

Information posted for the June 24, 2016 meeting which was cancelled

Notice of meeting:

Purpose:

This meeting has been requisitioned by some of the members of the FGCA. Please see [their letter](#) or their stated purpose for calling this meeting. Their aim is to remove all land use functions from the FGCA and form a separate non-profit organization that would be responsible for this function. This is a decision that could fundamentally change the nature of the Association, and how it serves the community.

Who should attend:

All members are strongly encouraged to attend. This is an important decision that will shape the future path of the Association. The resolution has yet to be drafted, and ideally members should be fully informed when participating in the decision-making process. As such, it is strongly recommended that members attend in person, rather than signing over a proxy vote to a third party.

Background:

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) is a large and diverse organization. It provides a variety of programs and services to an estimated 100,000 users each year. These include special events, preschool, volunteer programs, a community garden, recreation classes, youth and family counselling and much more. The FGCA is both a non-profit society and a registered charity. As such there are laws and regulations that the Association has to comply with to maintain this status.

The Board of Directors of the Association provide governance to the Association. The Board has two committees involved in land use planning in Fairfield and Gonzales. Specifically, these are our Planning and Environment Committee and our Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC). The CALUC facilitates the initial dialogue and eventual community meetings between the developer and neighbours impacted by any rezoning proposal to be put forward to the City. After the community meeting, feedback is gathered and passed onto the City for consideration. Throughout the City of Victoria, there are some neighbourhood CALUC Committees that are affiliated with community centres like ours, and some that are not. The policy of our CALUC Committee has been to remain neutral on rezoning proposals.

This requisition from members seeks to make the CALUC and Planning and Environment Committees into a separate organization, rather than being a committee of the FGCA Board.

Notice of meeting cancellation:

Dear FGCA members,

The special general meeting that was scheduled for Friday June 24th has been **indefinitely postponed** by the requisitionists for that meeting. The following statement was received from them this morning:

"Due to unforeseen circumstances and because the request for a Special General Meeting on June 24 2016 to discuss the separation of land use and planning activities from the FGCA did not provide 14 days notice of the exact wording of the motions to be presented, as is required, the petitioners have decided to postpone indefinitely the Special General Meeting."

Unfortunately, there was an error in the process. The notice of Special General Meeting should have contained the text of the motion to be voted on, but that text was not provided in time to give the required 14 days notice.

We apologize sincerely as we know that many members have changed plans in order to be at that meeting, and regret any inconvenience this has caused.

To repeat, there will be no Special General Meeting this Friday.

In addition, there has been a significant development in related issues from the Board of Directors.

On June 22 the FGCA Board of Directors unanimously passed the following motion:

"In order to protect our charitable status and consistent with legal direction, effective immediately the FGCA is withdrawing from land use planning and zoning activities."

Because of the research that has been prompted by the requisition for a special general meeting, the FGCA Board has gained information about its obligations as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. We are required to devote substantially all of our resources to our charitable purposes. Our charitable programs are: community recreation, facilities and trails, daycare/after school care, and children and youth services. In addition, we may engage in political activities, but only those that relate directly to our charitable purposes. The Board has passed the above motion in order to fulfil its fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the Association complies with legislation. This does not affect any of the services the FGCA provides beyond land use.

We anticipate that these matters will be taken up by another organization that will address land use for the Fairfield and Gonzales planning areas.

We expect that members will have many questions about this significant change. The FGCA is committed to meeting with its members in the near future in order to communicate further information and address any related matters.