

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes

Monthly Meeting April 9th, 2022

Zoom Video -- 10am – 12pm.

Board Members Present: Connie Langille, Donald Altman, Trevor Hennig, Neil Gibbs, Ryan Carlsen, Robert Packham

Attendees: Peter Small, Curran Stikuts, Paul Farrelly

1. Administration

1.1 Land Acknowledgment

1.2 The agenda was approved – Ryan Carlsen, Trevor Henning

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - No conflicts are declared.

1.4 Minutes of Last Meeting - Minutes from March 12th passed

1.5 Review of Action items from Feb 12th meeting

- Committees to meet
- Paul to arrange meeting re Rabba development

1.6 Financial Status

- \$3,539.23 + \$58.71 PayPal = \$3,597.94

2 Activities Report Out

- Proposed meeting with Tristan re Rabba development needs to be scheduled still
- Safety meeting – Ryan was unable to attend

2.1 Guest Curran Stikuts – 519 Director of Community Relations

- Safety Meetings – Curran explained that the city leader has been unavailable for some time. Stephanie MacCracken from the BIA and Curran agreed to co-chair the meetings. Meetings were held in Dec. & Jan., interrupted for personal business then held in April. Curran will circulate minutes.
- Safety Walk Monday April 23, 7-9pm at Barbara Hall Park.
- \$250,000 grant from the city – Programs will be organized on a weekly regular basis. Some regular programming will be moved to the park. There will be seasonal events ie Back to School Bash. One program piece is to hire 10 artists to do portraits in the park to develop the stories of people who use the park. Conversations are ongoing with the Toronto Symphony and others to find ways to contribute to park activation. The 519 will be posting a calendar of events in the near future. Some of the funds will also be available to community groups to help with activation ie Meet Your Neighbours and other CWNA initiatives. Curran is looking forward to the Safety Walk where there will be an opportunity for community input on what activation may look like. Curran clarified the purpose of the grant. The 519 had asked for two grants, one for activation of the park and one for security in the park. The grant for improved security was turned down. The monies that have been secured are strictly for activation, fun in the sun and snow. Curran was open to questions.
- Neil asked about police calls to the park. Curran talked about the pilot project run last fall and how security, police and bylaw inspectors were asking people to leave the park. This ended up with many gathering on the steps of the 519. The city said they did not have the authority to enforce trespass orders, Curran did state the 519 board had given permission. The activities at the time were not criminal in nature and police presence not necessary.
- Question was asked about the garbage storage and parking along the north side of the 519. Curran explained that funding has now been secured and construction to move the garbage area to the back will begin this fall.
- Curran announced that Green Space will return this year for PRIDE. Looking forward to it.

- Curran exited the meeting to celebrate his birthday

2.2 Safety - Don

- The question arose at the safety meeting about the grant money the 519 received. Some felt some of the money should have been used for safety at BH Park.
- Don pointed out that BH Park has gained somewhat of a province wide reputation for antisocial behaviours. It is a meeting place for those new to Toronto and will probably continue to be so unless there are interventions. Montieth residents report negative activities are starting again and will probably increase as the weather warms up. Repeat of past couple of years.
- Police gave an extremely brief update saying nothing was different for the last meeting.
- Agencies reported clients coming back as Covid mandates are lifted.
- Sanctuary commented that they were hit hard by the new wave of Covid.
- There was a brief conversation at the table about the statue of Alexander Wood coming down. BIA had little to report out.
- Don reminded folks of the Safety Walk Monday April 25th, 7-9pm at Barbara Hall Park.
- At the meeting the group was asked what they can achieve collectively to improve safety in the community? There seems to be no focused action plan. Stephanie and Curran agreed to bring the issue to the next meeting as to how to make decisions and arrive at priorities for the group. It was also discussed about having meetings rotate between days and evenings, a Doodle poll will be sent out to all members in the near future.
- Don clarified that the Emergency Response team was utilized after the fact as opposed to intervening with or instead of police. The Emergency Response teams is responsible for those with mental health issues who have been victims. Don found this surprising, as did others at the table, as the belief was the team would assist in deescalating situations as they happen. Don was asked who brings in the team, he responded that was not made clear nor how the Emergency Response Team would find out in the first place.
- At the table people asked about two residents that are no longer around and asked if anyone knew what happened to them. No one had any information.
- Discussion turned to Toronto Centre will need a new MPP as Suze Morrison is stepping down for medical reasons. Possible candidates were discussed, Brian Chang, Chris Moise, KWT. Folks were asked to consider community members who might take on the task of MPP. We will wait for more information to become available.

2.3 Communications & Membership - Trevor

- E-blast this went out March 24. website has been updated with new information.
- Information on the Anndore House site, 54 stories, and the townhouses on Gloucester St that seem to be assembled for sale.
- The blast included an update on the Marriott development and the schedule for the work on the linear parks to be completed over the next 2 years.
- A piece on Adam Wynn was included, his work and the listing of the heritage properties and their applications on our website.
- The next e-blast is targeted for June.

2.4 Development & Heritage - Paul

- Paul is trying to coordinate a meeting with the Rabba development, Tristan Downe-Dewdney
- Paul reported on a recent meeting with the new city Planner Alex Teixeira and the community. Connie has contacted Felicity from Councilor's office to forward minutes of the meeting.
- Information had been gathered on the ownership of properties along Yonge St. Peter Small has been instrumental in seeking out the owners. There are more than 150 sites. The Development committee will be meeting with Ian Flett to discuss the impending Tribunal hearing on the HCD. Paul explained that Ian is paid his standard rate from monies jointly secured by CWNA and BCCA.
- The attributes of facading a building were discussed and the guidelines laid out for preservation. Planning law comes first and Heritage guidelines follow.

- Robert Packham reviewed the short comings of the Maitland development. Retail on the street side should be avoided as it often remains empty and also draws from the main street where retail should be supported. The bike storage on the second level translates as dead space and should be rethought. Paul said he will forward comments to the planner.

2.5 Placemaking

- The BIA's removal of the statue of Alexander Wood from the corner of Alexander Street and Church Street was discussed. Some Board members felt the BIA's decision lacked process and transparency. The decision to destroy the eight foot, solid bronze sculpture, by artist Del Newbigging, rather than exploring the possibility of preserving the piece in a museum-like setting that offered historical context, was regrettable.
- Church Street Master Plan – The BIA reported at their recent meeting that the plan is complete and ready to go to their membership at their AGM. CWNA will be informed of the plan once the BIA posts it on their website. Questions were asked about community consultation process but wondering if the suggestions were incorporated in the final plan. Connie will contact Stephanie of the BIA and ask that the plan be circulated once their membership has seen it. It seems rather odd that community partners would be left out at this stage.
- Meet Your Neighbours was outlined. It was decided to call a meeting to discuss MYN in the near future and look at the logistics of holding the event this year.
- Trevor talked about a data base the city has that catalogs all the trees in the city. It does not however list the age or condition of the trees. This can be a base to start our community audit of trees with.
- Paul asked about if the data base covered Queen's Park. Unfortunately it does not, only street trees. He would like to see a Jane;s Walk conducted in Queen's Park focused around the trees.
- Trevor talked about Balcony Gardens that would encourage pollinators. Pros and cons of what type of insects would be attracted, stinging insects, butterflies? It will however be helpful to get the information out there so folks can make decisions.

2.6 After meeting discussion

- The group discussed housing

3.0 Recap of Actions & Upcoming Events

- Paul to arrange meeting with Tristan Downe-Dewdney, re the Rabba development.
- Paul to contact Alex Teixeira with comments on the Maitland development.
- Connie to ask Stephanie to share Master Plan