Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the James Bay Neighbourhood Association

Date and Location: 10th April 2024 by Zoom

Opening Remarks:

- The meeting was opened by thanking the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations for allowing the JBNA to meet on their traditional territories.
- The chair asked the secretary, Bob Vander Steen, to confirm the presence of a quorum, which was confirmed with attendance exceeding 10% of the voting members.

Confirmation of Notices:

- Bob Vander Steen confirmed that adequate notice of the meeting had been sent to all members.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM was moved and seconded. The motion was passed without further discussion.

President's Report (by Tim Van Alstine):

- Reviewed activities including development proposal reviews, successful gardening and recycling projects, and social media expansion.
- Announced the addition of younger board members and the hiring of an engagement coordinator, Alieda Blandford.
- Discussed concerns with new provincial legislation affecting community planning and public input.
- Recognized the retirement of Wayne Shillington, Treasurer, and highlighted the contribution of outgoing members.

Election of Officers:

- Nominations were opened for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two Directors at Large.
- Trevor Moat was elected as President by acclamation.
- Linda Carlson and Kirk Buhne were nominated for Vice President; Linda Carlson was elected after a vote.
- Trevor Woodland was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.
- Keira Jackson and Kirk Buhne were elected as Directors at Large by acclamation.

Financial Report:

- Presented by Wayne Shillington, outlining the financial activities and balance, including revenues from grants and expenditures on various projects.

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Budget for the Next Year:

- The proposed budget was presented, anticipating similar revenues and expenditures as the previous year. The budget was approved unanimously.

Gardening Report (by Kathryn Pankowski):

- We added two new commons gardens, Lewis Park Commons and the Montreal St Berry Patch. These are gardened by a group of volunteers and are open for anyone to pick from.
- The temporary allotment garden at Huntingdon Manor was, at the request of the Hotel, made permanent. We expanded the number of plots from 12 to 25, including 3 fully accessible plots.
- The recycling depot made the first expansion of materials it can collect and recycle, adding coloured Styrofoam every month and doing a one-time seasonal collection of holiday light strings.
- The Garden of All Sorts came under the general umbrella of the JBNA.
- There was a substantial increase in volunteers this year: 45 people volunteered their time (not counting people who worked on allotment-specific projects). We held four gardening work parties/week (weather permitting) and put on 23 events for the public.

Concluding Remarks:

- The meeting was adjourned with a vote, concluding the annual general meeting.

Actions and Responsibilities:

- The newly elected President and Board members were tasked with continuing the initiatives and addressing the concerns raised about community engagement and planning.
- The Engagement Coordinator will proceed with surveys and collecting community input on neighborhood priorities.

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