

JBNA Quality of Life Committee

Terms of Reference

Revision/Approval - 12 March 2017

Overview

City of Victoria's Sustainability Framework states that "Victoria, as a community and municipal corporation, is an urban sustainability leader inspiring innovation, pride and progress towards greater ecological integrity, livability, economic vitality, and community resiliency as we confront the challenges facing society and the planet today and for generations to come."

Quality of Life refers to the level of satisfaction residents ascribe to the community attributes that they identify as being most important to their well-being, including: noise, emissions, green spaces, and traffic impacts. The closely related concept of "Liveability" generally involves:

- 1) a healthful environment, including ambient air-shed quality, water-shed quality, green space quality and preservation, and respect for the quiet enjoyment of homes and neighbourhoods;
- 2) environmental management which respects the limits of acceptable change, including the management of tourism impacts in a manner consistent with the maintenance of community livability and a healthful environment; and
- 3) sound monitoring of environmental, health and safety threats.

Considerable effort will be devoted to measuring the factors impacting the quality of life for James Bay residents. In particular, the Committee will attempt to develop a number of broad Liveability, or Quality of Life, indicators.

Membership

The JBNA Board of Directors has established the Quality of Life (QoL) Committee. In addition to the mandatory minimum 2 members from the Board, various individuals from the community will be appointed based on their ability to contribute to the Committee's work and achievement of its goals. Appointment decisions will also consider the Committee's effective operation and members' experience and expertise as well as the Committee's long term renewal and succession planning. The Board will annually review the Committee's membership and make any appointment changes they determine appropriate.

The Quality of Life Committee membership consists of: at least two Directors from the JBNA Board and other interested and engaged volunteers reflecting the diversity of liveability issues in James Bay and the various areas of expertise required to address those issues.

Goals

The QoL Committee will work to ensure that the JBNA has input into the development of, and ongoing involvement with, the City of Victoria's Sustainability Framework. A sustainable Victoria must include a vibrant, sustainable, and liveable James Bay community.

The QoL Committee will work to ensure the community is actively involved in the preservation, rehabilitation and planned development of James Bay so as to preserve and enhance air quality, peace and quiet, safety, and green spaces, and sense of community.

Specific goals include:

- 1) coordinating Quality of Life indicator studies in order to identify and measure JB resident satisfaction with the factors of greatest importance to the QoL in James Bay;
- 2) identifying standards that should be met to achieve the desired quality of life satisfaction levels for James Bay residents through:
 - a) standards obtained from external sources (e.g. Environment Canada, World Health Organization, etc.)
 - b) standards derived directly from the opinions of James Bay residents
 - c) identifying the inter-relatedness of issues
 - d) proposing actions to improve the overall quality of life for James Bay residents
 - e) connecting the James Bay community with the City of Victoria's Sustainability Framework, especially with the Framework's liveability component and with its ecosystem integrity, economic vitality, and resiliency components
 - f) continuing work on initiatives directly related to known James Bay quality of life issues, including:
 - i) working to ensure that James Bay continues to be a safe community for both pedestrians and cyclists
 - ii) working to resolve noise pollution problems
 - iii) monitoring air-shed quality and impact of problems on residents' health
 - iv) monitoring City initiatives concerning green spaces and providing community input to planning and development of green spaces

Processes and Plans

The steps and processes through which the QoL Committee will pursue its work will ordinarily include:

- 1) creation of a plan to obtain direct input, including possible community surveys, from James Bay residents into priority quality of life issues
- 2) consolidation of existing information, both qualitative and quantitative
- 3) identification of information gaps, and ascertaining the most effective methods for closing these gaps
- 4) pursuit of those strategies that would be most effective in leading to environmental improvements, and the mitigation of adverse quality of life impacts
- 5) providing on-going liaison with City of Victoria staff involved with activities that may impact quality of life and liveability in James Bay.