2020-21 Report: James Bay Neighbourhood Association – Public Service

Mandate: *… to enable the community to be actively involved in … planned development of James Bay, so as to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and life therein.*

JBNA Board:
The COVID-19 pandemic 2019-20 JBNA Board itself was small, with 5-6 members. In spring 2020, the JBNA Board had to cancel the April 2020 AGM, and was unable, for several reasons (including a variety of technical and legal considerations) to reschedule it in the interim. The Ministry of Finance gave leave for not-for-profit societies to postpone AGMs effectively for a year. To complete the JBNA Board, the Board appointed two community members who had previously expressed interest to stand for Director at Large positions at the 2020 AGM: Erik Poirier and Don Gibson. In September, 2020, Mark Cammiade tendered his resignation as he was leaving James Bay.

In addition to working on JBNA Committees, members of the JBNA Board have served on other community and City committees. Examples include Tim VanAlstine and Marg Gardiner on the Victoria Community Association Network and Marg on the City's Climate Adaptation Working Group.

COMMITTEES:

Gardening:
In a separate AGM Report, Kathryn Pankowski details her, and her volunteers, initiatives. It should be noted that in 2020/2021, an agreement was put in place between Huntington Manor and JBNA regarding the creation of allotment gardens on hotel property. JBNA received the licence of occupation for the herb garden area of Fisherman's Wharf Park.

The Montreal Street Community Garden continues as one of the most successful allotment gardens in the City, while providing a visual gem for those wandering by on walks through the neighbourhood. The Montreal Garden has also submitted a report for the 2020/21 year.

Active Transportation and Neighbourhood Traffic:
The City's approach to the AAA cycling route(s) in James Bay was reviewed at a JBNA ZOOM forum a couple months ago. With significant comment/input, revised plans are to be presented to the community later this evening.
Analysis of tourism/residential/industrial traffic impacts are ongoing. X-walk needs, sidewalk deterioration, and other street issues are relayed to the City.

Environment, Cruise-Industry and the "Reset before Restart" initiative:
The role of the cruise-industry in the transmission of COVID-19 and the cancellation of the 2020 cruise season created an opportunity to re-examine the impact of the industry on the neighbourhood. With a focus on rethinking cruise, JBNA Partnered with the Global Cruise Activist Network. Recently, the JBNA Board reviewed and approved a Terms of Reference for a committee to complete the re-examination and to forward an approach to promote changes to the way the industry operates in our neighbourhood.

Land Use: CALUC process development proposals (rezonings, variances, and licenses):
During the 2020-21 year, development applications/permits were presented at JBNA public ZOOM meetings for 557 Simcoe St, Village Green 110-122 Menzies, 623 Avalon, and Puerto Vallarta Amigos Mexican Food at Fisherman's Wharf. Additional development proposal submissions to the City concerned 330-336 Michigan Street CRD/CHRC and 515/519 Rithet (DVP 00062).

The COVID-19 pandemic has also created challenges for the City (Planning). As City staff have been revising City processes for the CALUC process, JBNA provided input, particularly to a new Community Notice form and notification timing.

Land Use: Parks: JBNA made submissions to Mayor and Council concerning camping/sheltering in Beacon Hill Park and Irving Park (see correspondence)

Looking Ahead: Although there was a development proposal 'slowdown' due to COVID-19, several proponents have come forward in the past few weeks. Land use changes and environmental challenges to the James Bay neighbourhood have increased tremendously in the last few years.

As the pandemic settles, the JBNA Board hopes to be able to redirect resources to in-person LAP-Preparation studies and workshops during the upcoming year.