which is taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Inn at the Quay from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free, but people must [RSVP in advance to attend](#).



5. MVHRA Updates
  - a. Westburnco Off Leash Dog Park Update – Terry Tomcko provided an update from the city representative [[Darren Miller](#)] responsible for the update to the Dog Park in the Westburnco Park, [see attachment for details].
  - b. City has replied to several of our requests from the past:
    - i. Lighting in Westburnco Park –Metro Vancouver has replied to the City’s request for the provision of a power source for additional lighting within the park within the recent work that was underway, BUT Metro Vancouver advised they were unable to expand the scope of their project to accommodate this request. New West city must now determine how they will proceed if at all possible.
    - ii. Street Lighting in MVHRA area – This is still on the books but has been delayed *due to staffing* and they are now looking at 2024 for the implementation of lighting improvement work.
    - iii. Traffic Issues resulting from the Surrey Street/East Tenth Avenue upgrade – They have promised a review with the scheduling of vehicle counts and speed survey on Chilliwack, Ladner, Chestnut, and Churchill this autumn. This work has been delayed *due to staffing issues*.
  - c. Halloween House Decorating Contest – October will soon be upon us. Registration for the contest is open to all active residents in the MVHRA. Registration starts October 1, 2023. Check our [Website](#) for details. A note was made that Terry’s home [830 York Street] is not part of the contest as he a member of the executive and as a result you are not in competition with him.
  - d. New Executive – As always, the MVHRA is looking for new executive members, currently we are without a President. The executive is elected at the AGM. If you are interested, please contact Sid at [President@masseyvictoryheights.com](mailto:President@masseyvictoryheights.com)
6. Questions and Answer
  - a. A question was raised as to who is responsible for cleaning the street gutters and trimming hedges along sidewalks in the city? A discussion followed with reference to the [SEE CLICK FIX](#) site. If you are not a member, it is highly recommended you join. The city uses this site to allow residents to report any issues they have or find in the city which they can address.
    - i. As for street gutters, calling the city engineering department directly to have them send out the street sweep can help keep weeds down.
    - ii. Tree and Shrub trimming should be reported through SEE CLICK FIX so it can be logged.
  - b. Speed Sign on East Tenth Avenue – During the ‘renovation’ of the Cariboo/East Tenth Avenue intersection, it was mentioned a 30 km sign would be posted on East Tenth Avenue in the park zone when all the work was being done. What is the status of this sign. It appears the electrical work is in place, but no sign has been installed yet. MVHRA will follow up on status of this item
7. Next Meeting will be our AGM – This will be scheduled for late in January 2024. Check our website in the New Year for more information.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

## Westburnco Off Leash Area Improvements

1. This is only the first phase of an ongoing pilot study in which the city is trying to solve a drainage issue.
  - a. There are certain limitations to the improvements which can be made at Westburnco due to the infrastructure running underneath the OLA, the city do their best to improve the park as best they can given the existing site constraints, therefore they cannot excavate to modify the site drainage
  - b. They will be developing a survey after a year of use to collect additional information about the site and make reasonable improvements based on the results.
2. The decomposed granite (gravel) is commonly used in off-leash areas where drainage is an issue. The surface is noted in the people parks and pups' strategy as an approved surface for dog off leash areas.
3. Operations crew have sifted through the mulch which was placed at the north end to remove the apples and metal debris.
4. The south area of the park could not be modified using equipment as there is a water main running under this area. Metro Vancouver was adamant the city not use any machines in that area as it may damage the infrastructure.
  - a. Metro Vancouver was also very concerned about vibration so alternative methods were used to compact the decomposed granite.
  - b. As part of the pilot study one area of the OLA was intentionally left unmodified so that residents could compare conditions between the various surfaces and then provide feedback after the pilot study has finished.
5. No smoking signs have been installed at both entrances.
6. Logs were installed as additional agility features for dogs as results from the People Parks and Pups Strategy identified owners were interested in additional play features in OLA's. The logs can also be used as benches as it was indicated more seating space was desirable.
7. The sharp rock base surrounding the existing bench was removed by hand and replaced with the same granite screenings that were used in the north end of the park.
8. The city is looking to have the gates upgraded at a later date.
9. Again, this is all part of an ongoing study which will be used to inform future upgrades to the OLA.