

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes Monthly Meeting January 11th, 2025

Zoom - 10am – 12pm.

Board members present – Connie Langille, Phil Parsons, Madison Charlton, Peter Small, Scott Morrison, Paul Farrelly, Don Altman, Neil Gibb, Tara Schorr, Luben Blagoev
Regrets – Wasim Ghani

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda - moved by Phil, 2nd by Scott

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - no conflict was declared

1.5 Minutes of Last Meeting – Dec. 14th, 2024 - moved by Scott, 2nd by Don

1.6 Minutes from Nov. 9th, 2024 - Tara asked for slight correction in Nov minutes under Safety, changes will be made. Minutes approved by Madison 2nd by Scott

1.7 Review of Action items from Dec. 14th, 2024

- Paul and Tara to continue working on fundraising strategy for OLT.
- Neil to provide his bio to Scott for the website.
- Check with Stanley re Crossing improvements at linear parks
- Neil to check on the status of the kitchen and greenhouse courses at Jarvis Collegiate.
- Tara to continue investigating 14 Dundonald for potential community garden strategies.
- Tara to finalize and circulate CWNA-focused code of conduct and terms of reference.
- Tara to send an email with suggested dates and times for a meeting with the Laneway Project organization and coordinate attendees.
- Paul to organize a walk around the site of the green loop in the spring.
- Paul to work with Adam to get more information on the process for designating Church Street as a Heritage Conservation District.
- Madison to prepare a video presentation about the signs for the AGM.
- All board members to update their slides for the AGM presentation.
- Donald to create and circulate a list of current officers and their terms.
- Donald to work on updating bylaws to comply with new nonprofit legislation.

1.8 Financial Status

- \$6,226.77

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Councillor's Office – Questions for Sat Jan 11th - Stanley on vacation c/o to Feb

- Improve signage on Gloucester St to indicate one way. Current signage ineffective.
- Are there minutes from the new Community Council group that met recently? Could you please forward?
- Will an unveiling be arranged for the revitalized Alexander St Parkette? Date?

2.2 BIA

- Jaret Sereda - report out sent in, Jaret not present.
- The Church Wellesley Village BIA is working on Village Fest - June 21 & 22 and
- Halloween On Church Street.
- They have secured new sponsorship packages to help cover the costs of both events.

2.3 Heritage & Development

- Plan for OLT? - Paul reported work is ongoing
- FoStra - Paul will share details of up coming FoStra Affordable Housing Committee. Several directors are interested. The FoStra AGM is 23 Jan.
- Paul to forward details to all. Paul talked about a group, City Hall Watcher and will share site with the group. Aiden Grove - White is associated with the group, Paul will contact to meet re improving safety in the linear parks.
- There was discussion around the city's plan to allow businesses in residential areas. Some of the concerns are inappropriate businesses in residential communities, disruption of neighbourhoods etc. Don commented that the city's decision to defer and do more consultation may end with the same results and did not think it was beneficial overall but it is what communities want. There are many details to work through before a move forward is recommended.
- Don talked about FoStra starting a subcommittee on Housing. Initially it will meet every second week for awhile. At the initial meeting members talked about the whole gamut of housing issues. Don commented to be effective they need to focus on one aspect. The second meeting is coming up soon. Rent control will be the focus.
- Don spoke about committee formed by Sanctuary and will forward info of next meeting to Madison.
- Church St. Heritage Conservation District - discussion
- Eddie LaRusic from Councillor's office was asked if there are any updates or information about the pending OLT case with Kingsett and 68 Wellesley E. Eddie has heard nothing over the holidays but will email as soon as info is available.

2.4 Safety - Tara

- Tara reported there is no current Safety Network meetings planned. She reminded folks of the \$5,000 available to community after a serious occurrence. The funds can be spent in various ways to promote communities feeling of safety.
- Tara reported on the site research done at the west end of Gloucester St where the end portion of Church St at Yonge St. is now two way to accommodate entry into the new Gloucester Condo. With the current signage installed many cars are traveling the wrong way on Gloucester all the way to Church St. and raising cause for safety concerns. CWNA has had multiple contacts with Councillor's office to try to have the signage corrected to prevent current issues. The work is on going.
- Tara reviewed the code of conduct the city uses and it's expectation around behaviour being respectful, inclusive etc. Also reviewed was when the conversation at a meeting becomes heated or goes on excessively and the facilitator has asked for everyone to stop, move on, that the directive be respected. It was restated that all members should have a chance to express their ideas and views as long as comments are on topic. The topic of missing meeting, conditions for remaining on the board were discussed. Many believe it is participation that is important over just attendance. Someone can attend all meetings and contribute very little to CWNA were as another member may not be able to attend all meetings but contributes consistently to CWNA. The question of participation being an condition of membership on the board was discussed as well. Tara will write a draft and circulate to exec.
- Tara and Don reported out on the initial meeting of the newly formed Ward Council which seeks to foster new community leadership. The group will meet quarterly, first meeting being November 2024. The meeting was an introduction monster participants and an overview of the challenges each of their areas sees. Tara reflected that Cabbagetown, downtown Yonge and the financial district had similar concerns as CWNA. One was the mandated closure of safe injections sites and the potential fall out from such a move. Tara talked about one smaller neighbourhood group that is focusing on events and building sense of community through activities and events. Don and Tara stated it was helpful for the groups to meet and discuss common concerns but they were not clear if any action will arise for the group. The meeting was in-person at city hall and Don commented on about a third of the seats were empty. There was a hybrid option but it had not been overly advertised. It was noted that Nov is busy with holiday events for many and in-person has not been the norm for sometime. Councillor did introduce many staff and their roles in his office.
- Tara was asked if there were minutes from the meeting, Tara was not sure. Email will be sent to Stanley to ask.
- The probability of a BIA on Yonge between College and Charles was discussed. Folks would love to see it advance but Yonge St businesses would need to agree for a BIA for the issue to move forward.

2.5 Membership - Luben

- Luben will send out renewal notice to all members. He will also provide an email for Phil to post on Phil's apt building FB page to encourage individual memberships. Phil will post and encourage memberships within the building.
- Luben will arrange a building walk about to engage buildings in membership. Other exec have already expressed interest in joining the walk.

2.6 Communications - Scott

- Neil again confirmed he will send Scott his bio for the website.
- Scott is making progress on working through the website and how it all works.
- For photo update to the website Tara mentioned Google drive was useful. Madison commented they will indeed organize the drive.

2.7 Placemaking - Connie

- Cultural District designation is going forward. It has been in the works for a few years and should pass this year.
- Rainbow signs installed - all members were asked to check their area for installed signs as per the list circulated. All were asked to email any discrepancies to Connie. Final list will be sent to Councillor's office.
- Alexander St Parkette opening in Jan. Asked for unveiling but have had no reply at this point in time. Will continue to advocate. Paul will conduct a walk about of the Clock Tower Trail in the spring to look for future potential areas to include.
- Tara is in contact with the Laneway Project and will circulate potential dates and times to the group for future meeting. Tara will also continue to investigate the use of 14 Dundonald St for future community gardening initiatives.
- Heritage plaques for Norman Jewison and George Hislop were requested by community members. Connie asked Councillor's office about section 37 funds for the project. We were referred to the Participatory Budgeting process to fill out a request. There is an ongoing concern about water pooling at the crosswalk between parks on Gloucester St. This issue has been flagged for several months. There is a serious potential safety concern with ice, slipping etc. Councillor's office will be contacted again as will Parks Dept. There is also the question of properly marking the crosswalks to alert drivers as was originally planned. Connie will follow up with city departments.
- Plaque for Nightshift being made, mounting wall will be painted. Asked for unveiling, will update and plans that follow.
- One Property fence down - One Properties removed the fence the BIA had installed. It was causing concerns and issues on site.
- Suggestion for 2025? - Madison and Phil would like to have more scheduled Open Houses to meet community member. One suggestion was to have an Open House after each exec meeting, every other month. Community meetings with Trustees. Ideas to be developed further

3 Governance - Don

- Don to update bylaws to conform with new city rules.
- Tara to draft code of conduct and terms of reference and circulate for comments
- Connie to arrange Zoom meeting to discuss potential bylaw changes concerning board member requirements.

4 Other

- AGM planning, March 2025
- Tentative dates in March & April will be cleared through the 519 for booking.
- All members were asked to update slides for AGM
- Madison will refresh AGM poster and create a video of the Rainbow sign event.
- Don will create a list of current officers and their terms of office

4 Upcoming Events

- Next CWNA exec meeting Feb. 15th, 2025