

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes Monthly Meeting October 12th, 2024
560 Church St & Zoom - 10am – 12pm.

Board members present – Connie Langille, Phil Parsons, Matti Charlton, Luben Blagoev, Peter Small, Scott Morrison
Via Zoom - Paul Farrelly, Don Altman, Wasim Ghani, Neil Gibb
Absent - Tara Schorr
Guest - Judy Young

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda - moved by Matti, seconded by Wasim

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - no conflict was declared

1.5 Minutes of Last Meetings – Aug 10th - moved by Luben, 2nd Phil. **Sept 14th** - moved by Matti, 2nd Phil

1.6 Review of Action items from Sept 14th

- Tara to contact Safety Network about monitoring Biscuit Lane for possible safety issues. absent
- Phil to contact Casey House to ask about vending machines and if they are in operation.
- Connie to contact Councillor's office re involvement in new street sign design.
- Web site meeting to be arranged - Scott
- Plan fall event
- Draft newsletter -Luben

1.7 Financial Status

- \$7,702.66

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Councillor's Office - Stanley Jonathan sent the following report

- 1. BHP - Community overwhelmed by what's going on in the park. Noise, late night antisocial activity, drug dealing, bike chopping, desecration of AIDs Memorial, daily garbage etc. What is the strategy to combat all this?**
 - To be frank, there is no easy, single solution for all the issues in Barbara Hall Park. What's happening is due to a lot of factors including the mental health crisis we are in, inability to enforce drug laws, bylaw hesitancy to enforce our bylaws, and the housing crisis resulting in encampments all across the city
 - What we can do as a city is to work within the context we are in. Healthcare is a provincial issue, and the Criminal Code has been recently amended to focus upon the most serious cases raising public safety concerns for prosecution and to otherwise pursue suitable alternative measures and diversion from the criminal justice system for simple possession cases. There is even a high bar to reach for any drug trafficking prosecutions. This was talked about comprehensively by Sgt. Dyck in our last town hall in Cabbagetown South
 - Regarding the town halls, our office has 2 more, in St. Lawrence and St. James Town - the low attendance number in CW town hall suggests that we need to reach to the community in a better way and I'm hoping the CWNA can play a big role in that.
 - In the short term - most residents have the emails to all relevant city staff, and when they email staff usually responds quickly for any concerns regarding garbage and cleanliness
 - TPS also has its village email address that is monitored by them constantly
 - These are by no means long-term solutions; we think the key to that is the revitalization of the park. Councillor Moise is very receptive to many of the suggestions that the community has put out
- 2. Signage for AIDs Memorial? Proper signage at the memorial to highlight it as a sacred space and maybe even "no loitering" is desperately needed. The loitering piece may be of issue but would give bylaw reason to clear the steps. Emily Ricketts from Public Art and Memorials has been working on it. She is waiting on costing, vendor for time line.**
 - Emily has received quotes from the vendors and is working on procurement, which will impact timeline. Staff

said the signs will not make explicit reference 'no loitering' or a bylaw, as we do not include this type of language at any City monument, memorial, or public artwork site. The hope is that the presence of signage nearby will further identify/contextualize the memorial and help reduce unwanted interaction with the space. Note; No Loitering was not intended for placement on the AIDS sign but as a separate stand along sign.

- **Note - CWNA has not seen a final draft. It will be circulated when received.**

3. Adding Biscuit Lane to DEAP frequent cleaning plan?

- This is something we can suggest to staff but they make the operational decisions and for the DEAP whilst the minutia of the plan has not been released yet - this would have to happen next year.
- All the DEAP says now is "Potential to expand laneway cleaning with additional equipment and resources (New enhanced services)" - I believe this a decision would be made during the budget cycle on whether the resources are available for expanding laneway cleaning
- Even with this the southern portion of Biscuit Lane is privately owned so not sure if it is eligible, will have to check with staff again

4. What is the plan to keep newly renovated linear parks vibrant and safely accessible to community?

- Councillor Moise and city staff are hoping that once the linear parks open simultaneously: George Hislop and Norman Jewison, the potential of a pedestrian route close to Yonge St and nearby major apartment buildings would result in a high pedestrian traffic.
- City staff is very supportive of opening it, we want to make sure that there is proper lighting in the area so that it will be well-lit and bright, will be doing a site visit soon before the official opening sometime in late-November

5. Orphan lane behind 25, 29, 31 Wellesley E. status? Is city moving forward to purchase the lane so it can be paved and properly maintained? It leads into Green P/new park. City needs control of the dead space prior to park construction so the lane transitions into the park seamlessly.

- Expropriating property (even from a dead owner) is always very difficult because it is essentially the government taking away someone's private property. Staff to report out on process.
- I need to contact the project manager for 25 Wellesley St E about this, they would have more information. Have received no info from staff yet as of Friday evening.

6. Is there an overall plan for revitalizing of lanes in the Village? Church BIA Master plan included lanes.

- This won't happen until after YongeTomorrow, and that project has been pushed back until at least 2026 (no construction is allowed during FIFA).

7. Upper Jarvis Study status? Is there a final report? How many applications have been submitted in the area?

- According to staff, the draft of the study results will be available in the first quarter of 2025 and reporting to Council in the second quarter of 2025. The new project team is getting organized and our tentative target is to engage with working group participants towards the end of the year or very early 2025.

8. TTC mural cancelled, have funds been reallocated or are they now part of the section 37 pool?

- We are exploring a smaller scale of the project, will send you an attachment on where the new mural is being proposed. This would all be in TTC property, so would not involve Starlight. Note; smaller mural would be on the TTC canopy apron.

9. Expansion or initiation of BIA for Yonge Wood to Charles?

- To the best of my knowledge it would need the approval of the board, and then polling would happen to the businesses in the area. If 50%+1 approves, then it will go to community council for their final approval of BIA boundary changes.

10. Update on sandwich board blitz on Yonge St.

- On September 6th staff conducted an educational enforcement initiative along Yonge Street. On that day there were over 20 clear violations observed and addressed, with many additional disambiguation's and

education.

- The plan of the initiative was to patrol Yonge Street in the area where A-frame permits are not granted. For clarity... permits are granted in other areas so that A-frames can be on the City right of way. For A-frames, benches or small tables and chairs etc.. that are placed against the frontage of the building and able to be kept within .8m of the wall, no violation exists.
- Yesterday was MLS's first day back after the 1-month mark and officers began to revisit. So far, MLS have received information of significant compliance, that said we have only just begun and the patrols will continue next week after the Thanksgiving weekend.

11. **Can bylaw sweep Church St Village for sandwich board signs?**

- A-signs are allowed on Church St - whether they have a permit is another question. Will reach out to MLS about this.

12. **(Optional) Asking CWNA's opinion on two final designs for CW neighbourhood signs**

- We have two designs, we noticed that there are some symmetry issues with the first design so please let me know if you prefer the "Church-Wellesley Village" centred on the middle of the sign itself, or if you would like it to be centred to the top part of the sign (the two white strips will be deleted ofc)

2.2 BIA

- BIA new ED hired, Jaret Sereda
- No Pumpkins in the Park - high cost makes the event not viable.
- Halloween - One stage at Maitland, Drag Race Queens.

2.3 Development & Heritage

- OLT hearing for 68 Wellesley E. Irene Costello is the lawyer for Kingsett. CWNA has parties status. The BIA does not have party status. Robert Freedman is being considered as an expert witness, he thinks it is an interesting challenge. He will consider if the funds are there to carry through. 10 years ago for the OAP 183 we were able to secure two doaners who gave 20 thousand for the case. Paul talked about the possibility of mediation and the cost increase involved. Don pointed out that there should be no case for mediation the proposal is against the planning rules. Paul pointed out that the developer has unlimited resources to drag out the hearing with no guaranteed outcome.

The question was asked how do we raise funds to cover the cost. Paul will investigate further. This needs to progress quickly. It was pointed out how precedent steeing the site is. If allowed to go through all of Church St is subject to increased height with no set back.

- 506 Church open house Tues. Oct 15. Greywood resubmitted application for no setback and increased height. All members were encouraged to attend and voice concerns about the proposal. Pride has been contacted, Pride said if space is offered to them they are happy to accept only if the community is in agreement with the development. It was felt Greywood misrepresented Prides involvement.
- Beer Store property sold again.
- FoStra Oct 10 meeting report out - Verious papers resented were put out. FoStra is building a Development committee to work with Planning and Councillors on all developments in the cathchment, Paul is on this committee.

2.4 Safety

- Tara was not able to attend and report out.
- Sanctuary Neighbourhood Liaison Committee membership - discussion - proposal attached Discussion ensued, Matti and Don will be CWNA reps on the Sanctuary committee. It was clarified that the position of CWNA is to be represented. Reps will attend meetings and bring items for exc discussion.
- Safety Network meeting postponed until Oct.16th, 5:30-7 pm. virtual. Don noted that the dates often change for these meetings. The leadership of the Safety Network was questioned and how the city needs to take ownership of the network because individual organizations do not have the capacity. Don pointed out the city has the resources to organize, do minutes etc. The councillor will be asked about leadership.
- Harm Reduction Kit machines were down at Casey House. Phil reported that Casey House is in the process of having the machines repaired. For now the bins will be placed outside again with Harm Reduction Kits. Casey House is also looking at refreshing their entrance way.

2.5 Membership - Luben

- Update website
- Newsletter, content submissions, Scooter Battery hazards, fund raising for OLT, Open House announcement. Don mentioned announcing the opening of the linear parks in Nov. this will be included. Newsletter will go out this fall. Next newsletter in 3 months.

2.6 Communications - Scott

- Update website information - Scott does not have access to the info@ email yet. Paul will sort it out.
- Arrange web site meeting.

2.7 Placemaking

- New street sign approved by city, Matti's design will go forward. Stanley said it should be completed by end of year or early next year.
- Oct 1st Sancturay Meet your Neighbours - report out - It was a lovely event, positive energy. Lots of community involvement. Purpose was to show community that Sanctuary is approachable and engaging.
- FB etiquette for board members - Reminder if exec member is on FB be mindful you represent CWNA and negative personal thoughts or feelings are to be kept to yourself. It was noted one member had made comments that were not okay, email had been sent to member but no reply was received. All were cautioned that negative comments would be deleted and member banned.
- Linear parks advancing
- Gloucester Lane safety - Cars going wrong way is a constant concern. Stanley asked us to send a pic of wrong way traffic to pass on the Transportation to stress urgency.
- Change to Gloucester St. to two-way at Yonge St end - in progress. No timeline is available.

3. Other

- City ward council reps. - Tara and Don have volunteered to represent CWNA on the new committee.
- Open House - It was decided to hold the event at 560 Church, the pop up, after the next exec meeting Nov 9th. Refreshments were discussed. Phil will ask Starbucks to donate coffee. Madison will design a poster. A mitten tree for donations of mittens was approved. Mittens/toques will be donated to local school. A motion was put forward and passed to hold the Open House Nov 9th after exec meeting with a budget of up to \$200.

4. Actions to carry forward from October

- Paul to arrange development meeting to discuss potential fund raising for 68 Wellesley E OLT hearing
- Connie to ask Councillor about leadership of Safety Network. How can it function better?
- All exec to attend Greywood open house on Crews-Tango development resubmission
- Scott to arrange website meeting. Access to info@ account to be sorted out so Scott can access.
- Luben to complete draft newsletter
- Open House, poster Madison, Starbucks Phil, tree. Connie to contact Curch St School about accepting donation of mittens.

5. Upcoming Events

- Next CWNA exec meeting **November 9th, 2024**
- Halloween on Church St Oct 31st