

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting August 30, 2006

Directors present: Liam Taylor, Denise Bonin, Peter Frewin, Cathy Pearson, Ralph Kirby, Shannon Taylor, Michael MacColl, Steve Peck, Fredrik Collin

Guests: Mike & Carol Matthews, China Goodhue, Barb LeBrasseur, Larry Wolfe, Fred Schloessinger, Scott Black, Terry Gordon, and Christina

1 Opening Remarks

1.1 Call to order at 7:35 PM
Liam welcomed the new directors and explained that it was a directors meeting to the guests present.

1.2 Late Agenda items
Steve requested a discussion of fund raising ideas.

1.3 **MOTION:** (moved by MacColl and seconded by Bonin)
That the agenda for the Aug 30th approved as amended
(Motion Carried)

2 Business Arising from the Previous Directors' Meeting

No business from the previous Director's meeting.

3 Correspondence

None

4 Director's Reports

4.1 Treasurer's report - Peter Frewin
Peter pointed out that the liability policy was \$875 this time, and was likely to go up. (for the rest of Peter's report see **Appendix 1**).

MOTION: (moved by Bonin seconded by Taylor)
To accept Treasurer's report.
(Motion Carried)

5 Committee Reports

5.1 Communications Committee – Denise Bonin

The PIRA website continues to develop.

5.2 Leeshore Initiative – Michael MacColl

(see Appendix 2)

5.3 Dock Committee – Cathy Pearson

-A dock work party will happen in September
-\$1000 was spent on building supplies
-There are plans for two more fingers to be added

5.4 Parks & Roads- Ralph Kirby

There was a discussion concerning the state of the broken concrete at the lower end of the ramp at Gallows Point, and the smaller attached wharf at the end of the government dock. This is our major access point to and from the island, for deliveries and emergencies. Cathy pointed out that we have residents in need of wheelchair

accessibility and the city may have a duty to accommodate those needs. Liam will provide Ralph with contact names at the city to contact over this matter.

- 5.5 MOTION:** (moved by Taylor and seconded by Bonin)
To accept all of the Director's reports
 (Motion Carried)

6 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7 New Business

7.1 Discussion of issues regarding tree cutting and property development

7.1.1 Report from President -see **Appendix 2**

7.1.2 **Open Discussion:**

A discussion amongst the directors and guests took place and a variety of points were raised:

- It was suggested that this should be a constructive discussion, with reminders that PIRA represented all property owners and islander's interests.
- Existing zoning, bylaws governing tree cutting, types of neighbourhood plans, and the City's Official Community Plan were discussed.
- The PIRA survey was referenced, along with a general sense that the majority of islanders would likely want to protect what we have, and that whatever plan might evolve would need to be preceded by the development of consensus.
- Discussion ensued about setting up a group to delve into this matter further and to have this group be independent of PIRA, or any other group on the island.

MOTION: (moved by MacColl and seconded by Bonin)
To create an ad hoc group to - look into the issues around developing a community strategy and report back to PIRA at the next directors meeting.
 (Motion Carried)

Group members; Carol Matthews, Barb LeBrasseur, China Goodhue, Larry Wolfe., Michael MacColl, Scott Black, and Liam & Shannon Taylor.

7.2 **Discussion on Parking for islanders in Nanaimo.**

Fred Schloessinger made a very detailed presentation of his investigation into a potential parking area in Nanaimo on land currently under the Nanaimo Port Authority jurisdiction. The report included a property report, zoning descriptions including related by-laws, and maps. A discussion followed concerning the Port Authority's plans and the realistic possibilities for gaining access to the site. Fred agreed to continue his investigation.

8 Closing Remarks and Announcements

Next meeting: Sep 25th at 7:15 pm, Beacon House

9 Adjournment

MOTION: (moved by Bonin)
To adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm

Appendix 1

General Account Balance August 25, 2006

1,560.50

Cash flows from Dock Account Activity

Cash Balance Per Last Report June 30, 2006

1,613.63

Cash Received from Dock Fees, 2005

440.00

Cash Received from Dock Fees, 2006

260.00

Cash Received from Donations

100.00

Total Revenue & Cash Balance

2,413.63

Dock Supplies

0.00

General Insurance

(-875.00)

Director's & Officer's Liability Insurance

0.00

Moorage Fee

0.00

Office Expenses

0.00

Printing & Reproduction

0.00

Total Expenses

(-875.00)

General Account Balance August 25, 2006

1,538.63

E.& O.E.

Peter W. Frewin
Treasurer

Appendix 2

The recent controversy surrounding the developing of Nick DiMambro's lot on Pirates lane has highlighted concern about urban development on the island. I had a telephone conversation with Nick DiMambro. It should be pointed out that while his removal of trees may not be in accordance with your aesthetic, he has not broken any laws. He did seem shaken by all the controversy, and he wanted me to know that he cares about how the community is feeling. He said he currently has no plan to develop the lot across the street from his current development. The current house is to be a 2200 square foot 1 ½ story house with wrap around porch. He also said that he intends to re-plant the lot, and that he felt that the widespread roots and shallow soil made many of the trees likely to fall, once the foundation hole was cut. He would like to hear from people directly if they have concerns and is willing to consider those concerns.

In order to understand the existing provincial and civic development rules and guidelines Larry Wolf (who has a background in planning) and I met with Andrew Tucker the acting Director of Planning for the city. (I will also meet with Chris Scholberg who is the planning department's liaison with neighbourhoods.) We discussed various ways in which our community might develop a neighbourhood plan, and the kinds of mechanisms that could be applied to maintain that plan. The process of developing a plan for what we might do to support a community vision must begin with information and understanding of the underlying issues. This is a process that would involve a good deal of work finding out what islanders would like to see, and developing consensus. No set of guideline would be worth anything if people don't recognize their value. Larry Wolfe and I have been discussing the possibility of an ongoing collection of presentations made by people locally, from the city, and from Malaspina to cover issues such as understanding local geography, invasive vs. native species and their dependencies, living with unexpected guests in your crawlspace etc. As well we might visit things like natural disaster planning. In our case the primary danger is from fire, an issue that affects trees and people equally.

My sense is that in order to understand where we are, we might need to start to imagine our properties differently. On one side of my house, for example, is a property that has Garry Oak on it. This is part of a grove that stretches into and beyond Smugglers Park. On the other side of me is a property that has a stream running through it. This is overflow from the pond in Smuggler's park, and the related wetlands that stretches into the center of the island and this wetland is fed by rains that run down the slope that starts up where Nick DiMambro's lot sits at the top of the island, far away from my house. Cedar trees line these waterways. These groves, these eco-systems that support very unique and particular kinds of biology, define the terrains of the real landscape. These natural systems have existed here for a very long time. Our very recent property boundaries are complete abstractions that we have laid over top. We have to be able as a group to understand what we share, to see the ways that these underlying structures exist, to appreciate both the aesthetics and the science.

My suggestion is that a group be started, made up of concerned citizens that can meet to look into these issues. I would hope that a major part of the early efforts of this group would be to organize these informational presentations. We can consider that motion later after the general discussion.

Liam Taylor