
JAMES BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Agenda

7:00pm – 9:00 pm, August 14th, 2019

James Bay New Horizons – 234 Menzies St

Agenda

1. Welcome & Announcements
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Correspondence/Announcements
 - Circulating Correspondence file
4. Minutes of July 10th, 2019, meeting
5. **CALUC: 580/582 Niagara:**
 - Bobbi Hill, Owner
 - Alfred Haas, Owner
6. **Traffic & Parking in James Bay:**
 - Sarah Webb, Manager - Transportation, Sustainable Transportation, Planning & Development, City of Victoria
 - Ismo HuSu, Parking Services, City of Victoria
 - Ross Kenny, Manager - Transportation, Operations & Construction, City of Victoria
7. Adjournment

August 14, 2019 JBNA General Meeting

Chair: Marg Gardiner

Minutes: Linda Carlson

Attending: 43

1. Welcome and announcements
2. Approval of Agenda m/s/c as amended, with request to add tenants' advisory committee to agenda.
3. Correspondence/Announcements

New JBNA website and new email address jbna@jbna.org

2020 Cruise Ship Schedule on website. Increase of approximately 8% more passengers over 2019.

City staff will be testing the Dallas Road balustrade for lead and other potential contaminants.

Circulating Correspondence file m/s/c

4. Minutes of July 10, 2019 meeting m/s/c

5. CALUC: 580-582 Niagara Street

Bobbi Hill and Alfred Hass, Owners and JBNA Development Review Committee met with the owners on July 8, 2019.

Mr. Hass has owned the property for 30 years, and turned the building into 4-plex 11 years ago. Long term tenants. No plan to change house or change tenants. Room for 6 vehicles and bike storage. The site specific rezoning is to bring it into compliance with use as 4-plex. All construction was done with 4-plex in mind.

Questions/Comments:

C: Resident within 100 meters. Concern is that house is zoned for duplex and has operated as 4-plex for 11 years. What prevents owner from turning it into a 6 or 8 unit building?

A: We need to bring it into compliance or turn it into a strata for 2 units which would mean 2 tenants would have to vacate.

Q: Resident beyond 100 meters questions whether plan is to restrict house to 4-plex as she believes City is changing all single family home as potential for 6-plex. There is no guarantee that this house will not be converted to a strata or 6-plex. Will owner sign agreement with the City to hold the property as 4 rental units?

A: Yes, we have agreed to sign an agreement with the City to retain 4 rental units for 10 years.

Point of clarification: City is not zoning entire city for sfh as 6-plex. There are some properties adjacent to specific traffic arterials that are being up zoned.

C: Resident beyond 100 meters is puzzled that the City never intervened in a 4-plex operation for 11 years knowing it contravened zoning.

A: The City knows this is a 4-plex. It has put a covenant on the property to ensure continued rental. Once property is in compliance with existing use, the covenant will be removed.

Resident within 100 meters wrote letter objecting to spot zoning after 11 years, suggesting only purpose is to sell and realize greater profit after rezoning. Letter will be included in JBNA CALUC letter to City.

6. Traffic & Parking in James Bay:

Sarah Webb, Manager Transportation, Sustainable Transportation, Planning & Development, City of Victoria

Ismo Husu, Parking Services, City of Victoria

Ross Kenny, Manager, Transportation, Operations & Construction, City of Victoria

Between 2011 and 2016 the number of adults over age 65 in Victoria increased by 23%. The majority have mobility challenges. The number of children 14 and younger increased by 9%.

The survey distributed asks residents about mobility and transportation values.

Traffic calming, sidewalks, parking, cycling, and traffic signals.

Ross Kenny, Traffic Calming:

- New traffic calming program to be initiated fall 2019. Program will be data driven, consistent and transparent, and city wide.
- Resident comments that for 10 years she has been emailing City staff, VicPD, GVHA and JBNA about excessive speeding on Oswego Street. She said she calls taxis who maintain the speed limit to say thank you. What is the City's partnership with GVHA and the transportation companies working in the neighbourhood to ensure road safety?

RK notes that traffic calming is nuanced. The same solution on a street don't necessarily work on another street. Redirecting traffic to other streets has impact for side streets. Staff do discuss these issues with GVHA, collecting data about traffic on big cruise ship days.

- Ladysmith resident says he has been looking at traffic calming for 10 years. The flexible signs (fingers) that were run over worked. As soon as the flexible signs were removed taxis started to speed down Montreal, ignoring the 4 way stop at Montreal and Simcoe. We have asked for speed humps between Simcoe and Niagara for 10 years, but the City consistently says they are not warranted. There are 2 parks, one for little children, daycare and tennis courts.

RK says he understands the speed humps issues and requests. Montreal is one of the locations under consideration for a speed hump.

- Resident says have a speed hump on Montreal before 2020 cruise ship season begins. She was told that the flexible sign fingers were being returned to Oswego. What is your time line? When might we see something tangible happen?

RK says he needs to hire staff to be able to complete plans and initiate calming measures. Important to get the right tool for positive impact.

- Resident concerned about cruise ships originating at Ogden Point which will increase James Bay traffic every morning. Those people go out in the morning and then the next people arriving by plane will be coming into Ogden Point at 2 or 3 every afternoon. That traffic will increase all throughout down town, through James Bay to Ogden Point.
- Ladysmith resident supports return of finger signs.
- St Lawrence St resident questions the need to input solutions city wide. Where does James Bay fall on the priority list?

RK says he looks first at schools, parks, playgrounds, community centres where there are high concentrations of people. Also looks at vehicle volumes and speed data.

- We need 4 way stops all around James Bay, and 30 km all around James Bay. Unless drivers are monitored for those who are speeding excessively they won't change. Taxi drivers who do not respect speed limits should be banned from driving in James Bay.
- Resident who lives at Ladysmith and Montreal questions the need to hire staff to install speed humps or install a 4 way stop.

RK says yes, I do need staff to implement a traffic calming system. Also confirms 4 way stop at Simcoe and Oswego.

- Resident concern about traffic on Dallas Road as there is no reason to slow down between Fishermans Wharf and Douglas Street. Has witnessed vehicles passing 4 cars, travelling at excessive speeds. RK notes street will be more narrow once improvements made, and wider sidewalks.
- Resident at Niagara and Dallas is concerned about Ogden Point traffic turning onto Dallas from the 2 entrance/exits.
- Resident expresses concerns about sidewalks in James Bay that are populated with utility poles, signs, etc. and make it impossible for people with mobility aids to travel.

RK said looked at sidewalks in JB and plans new or upgraded sidewalks Montreal to San Jose, Dock, Montreal, Oswego, Boyd and Menzies.

- Resident also expresses concern about vegetation encroaching on sidewalks requires residents to call the city and complain instead of the City taking responsibility.
- Resident proposes if City looking at triple AAA walking, start with James Bay because the residents of James Bay is considerably older than the population of Victoria.
- Resident expresses concern about the thousands of cruise ship passengers who travel through our little neighbourhood. They take over and we want City staff to help with mobility.
- Resident agrees with everything that has been said. In addition to traffic calming which is so necessary, the community takes an unfair burden for cruise ships which is considered by the City to be an asset. It unfairly affects our quality of life and there is no benefit to the residents of James Bay.
- Resident wants a bike lane on Montreal. Invites City staff to join the residents of James Bay for a weekend and we will build speed humps all over James Bay.
- Long term resident observed environment steadily deteriorate. Now there is waste recycling at Ogden Point with vehicles traveling throughout the neighbourhood. Why would the City permit this? Invites staff to come to James Bay on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and see the heavy traffic that travels in James Bay.
- Dallas Road resident questions if there was any study before City permitted Tymac Trucks to travel down Dallas from Ogden Point with their waste.
- Resident says thank you for listening to us tonight. We aren't overly dramatic when we say that residents feel like we are at a crisis point. There is such limited road access that resident questions if there has ever been consideration of shuttle boats from Ogden to inner harbour? Encourages the City to make it preferable for passengers to take boats into the city.
- Resident unable to attend tonight's meeting said wrote in a letter that it is essential that there be a 4-way stop at Oswego and Simcoe and there is an urgent need for the installation of permanent speed bumps on Montreal.

Ismo Husu, Parking Services, City of Victoria talks about parking. He said he has taken action to remove parking spots for tourists on Belleville, Superior, Menzies and Quebec. Created 88 spots and trying to keep tour bus parking in a specified area.

- Resident is concerned about buses that park on both sides of Kingston Street. Buses used to park at Ogden Point or Mayfair. They should not be on our streets.
- Resident resents paid parking on residential areas and James Bay is a residential neighbourhood. There should not be any parking meters in James Bay. It is just a level of aggravation.

Chair notes that Downtown Core Area Plan puts boundary at Quebec Street.

IH says first of all those blocks were all 1 hour parking spots. 1 hour parking is not desirable. Losing 60 parking spots in the Legislative precinct is dangerous, but paid parking keeps people from using those spots all day. The parking fee is only until 4:00.

- Resident is angry that James Bay is a parking lot for tourist buses and for public service employees. That's unfair.

IH says there used to be a parking lot on Harbour Road for buses. Buses are parking on Quebec and Menzies because that is where they buses drop off the majority of their passengers to the hotels. IH says if you provide 2 hours free parking on streets, government workers will use those 2 hours spots for parking throughout the day.

- Resident asks why there isn't a permit parking system in James Bay.

IH says that system costs a lot of money (\$200) for each resident per year. It costs more to enforce because it is not based on complaints as it is now.

- What is the plan for James Bay regarding parking? Every time a new build goes in, there are expectations for 1 car but people park on the street even though they have garages and driveways. What is the plan given that we seem to have more and more vehicles than there are spaces?

IH says encouraging people to use car shares is growing and that is a long term plan. There is never one solution fits all.

Chair notes that City has never implemented Schedule C.

- Resident assumes that GVHA will require City approval to be a home port and asks what is required from the City to make it happen.

Sara Webb says the GVHA has not approached the City yet to become a home port but announced it is going to become a home port because it has customs approval. Chair notes that GVHA does not require City approval.

Sara Webb summarizes the mobility issues and what she has heard tonight. The City has to get its house in order, to identify what new mobility means to the City and how everyone can move comfortably through the City. The City needs new by-laws and policies. The staff attending tonight's meeting want to have focused conversations, such as the discussion tonight, to find solutions. We know James Bay is all ages and abilities. Staff are looking at north/south and east/west corridors in James Bay. City staff are committed to making decisions and investments in James Bay to make things better. A survey for residents to provide comment on the City's transportation initiative is available at

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/transportation/go-victoria.html>

Community Voices: Suggestion from a resident that there be a rental housing and advisory committee. As insufficient time to discuss, resident requests that this matter be tabled to next meeting for full discussion. Board member confirmed that Board had replied to request to indicate no new committees at this time as JBNA is developing process for LAP that will include tenants and renters.

7. Adjournment: 9:00