

West Southlands Residents Association

September 19, 2024 Annual Meeting Notes

Linda Jinks, WSRA Board co-chair, welcomed everyone, and described our wonderful neighbourhood of about 300 homes in a beautiful setting on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people. She introduced Board members and chaired the meeting. 32 residents attended.

Administrative items

- Linda introduced our **board directors**: Co-Chairs: Linda Jinks, Mary Tataryn; Directors: Cynthia Fung, Troy Iwanik, Rhona Raskin, Kay Teschke. She asked whether there were new people interested in serving on the Board. Although no one spoke up at the meeting, we would welcome volunteers.
- One reason we are looking for new Board members is that Mary Tataryn is stepping down from the Board this fall. We have all benefitted from Mary's tireless advocacy. Some of her notable accomplishments include the gravel sidewalk and speed bumps on West 51st to make this busy road safer, and the benches in Musqueam park that provide a place to rest and enjoy the day. Mary has worked for twenty years making our community a better place.
- **Notes on the 2023 meeting** were approved. Their approval was moved by Valerie Reed, seconded by Joe Krapiec.
- The **treasurer's report** was given orally by Troy Iwanik. We currently have \$1482 in the bank, after taking in more than we spent last year. Our income is from \$20 membership fees. It is spent on costs associated with the annual meeting (space rental, coffee), printing notices, website fees, and registration of the association. The treasurer's report was approved as presented, moved by Julie Tyas and seconded by Roma Palmer.
 - **To pay your \$20 membership fee** (if you haven't already), please send an e-transfer to wsouthlands300@gmail.com

Flood Control

- Board member Troy Iwanik reported on new measures completed or underway related to flood management. Troy has been in contact with Bruce Todd, Superintendent of sewer maintenance, and Amir Taleghani, Engineer for flood and drainage planning, both at the City of Vancouver.
 - The sanitary sewer pump on the north side of 49th Avenue (west of Dunbar, mid-block, surrounded by a chain-link fence) will be replaced in the upcoming fall and winter. It replaces a system built in 1967 that needs to be upgraded to be more flood resilient, handle higher volumes, and to comply with WorkSafeBC confined space regulations. The new system will cost \$6 million and be housed above ground in a facility that blends with the neighbourhood. The project scope includes removal of invasive species in Musqueam Park to reclaim this area for native planting, wetland and forest enhancement.
 - The north ditch (handling storm waters) on that block of 49th will be repaired at the same time.

- Inspections of the area catch-basins were completed earlier this year. These are on a routine schedule.
- Work completed over the past two years includes replacing the tide gates at Blenheim and at Carrington and refurbishing the large tide gate at the south foot of Dunbar (all at the river). The tide gate at McLeery will be replaced in 1-2 years. The City monitors the tide gates on a weekly basis.
- Ditch maintenance is usually done by the City in October and November. Observations from last year indicated that the ditches seemed to be performing well and there were fewer complaints.
- The City will monitor weather and tides throughout the next 6 months and do late night inspections of tide gates when tides are low.
- Pumps will be placed at the Wallace ditch and at Celtic and Carrington in late October/early November to provide additional protection.

Iona Sewage Treatment Plant & Barge Berth

- Rhona Raskin reported on the Iona Sewage Treatment Plant (south side of the river) which is being upgraded to tertiary treatment pursuant to 2012 federal legislation. The estimated cost is \$10 billion. The project is getting new cost scrutiny by MetroVancouver mayors because of the overruns that resulted in firing the contractor for a similar treatment plant on the north shore.
- As part of the construction project, it has been proposed that barge berths be built along the Fraser near the plant to accommodate barges for material removal. Three possible sites were originally proposed. Concerns from residents of Musqueam reserve and Deering Island have resulted in a fourth site proposal. A public meeting about the barge berth proposals will be held this fall:
 - October 8, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Dunbar Community Centre
 Alternatively, comments can be made on-line from September 23 – October 15, 2024. See the Project [website](#).

Air Quality Management at the Highbury Interceptor

- Linda Jinks reported that some residents have noticed the Highbury Air Management building giving off a sewage stink, despite assurances before it was built (completed in 2020) that there should not be any. She contacted Jaswant Ranu of MetroVancouver about this. Metro recently upgraded the instrumentation to help monitor air quality, but they welcome feedback from residents about location, day, time & description of any odours. They asked that we register our complaints on the following [website](#) or by phoning 604-436-6777.
 - There is evidence that filter changes have not been frequent enough. Residents suggested we ask for records of when they are changed.

Visit by Parks Board Commissioners Tom Digby and Angela Haer

- The commissioners introduced themselves and said that they live close by.
- They indicated that there are 250 parks in the city. Parks maintenance is assigned by city region. The staff assigned to one function (e.g., lawn mowing) may not be the same as those responsible for other functions (path clearing).
- They indicated that the best way to get problems addressed is through the City [311 system](#).
- They took questions about the following:

- Residents said our soccer fields are not being used as much as they were before they fenced off for reconstruction from chafer beetle infestation and crow damage. The commissioners indicated that there is a new on-line park booking system in place that should allow people to see that our park is available.
- Some residents were worried about coyotes. The commissioners indicated that reporting aggressive behaviour can be done through 311. The City will refer it to the provincial agency responsible.
- Some residents have seen deer in the neighbourhood.
- Some dog owners are leaving their poop bags on pathways. We should request more garbage containers.
- Horse poop is not required to be picked up because horses have a grain diet and their poop quickly blends into the environment.

Musqueam Park

- Linda reported that in 2023, she and Mary toured the park with a Park director to identify areas needing work. One resulting project was completed this year: replacement of the bridge over Musqueam creek along the 48th avenue path near Crown St.



Other items raised by residents

- A resident reported that a speed bump may be installed on Dunbar.
- Residents reported that ditch clearing had been incomplete on the north sides of 50th and 51st Avenues.
- A resident asked about a camera being used in drains. It is used to check for blockages, and if found, special equipment is used to clear the blockage.

The Park Commissioners and WRSA directors were thanked by attendees.