**Connaught Heights Residents Association**

**Minutes of Meeting: March 7, 2023**

**Annual General Meeting**

Meeting commenced at 7:10 pm, 10 people in attendance (including two city councilors – Fountaine and Manas and five executives – Mike, Bob, Karl, Corina, and Anna-Maria).

**1. Updates –** City staff liaison informed Mike Bohn, that the city, due to staff shortages, will no longer attend meetings in person. We welcomed the attending, Councilors.

**2. Membership Drive –** No new members.

**3. Annual Elections –** Elections were held, and the following individuals were elected to CHRA roles:

* President – Mike B
* Vice President – Bob P
* Policing Chair - Karl B
* Treasurer – Anna-Maria
* Communications Chair – Sally H
* Member-at-large – Corina S
* Secretary – not filled

Thank you to those who volunteer their time for others. It is important to note we need more volunteers to help support our community growth, be a safe and be a fun inclusive place for all to reside.

**4. Email address change –** We will no longer be using the old email address. CHRA’s new email address has been sent to all the members on the email distribution list. All communications will go through this email managed by the communications chair.

*Actionable item:* update city on email change for their website – contact Wendee.

**5. Financial update** - $120 cash + $604.64 bank. Total $724.64

**6. Connaught Village Green –** Mike Bohn, cited an excerpt from an email received from the City advising advised there are no immediate activation plans for the park land.

*“Regarding 2038 Ninth Avenue, staff are not able to move forward with any plans at this time. Staff do have a confirmed 2023 work plan (that does not include any planning for this site) and are awaiting approval of the 2023 capital budget. Following the budget approval process, we can be in touch later in 2023 to discuss a future process to:*

a. consideration of use of these lands by Council;

b. timeline for creating a site plan as it aligns w/ staff’s workplan and capacity; and

c. If approved by Council, and to collaborate w/ the Connaught Heights Residents Association to seek potential funding for temporary activation.

I want to emphasize that Parks & Recreation is addressing a number of priority items included on the *2023 workplan. When we have capacity to further discuss this site, we will be in touch to discuss process, timeline, and funding.”*

President, Mike Bohn expressed concern, as it would appear the City does not want to enhance this parkland. Mike also, stated that Connaught Heights is not a priority for 2023, and they do not even have the capacity to talk about this site. Sad for those who have spent many hours trying to revitalize land that was once a beneficial community hub.

Actionable item: Question to staff “When may we discuss this again? What date and time?”

**7. Pollinator field – a)** March 15th the City will meet with selected residents at the field to discuss its future and the effects of the razing that was done by city staff to the field last year. An action many members disapproved of due to the destruction of the ‘homes’ of the insects that live there. At this meeting, those in attendance will be invited to discuss the future plans of the site.

**b)** March 24th, Call for volunteers to help pull blackberries, amend soil, and spread seeds. Alongside city staff. Come out and make a difference in your neighborhood.

**8. New Business –** Danial Fountaine and Paul Manas, two New West councilors were in attendance and offered all New West residents the ability to bring issues to them. Mr. Fountaine, CHRA Councilor Liaison, suggested that he can raise motions during council meetings on matters that we bring to him. He also requested a daytime walking tour of the neighborhood and made note of the Growing community fund. A 16-million-dollar provincial fund that helps with community improvements such as sidewalks and maybe even park improvements. Residents are welcome to discuss ideas at future meetings and CHRA will forward them to councilor Fountaine.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22PM and participants thanked for attending.