

MINUTES – MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY MEETING

March 7, 2004 Ruth Morton annex

Attendance: Sharole Tylor (chair), Tom Little (minutes), Bryan King, Michael Klassen, Lionel Trudel, Gwyneth Bowen, Jeff Nulty, Kim Nulty
Regrets: Jackie Larson, Ernie Guder, Cathy Loukas, Emma Hunter, Sande & Jay Petkau, Kiki Yee & Irlen Kirste

1. Mosaics: discussion of how to use the \$2000 public arts grant for two mosaics to be inlaid in the sidewalks on both sides of Fraser at 27th Ave. Tara Miller will supervise the project and receive compensation of \$500. An experienced artist/consultant for the city will advise and will receive a fee (\$100?). Tara will invite submissions for designs from local residents, we hope that 8-10 designs can be used. Our goal is June for laying and finishing the project. People may want to have a look at other examples of mosaics: the park at the 29th St. skytrain station, the cul-de-sac going east on 37th just before Knight, the walkway between King Edward and 26th west of John St., the plaza outside Percy Norman pool.

2. Plants on Fraser: the group felt that the city's plants in the bus bulge green spaces are inadequate, ie more colour and greenery needed with flowers and shrubs to beautify year round, especially March – Nov. Right now they being used as garbage pits. Volunteers are needed, please sign up now with Sharole, or let her know if you have plants to donate. It is hoped that Frances Dragon and Elma _____? will also agree to participate. We will also take advantage of the city's upcoming private plant sale.

3. Keep Vancouver Spectacular: We will call out the community to clean Fraser and its lanes on Sunday May 16th (mark your calendars now.) The city doesn't want people simply emptying their basements at our depot without pitching in to tidy up the 'hood, so Fraser will be our #1 priority. Second priority will be to get folks to bring their stuff to the depot. Thirdly, if we have time and people power, we'll pick up big items from neighbourhood lanes, but we expect residents to at least help load the stuff. We will not promote this 3rd option. (Since people often leave stuff in their back yards or abandon it in lanes, and since the city may take weeks or months to clear big stuff from lanes, we felt we should try and include option 3, but not at the expense of the other two.) We hope to get teens or senior elementary students involved this year, perhaps on Friday afternoon (otherwise Sunday.) For legal reasons they will have to follow established rules for kid volunteers (supervision by parents or teachers) and clean-ups [proper pick-up procedures ("no-touch" rule), gloves, pincers, etc.] Group agreed that MV needs to lobby city hall to hold an annual day where people can place large items in their lanes for garbage crews.

4. Bike / Foot Patrols: South Van Community Policing Office (Adriana) has been in touch with Mike offering resources (bikes, vests) and training. We need a place to store 2 bikes (any volunteers?) Mike will follow up with Adriana for details. Cathy, can you ask church if they'll let us store bikes there? Lionel said that any unregistered (unused) cell phone can be used to call 911 for free as long as the batteries are charged – ideal for patrollers. So save those old cell phones folks (as long as they're smaller than a shoe box!) Mike, Lionel and his neighbour Chris will attend South Van's next seminar. Contact Mike if you want to go. This training is vital to learn the pro's and con's of patrolling, what to look for, what to avoid, stay safe, avoid confrontation, etc.

5. Newsletter / Website / Bulletin Boards: Kudos to Mike and Holly for the birth(s) of our first newsletter and website. We will promote both tools extensively. One benefit is that they will help us build a larger list-serve (Vancouver_mountainview) so that hundreds of residents may be

alerted when a key issue or annual meeting comes up. Sharole has a stencil www.mountain-view.ca and Tom will help her paint it on our bulletin boards. Group decided to spray paint the URL on the sidewalks at bus stops and other strategic points in the 'hood but will check with city prior to doing so to see if there will be any gross objections.

Website **forums** were discussed and the group agreed that there is value in specific applications, but had reservations about creating a blanket device that might be open to abuse, i.e. posting (by anyone) of fact errors and misinforming large numbers of people, or posting of inappropriate or antagonistic comments. There was also concern over the large volume of info to be waded thru on what would essentially be a chat line. It was felt that the organizing committee should carry the responsibility (as it now does) for information on Mountain View plans and activities. However the group agreed that aspects of this technology could be useful for specific uses such as FAQ's (posted answers for Frequently Asked Questions), Items For Sale, Coming Events, Rental Properties, etc.

The **website** will give the public access to our mission, history, current goals & projects, photo album, contact lists, etc. It will also be an important "mailbox" through which people can contact us.

6. Community Newspaper: Kensington – Cedar Cottage district will soon have its own quarterly community newspaper similar to the one Renfrew-Collingwood now has. Paul Reid will publish both, with input from community. Donna Chang of Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House will contact us re: an organizing meeting in April.

7. King Edward Village Neighbourhood Centre: there will be a demolition party to get rid of the flea market and make way for the new neighbourhood centre at Kingsway/Knight. The developer will contact Tom (and other community groups) to invite us all to come out and wield a ceremonial sledge hammer, or just take in the presentation / news conference. (Note: our role will remain that of a non-partisan watchdog to ensure community values are reflected (as promised) in the development.) Date TBA and circulated to our large list.

Jeff, Kim and Tom are involved in the City's consultation process for the revival of the entire Kingsway/Knight area via their participation in CityPlan and also (Jeff & Kim) in the Neighbourhood Centre Delivery Program. This is part of "KCC Community Vision Implementation In Action". Jeff & Kim are part of the Shopping Area Working Group. Local residents are also involved in the Housing Area Plan – the entire city is slated for increased density, but citizens have input as to the *kind* of density increases that go into their 'hood.

If you sent your K'way/Knight survey back to City Hall from the Neighbourhood Centre newsletter sent to area residents, you've already received info and had some input on the physical look of Kingsway/Knight. Future newsletters will keep us up to date.

8. Grafitti / Murals: Cambie Plumbing (23rd/Fraser) is willing to have a mural on its wall (Tom and Sharole painted out grafitti there last month along with several other spots along Fraser). Volunteers needed for mural committee.

9. Traffic Calming: Gwyneth spoke about the traffic circle application she is spearheading at 32nd/Prince Albert. Curbs and trees have already been given the green light for 32nd from P.A. to St. Catherines. Both ends will feature curb bulges. She was looking for help and guidance from the people who organized the installation and planting of the 28th & Prince Albert circle as to how to get the ball rolling. Bryan King offered his assistance.

10. Banners & poles: Group decided that the addition and/or replacement of banners on Fraser should be the subject of a community general meeting to decide if we wish to continue with the individual mountains&sunflower theme, or look for commercial sponsors for a single banner with a visible sponsor's tag line (like the ones in Little India at 49/Main with the ICBC Road Sense tag). Other options would be to have both, or perhaps all-new individual (ie community-made) banners. The old banners will be retired by the city in 2005, and one suggestion – to raise funds for new banners – was to auction them off as nostalgia / home decorative items.

All neighbourhood poles have been repainted green, but some of our “go-slow” signs may have been taken down by crews. Keep an eye out for them. Fraser poles between King Ed / 31st were painted black at our request. (blue or red not available, apparently due to extra cost). Group would like to produce 2 large “Welcome to Mountain View” banners to stretch across Fraser near 24th and 32nd avenues, with a ‘slow down’ message. Lionel would also like to see some way to post the steep fines for motorists not yielding when a pedestrian has activated the blinking crosswalk (apparently over \$400). Group vetoed civilian use of paintball guns or heat-seeking missiles (joke).

11. Earthquake Preparedness: Lionel is involved with the National Earthquake Preparedness Plan (NEPP), and led a discussion on possible action by MV residents. The “big one” could mean no power, radio/TV, water, natural gas, gasoline, even food and medical services for 3-6 days. Massive injury, fire and crime are definite risks, plus limited ability to use our vehicles, overloaded or destroyed hospitals & emergency shelters, etc. We will encourage MV residents to organize and take the 4 courses offered by the city: First Aid, Search & Rescue, Team Building, and Light Fire Fighting. Visit City website for more info. The Courier frequently carries info ads too.

Lionel will contact the head of Vancouver's emergency planning team (an MV resident) to see what he thinks of a pilot project in the Fraser-Knight-KingEdward-33rd area. Aside from individuals properly stocking their homes, the group can catalogue key resources in the ‘hood (various skills, medical personnel, tools, etc.), ensure the presence of battery radios, and create emergency centres with basic supplies. You can get great info by googling NEPP.

12. Boulevard Fruit Trees: lively discussion on pro's and con's of fruit trees on boulevards. The fruit could be given to food bank, but some felt the Fruit Tree Project already filled that need. Some were worried about keeping the trees healthy and the potential mess of fallen fruit. It could be that the fruit would become the responsibility of homeowners whose homes fronted the trees. For some, the addition of fruit trees would be a big improvement over the present trees on their boulevards. Mike to get more info on our options from the city.

13. \$\$\$\$\$\$: Bryan circulated a statement on Mountain View Neighbourhood Group's current assets in our VanCity account.

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| Small Grant for Benches: | \$500.00 |
| Balance of BEST grant: | 738.00 |
| Vancouver Tools donation: | 200.00 |
| Balance of QLT grant: | 1,469.96 |
| Bank Interest: | <u>1.54</u> |
| Total cash in bank: | \$2,909.50 |