



## Annual General Meeting

January 23th, 2025

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Mount Zion Lutheran Church

**Attendance:** 24 includes (5) executive, sponsor John Cooke, Councillors Daniel Fontaine & Paul Minhas

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:10 pm
2. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (by Sid)

*Massey Victory Heights Residents Association recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, and well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, we play, and we do our work.*

### 3. Introduction of 2024 MVHRA Executive

Present: Sid, Sue, Terry, Deb, Dani (partial attendance)

Absent: Chester, Sherry

### 4. MVHRA Executive's overview of 2024: Activities & Finances

- a) Welcome to neighbourhood pamphlet created and delivered to those residents that have moved into MVH this year.
- b) Garage sale - MVH Yard Sale sign developed and provided to the MVH registered participants. These will be reused for many coming years.
- c) Sign cappers provide by MVHRA initiative 22 in total.
- d) Summer Block Party grants - two in total
- e) October Halloween contest ( 5<sup>th</sup> annual ) with prize award
- f) Remembrance day wreath tradition
- g) Year-end membership drive /news letter
- h) Summary of 2024 News Emails issued over summer months (from June to Aug (5 in total ) and the associated analytics provided. Current MVHRA email distribution includes 368 recipients+/- . The analytic summary indicated 280+/-

views (75%). The five included in the analytic summary addressing MVHRA initiatives (Sign Cappers/Block Parties, NW City's pre-zoning initiatives related to BC's new legislation policies, New West Police Department meeting summary held with RA's representatives, and the CNW's Three Crisis Pilot Project.

- i) Throughout the year MVHRA emails sent out as needed to current and past members captures notices for meetings or events and to share news of City initiatives of interest to residents

**One question:** Are all RAs in NW able to connect with each other?

**Response** (by Sid): Annual meetings with Council are currently held with all Residential Associations (RA's) with the respective presidents/RA representation. Otherwise RA connection to other RAs currently limited to email via website that can be found on the City of New Westminster's website.

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/discover-new-west/residents-associations>

## 5. MVHRA Finances

- a) Year-end balance as of Dec 31, 2024. **\$1133.51**
- b) Income: Total income 2024 - **\$2320** from sponsorships (John Cook & City of NW) & MVHRA memberships
- c) Carryover from 2023 of **\$2727**
- d) A total of **\$5,000** to work with in 2024
- e) Expenses incurred for 2024: **\$3900**.
  1. Our recurring costs
    - a. Meeting room rental
    - b. MailChimp - email service
    - c. Printing garage sale maps, our holiday letter & misc. brochures
    - d. Grants/prizes for neighbourhood block parties & Halloween decorating contest
    - e. Remembrance Day Wreath
    - f. Host winter craft fair (possible)
  2. Long term investment
    - a. Yard signs for registered participants of MVHR annual garage sale
    - b. Sign cappers: 10 -\$1300

## 6. 2025 Activities

- a) Possible website re-design required due to changes in operating systems and software limitation that MVH is current utilizing. The MVH executive would like to hear from any members that may be interested in being involved in this endeavour to maintain/update our MVHRA website.
- b) Garage sale first Saturday in May
- c) Halloween House Decorating Contest
- d) Host winter craft fair (possible)

## 7. Q&A with our Councillor representative, Daniel Fontaine

- a) 2025 Official Community Plan (OCP) – Opportunities to for community engagement have not yet been set by Staff this year and will be forthcoming. The new (updated) OCP has to be completed by the end of 2025, per new BC provincial legislation.
- b) Committee for Vision Zero. Vision Zero . Daniel & Mayor are council liaisons. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all that the City. This committee task force was passed by a motion at the end of 2024. Work by the task force to get under way in 2025.

**Question:** About radiation emitted by the new electrical meters and options for residents. Councillor Fontaine & Councillor Minhas will follow up with the respect electrical utility city staff

- c) Public toilet strategy - give feedback through Be Heard. Looking to install more public toilets.
- d) Zoning and provincial housing mandates – pay attention to what’s coming out and engage if invited to do so.
- e) Hoping for more consultation with RAs instead of just giving feedback through Be Heard on City initiatives
- f) Three Crises – moving ahead – mostly downtown
- g) Tax rate 23% property tax increase over 3 years
- h) 66% sewer rate increase over 3 years
- i) Electrical rate a bit lower for us than some municipalities but still an increase
- j) MetroVancouver – Need more financial accountability
- k) Councillor Cafe - Downtown Edition featuring Michael Geller speaking about development and density. Thursday , January 30, 2025 , 514 Carnarvon St (7 to 9) . NO RSVP required for attendance.

- l) Another event about future development noted for February 6<sup>th</sup>. The New Westminster Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Downtown New West BIA, will play host to Vision 2030: New Westminster Economic Forum on Feb. 6 at the Anvil Centre.
- m) Patullo Bridge will have an Indigenous name – construction delayed
- n) Bike Lanes – not coming into this neighbourhood any time soon. A lot of citizen concern about plans for Seventh Street (one way street, street parking disappearing)
- o) Class action lawsuit by municipalities against oil companies
- p) Next Civic election October 2026
- q) Electrical utility – possible discussion about cost of upgrading it in Council
- r) MVH issues
  - 1) Concern about lighting at night on East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
  - 2) Lighting in MVH due in spring 2025, based on latest info from City staff

#### **8. Housing market update from John Cooke, Realtor**

- a) Slow market. 2 house sales in MVH in last 90 days. Selling below list price.
- b) May be busier in spring. Prices may stay steady.
- c) Buyers hesitant because of uncertain economy and higher interest rates.
- d) Mortgage insurance rate from \$1 million to \$5 million.

#### **9. Election of the 2025 MVHRA Executives**

President:	Sid Johnson
Vice-President:	Jason Lesage
Secretary:	Lorna Cloutier
Treasurer:	Sue Johnson

10. **Special Announcements**– Deane Gurney , the president of Heritage New Westminster. This year HNW is looking for heritage houses for tour, and stories about the neighbourhood as this year represents the 80 anniversary of the end of WWII and HNW intends making that a theme during this year’s 2025 home tour.

11. \$50 prize for 822 Chilliwack (paid member) drawn as the winner from a total of 70 members that had remitted their 2025 annual membership by Jan 15, 2025

12. **Next meeting** – April 10th tbc

13. **Adjournment** at 8:40 pm