

HandyDART Neighbourhood Working Group

Teams Video Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Attendees

Katie Hamilton (Chair)	Tavola Strategy Group
Lori Beaulieu	BC Transit
Cheryl Deibel	New Roads
Melanie Austin	Burnside Neighbourhood
Don Monsour	Accessibility Transportation Advisory Committee
Bill Emile	Esquimalt Anglers Streamkeepers
Jane Devonshire	View Royal Climate Coalition
Miranda Benn	Burnside Neighbourhood
Cori Barraclough	Aqua-Tex Scientific

Regrets

Ed Pullman	Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Doug Ferrier	Burnside Neighbourhood
Errol Nordstrom	BC Transit
Geoff Huber	BC Transit

Notes

New Business:

Katie Hamilton called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

Katie Hamilton chaired meeting. Welcomed folks and noted this will be last meeting of the year with another likely in January 2023. Doug unable to attend today and will rejoin meetings in January.

Outlined agenda and polled group for any additional agenda items or questions they'd like covered in meeting. No additions.

AGENDA INCLUDED:

1. Time Lapse Progress
2. Contractors on-site
3. Update on Environmental Monitoring
4. Salmon Safe certification
5. Ecostar awards
6. New Street Trees
7. New bus Shelters
8. BC Hydro Monopole
9. Stream Restoration
10. Indigenous Consultation
11. Community outreach
12. Craigflower Watershed Roadmap
13. What's Next

Katie noted that today marks almost a year since construction began on site. Contractors arrived on site last January 2022 for early works contracts. Walked group through time lapse images, showing progress on site since January 2022.

Jacob Brothers moved offsite in October. They focussed on the utilities, streetscape improvements, landscaping, trail realignment etc. Hall is still onsite until early in new year. They are currently working on valve chamber near site driveway.

BC Hydro was prime contractor for one week in December to allow for the overhead work and erection of new monopole, and decommissioning of existing tower. All work is complete.

Award for construction contract is in last stages. Successful proponent to be announced soon and they will move onsite in late January early February

Environmental monitoring continues and has gone very well. No issues until one a few weeks ago. A small fuel leak affected gravel area. Watercourses never at risk. Cori Barraclough, independent environmental monitor described issue and protocols followed. Materials were tested and disposed of appropriately. Incident did not warrant formal reporting, however formal reporting completed. Cori pleased with response.

Katie outlined Salmon Safe certification that occurred in September and event that occurred to mark the occasion. Noted BC Transit has made a video about yje certification. Link in PPT and here: <https://youtu.be/eRpp11eSApl>

Project received EcoStar award for leadership in construction and design in November from Synergy Foundation. Award recognized the community and student engagement, innovation and collaboration that has occurred to inform the project.

New street trees are now planted on Watkiss Way. Mirror the species on the other side of the street. Reviewed landscape plan showing double rows of trees planted.

Two new bus shelters in place on Burnside and Watkiss Way. One is new and will start service in January on routes 39 and 53. Both provide cover, lighting at night and seating.

BC Hydro monopole has now been installed and previous one decommissioned. A lot of planning occurred to ensure public safety and minimize traffic impacts. In the end, traffic impacts were limited.

Katie shared updated images of the stream restoration noting the plantings coming in, higher levels of water in stream and wildlife and birds on site. The project team has noted new snake nest and terrestrial garter snake, a heron frequenting the site, a family of deer, a red tailed hawk and an American dipper. Cori noted that the American dipper likes cold, clear water and bugs. It's an encouraging sign that the stream is in good health or the dipper wouldn't be there.

Stream planting continues with 2,000 more shrubs and trees being installed this fall. The plants planted in May are growing in nicely. The snowberries now have berries.

400/1200 whips have been planted in the stream bank this fall. The whips are helping to bioengineer the banks to stabilize the slope and prevent erosion. Cori explained that the whips are cut and transplanted when dormant.

Indigenous consultation continues. Awaiting confirmation of a site visit with local elder to name the stream. A call for artists to design art for the building will occur in the new year. Conversations continue about skills building and employment opportunities for First Nations youth and interest in stocking the stream if possible

Cori noted that temperature, water level and water quality sensors are helping inform whether conditions will support stocking in the future. This data will help inform DFO, hatchery etc as to feasibility.

Community engagement continues – Shoreline Middle School and Craigflower Elementary School spent November 1 on site planting in the riparian areas. Have also received interest from UVic in learning from project and are exploring opportunities for City Studio South island project.


In November, Fraser Basin Council hosted two site tours for those interested in learning more about the Salmon Safe certification process. About 50 people attended from several local governments, stewardship groups and planning firms.

The project team toured Mitzi Dean MLA and new Town of View Royal Mayor Sid Tobias on November 17th

Community engagement is being planned for January / February to share what to expect during construction phase. Once contractor in place and Katie can meet with them about schedule and impacts information will be shared with working group and public. Piling the foundation is expected to be early in the new year and will have noise associated with it. BC Transit has indicated they would like to get it done as quickly as possible and before the summer months to avoid additional disruption to residents with windows open etc.

Cheryl – New Roads noted interest in understanding impacts more and noted they have events coming up. Katie asked that she share any upcoming events or considerations as soon as possible to inform early planning.

Katie outlined the Craigflower Creek watershed roadmap initiative being explored by members of the project team. Noted potential to build on the momentum underway with this project and applying it to the greater watershed.



Katie outlined what has been completed over last 11 months and what remains prior to construction in 2023.

Lori expressed appreciation for the contributions of this committee noting their input has been highly invaluable.

Melanie expressed appreciation for the efforts made to make this information available to the group and pleased to see the environmental measures in place.

Members expressed holiday wishes to one another. Katie closed meeting at 4:51 pm.