

False Creek South Neighbourhood Association

President's Report

December 6, 2017

Following on previous President's Reports this report will again begin with the FCSNA's Statement of Purpose as set out in our constitution and bylaws. As the Association takes the initiative more and more with numerous issues affecting our neighbourhood, it may be useful, once again, to anchor our involvement in that statement, as follows:

Purpose

The purpose of the association is to:

- 1. provide a forum for discussion of neighbourhood concerns and interests.*
- 2. promote an economically, socially, and culturally diverse neighbourhood with a friendly, positive, vibrant sense of community.*
- 3. promote a safe and healthy neighbourhood.*
- 4. promote the maintenance and improvement of the physical condition of the neighbourhood.*
- 5. promote and advocate for the collective interests of the residents and property owners of the neighbourhood.*
- 6. encourage civic participation by residents while remaining non-partisan as an association.*
- 7. assist and represent the neighbourhood in obtaining information, services, and improvements from the various levels of government, while maintaining a constructive working relationship with them.*

OUR WORK IN 2017

This past year the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association continued and expanded our work in line with the Purpose set out above.

1. Support for children's activities

We continued our long-standing practice of providing financial support to various children's events in our neighborhood that are initiated and organized by groups outside of the FCSNA, specifically: - the False Creek Elementary School's Bike to School program and the False Creek Community Centre's Canada Day programs for children.

2. Neighbourhood Clean-up

We continued our participation with the City of Vancouver's neighborhood clean-up campaign, Keep Vancouver Spectacular, throughout the Creek from our eastern boundary of the Cambie Bridge to Burrard Bridge on the west. On the east side of the Creek our delegates initiated and organized a follow-up November clean-up.

3. Summer Barbeque

The Grill 'n' Chill On Nine Tree Hill, our 4th Annual summer barbeque took place in August in Charleson Park. Roughly 300 people came including staff and councillors from the City. There was a great deal of engagement at the *RePlan table. At the end, all the extra food was donated to "Connections" downtown. Thanks to the efforts of FCSNA delegate Patricia Martin with the assistance of Daniel Ward from *RePlan and many who volunteered on the day to make this a very successful event. A beautiful day filled with activities featuring a wonderful "slip and slide" for the kids as well as table tennis. A new and welcome addition this year was live music by local musicians.

4. Caroling Night

This year the Christmas Caroling event will take place on Sunday, December 10th. We have coordinated with the school and have a song leader who will lead the kids, their families and friends as they meander through the enclaves singing Christmas Carols to the final destination of the False Creek Co-op meeting room at 711 Millyard for treats and hot chocolate.

5. The False Creek South Seawall

FCSNA delegates initiated several meetings with staff from the City of Vancouver's Engineering Department regarding the changes proposed to the seawall between the Cambie and Burrard bridges. The Association has long advocated for both a separation of bikes from other forms of seawall traffic - pedestrians, runners, dog walkers etc - and for retaining the gardens and greenspace along the seawall. After many months, City Council authorized the proposed plans for changes. East of the Granville Bridge to Alder Bay Walk has been completed in 2017. The section from Alder Bay walk to Moberly is currently underway.

While the Association has given general approval to the plans, it has also raised some concerns. The question of location of the washroom around the Charleson Park area has been the focus of meetings with the Engineering Department. The residents would like a washroom close to the soccer field and not along the seawall. This is being reviewed at the current time.

6. Mobi Bikes

Mobi and Public Bike Share selected locations to install Mobi Bikes to meet the City objective to locate Mobi Bike stations every 200-300m apart approximately every 2-3 blocks, or less than a 5 minute walk apart throughout the service area. The service is from Arbutus to Main along 16th Avenue and continuing north to the West End- about 190 stations in total. With this distance in mind approximately 10 stations are planned between Anderson and Cambie along the seawall and perimeter. A focus group participated in a walkabout with Mobi and Public Bike Share to try to identify potential locations. One of these recommendations is the Pier at Alder Bay Walk. The City is working with the Park Board to see if they can get approval for this site. Other areas being explored are the roundabout close to the False Creek Co-op, Charleson Park, Leg In Boot Square and the bus loop.

7. Emergency Preparedness-

The FCSNA heard a presentation and discussion with DEEP (Dunbar Emergency and Earthquake Protection) with a view to developing a community plan in False Creek South.

8. *RePlan

In the past year Re-Plan continues its work through regular meetings with City staff and through its own internal committees that focus on lease issues and the new community plan.

The co-op representatives (“AWG”) meet regularly to discuss and develop common approaches to non-market lease renewal. Representatives of leasehold market strata’s meet regularly in the Strata Leasehold Sub-Committee (SLS) with the focus of developing and/or considering options in the renewal of their leases with the City. *RePlan also maintains links with the non-profit rental sector regarding lease and development issues.

The City’s planning department has identified areas on the periphery of False Creek South (the “community-edge”). It includes areas around the Olympic Village Canada Line station, along 6th Avenue, and the tracks, among others. Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability and Karis Hiebert, lead planner for False Creek South, launched the community-planning project on June 22nd with a celebration in Charleson Park. *RePlan has now appointed a community planning sub-committee.

9. Refugee Sponsorship

In 2015 the FCSNA passed the following motion:

That the FCSNA pursue the sponsorship of a refugee family from Syria under the auspices of a local Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) and authorizes the Refugee Sponsorship Committee to lead the implementation of the initiative.

Given many delays in the arrival of our sponsored family, the committee agreed to take responsibility for a government-sponsored refugee family outside of the private sponsorship system. This family – father, mother and young daughter - were housed temporarily in a rented unit in Twin Rainbows Housing Co-op. Shortly thereafter their second daughter was born. This family now lives in Habitat Villa at Jericho Beach.

Our original sponsored family of two parents and their two young daughters arrived in April of this year – more than a year after the application had been made - has settled in well and is very happy to have found suitable housing in the False Creek housing co-op.. The adults in both families have been studying English and one parent from each has found employment in False Creek South.

Both sponsored families, with the help of our committee and numerous local volunteers, are now successfully integrating into their new country.

Accolades to:

Kathleen MacKinnon, Wes Knapp, Evan Alderson, Charlie Richmond and Susan Wright for the incredibly long hours they have spent and continue to spend on behalf of our refugee sponsorship, and to Kathleen and Wes for their involvement in almost everything the Association does.

Delegates *Sharon Yandle, Jim Woodward, Richard Marchant, Marta Goodwin* and past delegate *Richard Evans* for their continued work and devotion of many, many hours to *RePlan – and special kudos to Marta for doing an amazing job on the financial reporting for both *RePlan and the FCSNA.

A note of appreciation to all of our delegates who have taken on so many projects and time commitments to keep False Creek South the neighborhood we all love to live in.

Wendy Herdin, President
False Creek South Neighbourhood Association