



Massey Victory Heights Residents' Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022

7:00pm - Virtual meeting via: ZOOM

Present executive members:

- Dale Bradley, President
- Kathleen Carlsen - VP
- Deb Thomas - Secretary
- Kaleigh Johnston – Treasurer
- Terry Tomcko – Director-at-large
- Sherry Messenger – Director-at-large
- Leona Zheng – Director-at-large
- Danielle Karlsson – Director-at-large
- Ron Bain – Director-at-large
- Derek Deacon – Director-at-large

Regrets:

- Gail Conzatti - Director-at-large
- Jason Lesage – Past-president

Guests:

- Chinu Das, Councilor, City of New Westminster
- Carol Swan, Fraser Valley Health Authority
- Sharat Chandra, Fraser Valley Health Authority
- Paul Hyland, New Westminster Police Service
- Adrian McLeod, City of New Westminster

Total Attendance: 32

1. Called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Welcome and agenda – President

3. *President's Report*

Dale thanked the 2021 executive and made special note of those members who are moving on to other things – Vice President Kathleen Carlsen and Directors-at-large Gail Conzatti and Leona Zheng. He gave a recap of the year's activities with thanks to executive members who took the lead to ensure that the association's goals were met:

- A survey of residents was done in early 2021. The top three concerns were traffic, safety and housing development. (Dale)
- Advocacy with the City on behalf of residents on Ladner, Surrey and Burnaby streets regarding the Cariboo Road, Tenth Street intersection. (Dale)
- Clean-up of Victory Heights Park – more wood chips, new painted lines on for basketball hoop, Little Free Library. (Dale, Sherry, Ron)
- Brush cut back in Westburnco Park to make the area safer (Dale)
- General meeting on April 8 with presentation by Rob McCulloch, Manager of New Westminster Museums and Heritage Services, on the heritage of the Massey Victory Heights neighbourhood.
- Discussions with the City on replacement of street lights in MVH. Agreement that residents will be consulted before a final design is approved. (Dale)
- The Halloween House Decorating Contest – held in October. 14 participants, 3 winners and two runners up. (Kathleen, lead)
- Holiday Card and membership drive (Leona, lead)

4. *Treasurer's Report (Kaleigh)*

- **2021 Overview**
 - **2021 expenses:** holiday card, youth to deliver holiday card, remembrance day wreath; Halloween decorating contest flyer, youth to delivery Halloween flyer, prizes for Halloween House decorating contest; building book library for Triangle Park, simple service account and zoom account
 - **2021 Memberships** = 135 members, 41% (56) were brand new members, remaining 59% (79) were returning members from 2020
 - We would like to also recognize the substantial financial contribution John Cook made to MVHRA, as our sponsor in 2021
- **2022 AGM Update:**
 - **2022 Memberships** = 65 members - 28% (18) are brand new members, remaining 72% (47) are returning members from 2021
 - **Expenses:** renewal of Zoom Account (not yet paid)

5. *Secretary's Report (Deb)*

2021 was another pandemic year in which we were unable to get together in person. The chief roles of the secretary are to take minutes of general meetings which are then posted on the website [here](#) and to act as newsletter editor. To keep in touch with members outside of virtual meetings, we sent out 4 emailed newsletters – Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall – with local news of interest, updates on MVHRA activities, and links to useful resources. In addition, we sent

out emailed notices of general meetings and the Halloween House Decorating Contest and several email blasts on important news such as an uptake on thefts of car parts in late spring and the decommissioning of the Canada Games Pool this fall. Newsletters are also available in pdf format on the website [here](#). Deb welcomes input on the minutes and on the newsletter, its content and frequency. I can be contacted at secretary@masseyvictoryheights.com.

6. *Councilor Chinu Das*

The councilor introduced herself at an invitation from the President. He noted that she is very responsive to emailed questions and concerns.

7. *Vice President's Report (Kathleen)*

Kathleen thanked the executive for their hard work in the past year. She made special note of Dale who will be moving into the past president role, and Jason Lesage, past president, who will be leaving the executive. She thanked them both for their hard work on behalf of MVH residents.

8. *Police Committee Report (Ron)*

Ron reported that his email address had not been updated with the Police and he had not been receiving meeting notices since his role as MVHRA representative. The error has been corrected and he will begin attending meetings.

7. *Election of Officers* – administered by Adrian McLeod on behalf of MVHRA

President – Sherry Messenger
Vice President – Derek Deacon
Secretary – Deb Thomas
Treasurer – Kaleigh Johnston

Directors-at-large:

Ron Bain
Danielle Karlsson
Terry Tomcko – Webmaster
NEW Chester Kmiec

Continuing as past president – Dale Bradley

Sherry and Derek gave brief remarks thanking the 2021 executive and looking forward to working for residents in 2021.

9. *Open forum for residents*

John Cooke raised two issues:

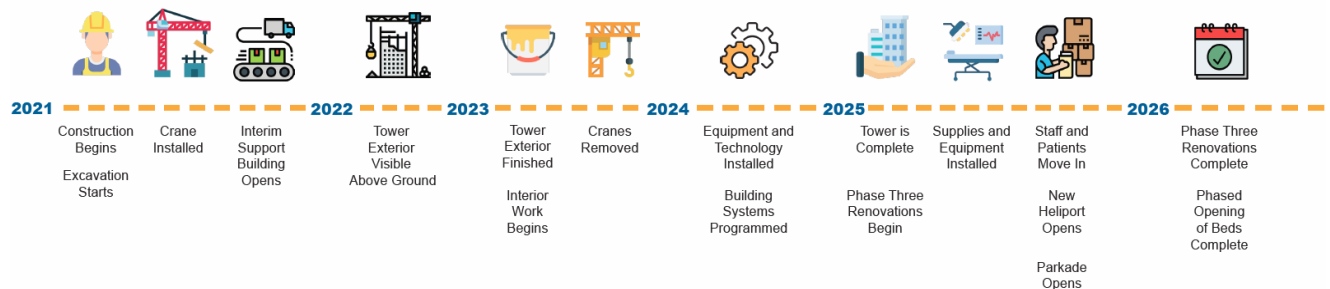
- Thefts of catalytic converters in the neighbourhood
- A thanks for the speed bumps installed on Ladner Street.

9. Presentations:

- **Sharat Chandra, Chief Project Officer and Executive Director of the Royal Columbian Hospital Re-development Project**, gave a short presentation outlining the various steps in the project – what has already been completed and what has yet to be completed.
 - Phase 1 – the Mental Health and Substance Use Wellness Centre Building is completed and currently in use.
 - Phase 2 – the New Acute Care Tower is currently being built. Completion by 2025
 - Phase 3 -- Upgrades to Existing Buildings. Completion by 2026.

Mr. Chandra offered the following email for any queries or comments on the project: RCHRedevelopment@fraserhealth.ca

Timelines for next phases:



- **Deputy Chief Constable Paul Hyland, New Westminster Police Services**, gave a presentation on police reforms underway in New Westminster. He referenced a motion brought forward at the New Westminster Police Board meeting in June 2021. See appendix A for the full text of the motion.

The Deputy Chief said that the killing of George Floyd has made police departments across North America re-think their approach to policing. He said that a focus solely on policing to resolve various societal issues is too narrow. The City is participating in the Peer Assisted Crisis Team (PACT) pilot project, which is managed by the Canadian Mental Health Association. The police will be a supporting partner in this project. More on the project can be found [here](#).

Hyland noted elements in the strategic plan that relate to the goal of forming more partnerships to respond to issues related to homelessness, racism, mental health and addictions.

- Engaging more with non-traditional groups that have historically not been comfortable with the police
- Listening more to community members
- Modernizing community policing

He ended by saying that more conversations are needed to improve the responses to incidents involving vulnerable groups.

Q&A:

- Blockwatch – Why was it cancelled and replaced with Next Door? The Deputy Chief did not have direct involvement in the decision but his impression was that the program was using a lot of police resources and was not resulting in an efficient tracking of incidents and issues. It was noted that most former Blockwatch captains were not in favour of Next Door as a replacement for the program and felt that they were not consulted on the change.
- Reporting to the Police – A resident wanted to know how we make concerns known to police, given we are a relatively crime free neighbourhood in relation to other areas of New Westminster. The Deputy Chief said that any concerns can be conveyed to the MVHRA's representative, Ron Bain, on the New Westminster Community Policing Committee. The Committee meets every 2 months but Ron can pass on concerns between meetings to his contact with the police. Ron can be contacted at director1@masseyvictoryheights.com

Residents can report a crime online at <https://www.nwpolice.org/onlinereporting>.

If you are calling the police in an emergency, Hyland noted that there have been issues with EComm, the company that handles emergency calls, and delays in responses have resulted. The City is working on resolving the problems.

- Speedwatch – Hyland reported that this program is not currently operating due to resourcing issues.

President Messenger thanked the Deputy Chief Constable for an informative presentation.

10. All members were thanked for attending. *Meeting was adjourned at: 8:26 pm.*

11. Next meeting – Spring. Date to be determined.

Appendix A

Motion for Consideration

The New Westminster Police Board:

1. Supports deprioritizing the New Westminster Police Department's resources away from the enforcement of laws that criminalize the survival of society's most vulnerable people that would be better served by a public health or community care framework.

2. Will engage with the Provincial Government to work with the city to develop a new model to address crisis health management with the goal of creating a pilot community-based crisis management program that:
 1. Is informed by destigmatized, de-colonial and anti-racist practice;
 2. Is rooted in non-violent crisis intervention and de-escalation;
 3. Is rooted in compassion and mutual understanding;
 4. Is informed by best practices and lived experience;
 5. Provides participants a better understanding of issues around mental health, addictions and trauma;
 6. Provides participants tools to help someone experiencing a mental health or substance use emergency;
 7. Considers place-making opportunities to counter the perception and incidence of street disorder and chronic street nuisance; and
 8. Reduces call volumes for police response, while redirecting more appropriate resources as applicable;
3. Supports the review of the use, deployment and training related to police equipment/weapons and that this work be done in collaboration with the Provincial Government's call to amend the Police Act.
4. Develop and adopt a **Diversity and Inclusion Framework** to guide the direction of Community policing and include the following goals:
 - Have a workforce this is broadly reflective of the community;
 - Identify and address barriers to diversity within organizational systems;

 - Attract and retain a talented workforce skilled at working in an inclusive and respectful manner with one another and with the community;
 - Create processes, policies, plans, practices, programs and services that meet the diverse needs of those they serve;

 - Establish a senior leadership action group to oversee equity, diversity and human rights initiatives;
5. Will request the development and implementation of a culturally-safe engagement plan to include and consider the personal experiences and voices of residents or groups who have or represent those who have experienced discrimination in helping to shape any proposed police reforms. This work will be done in collaboration with New Westminister City Council.
6. Will engage with members of the New Westminister Police Department with the goal to develop understanding, input and support for new directions for NWPDP.
7. Will request a comprehensive report on police reforms to be presented to the New Westminister Police Board and New Westminister City Council by the end of 2020. The report will include a comprehensive scan of police reforms being conducted across North America and best practices in crisis health management at the local level.
8. Will request to work with and in collaboration with New Westminister City Council on the above stated work.
9. Requests that this work be integrated into the upcoming New Westminister Police Department Strategic Plan.