

Summary of activities May 2019 to September 2020 - President's Report

MVCCA the new normal:

- has a representative attend the monthly SCAN (Saanich Community Assoc. Network) Zoom meetings
- fosters communication with residents and developers to encourage dialogue.
- supports area initiatives from groups or individuals by way of volunteer time or donation
- responds in writing, to all Planning Dep't requests for comments on rezoning applications or other changes that impact our area
- has a representative to speak at council meetings where issues of local concern are on the agenda

MVCCA maintains:

- the Mt. View Park native plant garden
- a website that provides information on local issues and events
- communication with residents and developers to encourage dialogue.

Past Year

The Nigel Valley redevelopment appears to be delayed by the pandemic. As we have seen, many businesses in our area are struggling to stay open. Projects completed include: a pet hospital, Westview (73 units of affordable housing), the Short Street condos, and the redesign of the access to Columbian Way from Raymond Street. A large number of infill housing projects have been completed as well as many carriage houses (in anticipation of the new carriage house bylaw). Council will ratify the Uptown Douglas Plan in the near future which may lead to an increase in development applications. The completion of the Mackenzie overpass should improve traffic flow on streets such as Tillicum and Burnside. This past year we learned that MVCCA will not be faced with the divisive issue of a casino in our area.

Current Issues

It is difficult to communicate with neighbours to get their input on rezoning applications or to foster local activities. I have heard that in other areas of Saanich developers have been providing Zoom meetings instead of Open Houses. The Raymond St. project is expected to be presented at a Public Hearing in October or November.

Some of the largest known projects for next year include:

Uptown Phase Four (3440 Saanich Rd.) In 2016, Saanich approved a residential component of the Uptown site, comprising 134 rental apartments and townhomes. In 2018, the management company changed to Shape Properties Corp, and in August 2020 MVCCA was informed they are in the early stages of preparing an application to amend their 2016 development permit to allow for a 24 storey rental building. Note that this is not a rezoning application. The height requested is permitted by Policy 5.1.4 of the Uptown Douglas Plan.

3415 Douglas St. (old gas station site in front of Uptown) - rezoning to build a two storey commercial building with above ground parking. The owner is a Calgary based, subsidiary company of Imperial Oil.

3450 Whittier site (3421-31 Harriet & 3446-50 Whittier) - original design 24 three-storey townhouses, project may have changed. New manager is Ben Smith, Abstract Developments

Opportunities and News

We will not be able to rent the room at Colquitz Middle School until at least 2021. When we do hold regular monthly meetings, we will be required to pay the rental fee of \$32 per hour. SCAN member groups will be objecting to this change in policy.

MVCCA is interested in including more community members on the executive. The new executive will need to plan a strategy for holding meetings. We particularly need someone willing to host Zoom meetings.

Our activities are subject to the limitations of the pandemic for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your interest in your community.

Carol Hamill - 23 September 2020