

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Board Minutes

Monthly Meeting 11 July 2020

Zoom Video - 10am – 12pm.

Present: Connie Langille, Paul Farrelly, Robert Packham, Tara Schorr, Trevor Hennig, Neil Gibb, Don Altman, Peter Small, Kyle Iannuzzi

Non-board: Christopher Smith, Deborah Shaw

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda - passed

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - Kyle CafeTo involvement

1.5 Minutes of Last Meeting 13 June, 2020 – not approved pending clarification

1.6 Review of Action items from June 2020

Tara: - work on a draft statement asking for basic resources from the City (Downtown East Action Plan) litter cleanup, toilets). We can then decide on the format (letter, press release, petition) – *not done*

- Paul? or Connie?: - Request an online meeting with Downtown East Action Plan decision makers (Emily Martin, Head / Monica Gupta, Exec) to make our requests for action on George Hislop known. *Paul spoke with some of them but it was not the appropriate time to schedule such a meeting; will be better able to advise after next Community Safety meeting.*

- Paul: - One Properties: meet with Robert and Don to strategize mediation; they will meet with lawyer Ian Flett. *Done – mediation brief submitted.*

- Greywood (Crews / Tango); arrange for preliminary meeting with Graywood (Robert and Peter to attend) *Done – conference call; details below.*

- Connie (cc Trevor): contact Bobbie from Pride regarding offer to contribute to a placemaking project; for example southwest part of BH Park. – *when contacted it turned out there were no funds*

- Trevor: send eblast, update website - *done*

1.7 Financial Status - \$2,264.38

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Safety

- Safety Network update (Paul)
Latest meeting was postponed. Tara and Paul will attend.
- Meeting with 51 Division (Tara), including Head of 51 Div., Community Officer Dyck, his manager and Community Liaison person; Connie, Tara and Stephanie McKracken of BIA and others.
 - Major crime indicators are down from last year, but quality of life nuisance calls have gone up (trespass, property damage). There has been an increase in assaults, robberies, overdoses; much has been lateral violence in the encampments (which are now cleared). A serial break-and-enter duo had been arrested.
 - Consensus that few of the resources of the Downtown East Action Plan had been deployed.
 - Re 519 pandemic food services, there are other organizations that are willing to offer the services which might not require the level of congregation and security that 519 has now. Tara

said she would reach out to 519.

- Homophobic preacher David Lynn reappeared at Church and Wellesley briefly in June. Charges and bans against him had been dropped by provincial Crown Attorney. Proving a hate crime is very difficult. They have asked for a meeting with the Crown Attorney. If Lynn appears again he could be arrested for Disturbing the Peace or Interfering with Peaceful Enjoyment of Businesses. A strategy of escalating by drowning him out with music or chants will not work because the legal argument can be made that the counter-measures are as loud and disturbing as him and therefore also breaching the law; 2) he wants these reactions so he can record and disseminate them on the Internet.

- meeting with Crown Attorney (to be organized by Sgt. Dyck) will help determine what kind of evidence to collect in order to levy charges against him; the Crown is hesitant to levy hate crime.

- Kyle said Lynn held a rally at Sunnyside in June with no physical distancing. Kyle called 311 who told him the life guards were not responsible for enforcing distancing (even though they do have numbers to call when they need reinforcement from police). The City did nothing to disperse the crowd.

- Kyle said the Human Rights tribunal might be a better route to take to deal with Lynn, rather than the courts. It might be useful to find an individual who had been exposed to Lynn's hate speech and felt victimized and ask the 519 to support them with legal service to lodge a human rights complaint.

- we should reach out to the 519 and to the BIA in order to come up with an effective community response. Tara and Kyle will have a discussion re the human rights approach.

- Meeting with Sanctuary – Neil advised that entire executive should meet with Sanctuary to get their viewpoint regarding George Hislop park, encampments and gentrification. Connie will further flesh out the context and participants of such a meeting within next couple of weeks.

2.2 Development - Paul

- Crews & Tango; Robert, Paul and Don met with a Graywood, their architect and planner. Preliminary sketches show a 12 story mid-rise that conforms to Church Street Character Area, North Downtown Yonge Planning framework and maintains the heritage building. A bar space will be allocated within the new build.
- 66 Wellesley E - One Development. Paul, Peter, Donald and Robert worked on and submitted the mediation brief. LPAT Hearing set for September; City opposes the application because of shadow on Barbara Hall Park. 64 Wellesley heritage designation is no longer being objected to by the developer. Donald also submitted regarding Paul Kane Park. Robert and Paul will appear at LPAT hearing if it goes ahead.
- Yonge Tomorrow Stakeholders meeting – Robert
 - unable to attend
 - because of COVID-19 the design has taken a strong turn towards pedestrianization: no vehicles from Edward to south end of Dundas Square; one-way traffic from Edward to Elm.
 - next public consultation (#3) is scheduled for September
- 2-8 Gloucester
 - excavation and demolition continues
- 33 Isabella (infill of tennis courts)
 - public consultation meeting July 16
 - we haven't any objections to present at the meeting

2.3 Heritage - Paul

- Working on a heritage designation for the unoccupied house beside former Catholic Children's Aid. The house is owned by PlazaCorp, who is applying to build at the CCA site, but the developer did not include the house in the application because it has more restricted (residential neighbourhood) zoning. The developer may apply for a variance at a later date.

2.4 Placemaking

- Barbara Hall Park – there is a fence around the area to the south of the 519 where the encampment used to be
 - Connie sent a list of some needed improvements to the new Parks rep (benches; lighting; AIDS memorial pathway, plantings etc.). We will see what happens.
- George Hislop Park
 - 75 encamped people moved from park to better housing. The city put up a fence at the park borders along Charles and Isabella Streets, so it is inaccessible.
 - We need to find out what the rehab plan for the park is and if there is a plan to release funding for the complete park rebuild. Put on agenda for Councillor's meeting.
 - illegal pigeon feeding may soon make a comeback — 311 calls have had no effect in the past. Discuss options at the next meeting.
- Church St resurfacing
 - resurfacing from Gloucester St to Park Rd. August to October
- Donations to community partners – item deferred

2.5 Membership

- Concrete actions we can take to ensure diversity of the board (recruitment, anti oppression framework, etc) – item was merged in with discussion of opening up Director's meetings below.
- Charles Area Neighbours Alliance (CAN-Alliance)
 - Connie reached out to them to offer to work with them on shared interests, but they seem not to be interested. Paul has met with some of the individuals at Sanctuary / George Hislop meetings and found they are focused squarely on the homeless and Sanctuary as the problem. We have some concern that future changes to George Hislop Park could be unduly influenced by NIMBY interests of the CAN-Alliance and Silver Hotel Group (Andorre House / Deepak Ruparell) who seem to have the ear of the mayor. We should put on agenda for meeting with the Councillor. Kyle recommended that our focus be on the mayor and to go public through the media, highlighting that the interests of the Village are overlooked by the leadership of the City, a side effect of amalgamation in which the urban core's needs are put second behind the outlying areas. Kyle has been contacting news desks to ask that an investigative reporter research and write a series on the state of our community.
 - Paul will contact Deepak Ruparell to clarify how he is connected to CAN-Alliance
- Trevor input 2019 members into MailChimp and included tags for all members as to the month they joined, so we have the option of sending out renewals targeted to the join/renewal anniversary. He will send email renewal notices for past year, and then quarterly and we'll see how that goes.
- Amount of annual membership was discussed; Trevor and Tara to discuss and present.

2.6 Communications

- Crews / Tango: eblast, facebook and website article on July 16 online info session
- Opening Directors meetings to community.
 - Tara put forth that we ought to be actively informing the community when the Director's meeting occur and invite them to observe online; someone would monitor the chat; this would be a way to better engage the community and letting them know what the CWNA is doing. It would also be a way to get viewpoints from a greater diversity of individuals, given the executive is not racially diverse.
 - Paul said that there are differences between the Directors meetings and public meetings and that a better forum would be public meetings. We have to work through a lot of items every meeting and adding this additional layer could be counterproductive.
 - Connie asked how we could vet attendees to make sure that they are actually residents of the area, as the Facebook group is global. Would an eblast to our mailing list be better? Kyle said we ought not to post an open invite on the Facebook Group, but rather place a post referring to a page on our website for further information.
 - Neil clarified that the attendees would have chat only and could post questions via chat, so would not interrupt the proceedings. Don emphasized there would have to be a strict protocol for conducting the meeting so that chat questions are dealt with after each main topic is discussed by the Board and we may even require a moderator. Robert thought questions should be dealt with at the end of the meeting.
 - Tara volunteered to facilitate meetings, as she has experience doing so.
 - Kyle put forward a motion, seconded by Tara: "I'd like to formally move that our board of director's meetings have public notice and be open to public attendance. I also move that we have an opportunity to receive statements and presentations from the public at the top of our meeting. I move that the board can ask questions of the presenter and that the chair moderate the time for these interactions."
 - Paul moved to table Kyle's motion until next month's meeting. Don seconded. In the recorded vote Kyle and Tara opposed the tabling of the motion.
 - Neil suggested we continue the conversation via emails and try to come to a consensus on processes and procedures. Tara will start an initial email to all Board members.

2.7 BIA CaféTO Alternative

- Kyle worked with the councillor's office and natural playground designer Adam Bienenstock to create a hybrid summer street plan for Church Street taking into account the narrow sidewalks, COVID-19 restrictions and unique character of the Village. The plan combined aspects of CafeTO, ActiveTO and CurbTO to create a park-like environment in the street; traffic and parking lanes would be replaced with natural environments and organic furniture. The design also accommodated COVID-19 safety needs. His team met with the heads of every relevant City department to get the go-ahead. The City said no to closing the street to all traffic, so the design was modified to allow two-way traffic. The BIA rejected the plan as it could not see the economic advantage of a plan that did not incorporate patios on the street, even though takeout (including alcohol) would be allowed. Further changing the plan to accommodate patios on the street and a street park may have created too much of a destination that would not be safe in COVID times. It is still possible that something like this could be implemented elsewhere, like Yonge Street.

This summer, the BIA opted for CafeTO, with restaurants and bars operating patios on the street.

Directors expressed disappointment on the decision by the BIA, on the lack of consultation with CWNA and saw this as an illustration of how the CWNA and BIA can sometimes have conflicting goals.

Other

Kyle asked for a discussion of Charitable Status at our next meeting.

2.8 AGM

- Within 2020

3 Recap of Actions & Upcoming Events

Tara: connect with 519 to discuss alternative food service providers in area

Connie: reach out to 519 and BIA to start formulating a united strategy in dealing with the hate preacher.

Tara & Kyle: Discuss human rights approach to hate preacher

Connie: flesh out the context and Board participants of a meeting with Sanctuary regarding George Hislop park, encampments and gentrification.

Connie: agenda for councillor's meeting on July 28

Connie: Add to councillor's meeting agenda: What is the rehab plan for George Hislop Park? What stage are we at in the renewal of both George Hislop and Norman Jewison Parks? CAN-Alliance influence on park designs?

Tara and Trevor: discuss membership fees. Trevor send out renewals.

Tara: start e-mail discussion with Board members regarding opening up Board meetings; include Kyle's motion as a starting point.

Paul: Contact Deepak Ruparell to clarify how he is connected to CAN-Alliance.

Events:

- July 16 33 Isabella meeting
- July 28 KWT meeting – agenda / asks
- Next CWNA meeting Aug 15
- Community Safety Seminars online each Friday over the next few weeks