

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes Monthly Meeting February 15th, 2025
560 Church St - 10am – 12pm.

Board members present – Connie Langille, Phil Parsons, Peter Small, Scott Morrison, Paul Farrelly, Don Altman, Luben Blagoev, Tara Schorr – zoom
Guest – Samantha Green – NDP
Councillor's office – Stanley Jonathan - zoom
Regrets – Wasim Ghani, Neil Gibb, Madison Charlton

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 – Jan. 11th, 2025 - moved by Scott, 2nd by Don

1.6 Review of Action items from Jan. 11th, 2025

- Paul and Tara to continue working on fundraising strategy for OLT.
- Neil to provide his bio to Scott for the website.
- Tara & Scott to set up/launch a GoFundMe campaign, \$50,000 expert witness fund by Sunday.
- Paul to send out Google Meet invite for Sunday at 1 PM to discuss the GoFundMe campaign
- Luben to create a QR code for membership sign-up.
- Connie to print 250 half-sheets with QR code for Paul's building.
- Don to work with Luben on creating a blurb for an email blast about affordable housing questions.
- All board members to update their slides for the upcoming AGM.
- Tara to reach out to schedule the Laneway Project meeting.
- Scott to update the website with the Downtown East Action Plan piece sent by Tara.
- Connie to create a letter for Phil to request cake/cupcake donations for the AGM.
- Phil to approach Loblaws or other local businesses for cake/cupcake donations for the AGM

1.7 Financial Status

- \$6,226.77

1.8 Introductions

- Guest Samantha Green - As you may have heard, we may or may not be heading towards an imminent Federal election like a few weeks following the Provincial. So yeah, as early as March 10th there may be a Federal election called, and I'm running here truly represent Toronto Center. I'm a family physician in Regent Park, and I also work as a family doctor with Inner City Health Associates at a women's Shelter Street Haven
- Samantha lives in Moss Park with her family, 3 children. Samantha stated she felt she understood many of the issues facing people living in Toronto Centre but would like hear more from CWNA about ways a Member of Parliament federally can better represent Church Wellesley and some of the issues that come arise.
- When interacting with patients Samantha hears housing is a huge priority and better Federal investment in affordable housing.
- Samantha feels affordability, the price of groceries and the price of like living in Toronto in general
- Also a priority is for her is our healthcare system, all the things that are not covered by OHIP such as medications.

- We thanked Samantha for joining us today and hoped she might learn about a few of the community's concerns.
- Each member present introduced themselves to Samantha.

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Councillor's Office – Stanley via zoom report out

- Stanley introduced himself to Samantha and welcomed her.
- Updated about the plan to open Alexander St Parkette, the date has been moved to April
- Stanley reported that the plan is for Council is gonna rename the Park. Chris Edwards Park.
- Chris Edwards was well know in the community and died in 2016 after a performance at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.
- Connie was taken aback by the announcement and asked if there were any plans to consult community? To hold an open consultation in public at say the 519?
- Stanley said the plan is to open consultation soon. CWNA was very clear that limiting consultation to a poll on the Councillor's Community web site was not okay. That Community members needed to be able to meet in person for a transparent discussion with no predetermined outcome.
- Phil pointed out there are many iconic members of our community, Michelle Ross being just one of them and that it was presumptuous to have a name already decided.
- Connie questioned naming a park after a person as her understanding was names should be inclusive and recognize all community including the Indigenous community. It was recommended that perhaps the park not be named after anyone but named to reflect the community.
- It was pointed out that with a predetermined name for the park it was more like Councillor was looking for an endorsement rather than a new name for the park.
- All voted that any decisions should be made with open community communication in person, hybrid and may include Councillor's web site.
- Stanley reported about the additional fence piece being added to the east end Heritage wall in Barbara Hall Park to discourage people from entering Montieth St for nefarious reasons. Residents have had to cope with trespassing, defecating, vandalism etc. in the past and hopefully the access being closed off from the park the situation will improve. The change will be monitored and modified if necessary.
- Stanley talked about a safety pilot being rolled out this spring It will involve MLS patrolling BHP from 12am to 7am. Stanley was clear MLS has no authority to issue tickets or tell people to leave the park. When asked why have MLS there it was framed as more of a deterrent to antisocial behaviours. Stanley said the city is looking at engaging Corporate Security as they have more authority, to also patrol the park but nothing has been worked out yet. CWNA was clear that unless patrols were about actually walking through the park and not simply sitting in a car at the curb and taking pictures there may be some benefit to helping to keep folks using the parks after hours safe.

2.2 BIA

- Jaret Sereda - BIA is working away on the first event, the 11th annual Village Fest June 21/22
- First ever Beer Garden! Live stage featuring live entertainment all weekend, singers, drag performances, fashion shows & more.
- It was noted that perhaps after Pride it would be good to have the event a few weeks later

2.3 Heritage & Development

- Plan for OLT – It was noted a letter to potential donors had been drafted. There was discussion of what would happen to the funds if the goal of \$50,000 was not reached or if the

- amount raised is over. Dynamics of returning funds was considered
- Paul outlined the process at the OLT, the expert witness answers a series of questions from our lawyer then he is cross examined. The witness compiles all the information, multiple briefs etc. Paul stated the city is an unknown, they may have an enthusiastic lawyer or not.
- A review of the Yonge St OPA 183 (2018) that laid out site specific policies was an example of CWNA working with partners in BCCA to achieve a positive out come.
- It was decided to start a GoFundMe campaign and have the funds deposited into CWNA TD account if possible.
- Scott pointed out the possibility of fundraising on a grassroots level, at Village locations etc. We agreed this was a good idea worth exploring.
- Paul will arrange a meeting this weekend to meet about setting up the campaign to launch as soon as possible.
- Greywood application to has gone in, the city has refused the application. It is expected they will go to the OLT.
- Affordable Housing – Don reported out there are three groups at FoStra, one dealing with existing housing, one dealing with creating new housing and an investment group.
- The group is at odds deciding what affordable is as it is such a diffuse topic. The group from demovictions is more organized and their focus is on stopping demovictions, securing an agreement for tenants when they are forced to move. Don reflected that the agreements are not ideal as it takes many years for a project to be completed and ready to move back in.
- Don discussed dividing the group he is looking at affordability depending on who one is. One group would be those who can not afford anything built, the second group would be those who have some finances but need the price of housing to come down through reduced development charges etc to make monthly rent more obtainable, then those who want home ownership but as first time home owners can't quite make it on their own but just need some support.
- The overall group has many ideas on how to address the problem, government giving away land, reduced fees, many ideas that require focus. This development threatening many smaller building the issue is also where will all these displaced residents go? Don reflected that some seniors have had to move onto seniors residents because there is no place they can afford. Definitely no fast solutions.
- Paul discussed the changes to Avenues in new city policies
- <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/housing-action-plan-avenues-mixed-use-area-study/>
- Some changes impact type of housing allowed in traditional yellow belt areas, multi-unit dwellings, small businesses being allowed in traditionally residential neighbourhoods (this discussion is ongoing at the city), traffic, community makeup. It was noted that change is constant and the new rules will have to adjust as well as communities.

2.4 Safety - Tara

- Update Ward Community Council report out
- Tara let the group know several ward update were included, most did not affect CWNA. One that did, it was funding for 24-7 security at the 519, \$200,000. This will cover cost of onsite security, not the park. Tara also talked about the plan to redesign the front of the 519 to eliminate the stairs which tend to be a hangout space. It was noted that the 519 has a plan from about 3 years ago to redesign the interior front desk and the stairs to be more efficient. It is good the plans are going ahead and funding has been secured.
- Other community updates Tara spoke of – The north market will open this year and renovations on the south market will begin. Allan Gardens there are plans to redesign the Palm house to

make it a cultural gathering space, the green house has expanded. Improvements to the dog park are in play, AstroTurf will be installed, water fountains for dogs and people, benches, picnic tables, an enhanced children's area and more lighting. The plan is long term and will. Tara will circulate the city's plan.

- The group was updated about housing plans – 41 Rose Ave will be converted into a 2SLGBTQ+ youth housing for youth transiting out of care. Another location is on 504-504 Parliament St. which will be supportive housing for men transitioning out of the shelter system.

2.5 Membership - Luben

- Jan membership renewals were sent. Waiting for one building membership.
- Hand outs for individual buildings were discussed. If needed info sheets with QR codes can be printed for distribution.
- Phil talked about distributing CWNA flyers in his building door to door. He heard handouts could be printed.
- There was some discussion about modifying the FB rules & questions, a meeting will be arranged.

2.6 Communications - Scott

- Neil again confirmed via email he will send Scott his bio for the website.
- Scott reviewed recent updates to CWNA website.
- Tara noted FB should fall under Communications. Tara review how to give feed back to a member when deleting a post and the importance of being consistent.

2.7 Placemaking - Connie

- It snowed, a few times
- Opening of new business Anvil – Anvil reported a successful opening
- Meeting with Laneway Project – Tara, meeting to be arranged.

4 Other

- AGM planning, May 15, 6-9:30pm 519 Ballroom
- Guest list of past exec
- Poster updated include 15 yr anniversary. Connie to ask Madison to do if possible
- Cake, cupcake donation? A letter will be written so donations can be solicited. Phil offered to see Starbucks about coffee etc. Their logo will be included on promotions.
- A meeting for the AGM will be called.

5 Actions to carry forward

- Tara & Scott setup and launch GoFundMe campaign
- Meeting to be held to discuss campaign
- Luben to create a QR code for website
- Connie to print flyers for building distributions by Paul & Phil – members need to submit flyer drafts
- Connie to make a list of past exec for AGM invites
- Connie to communicate with Madison about new AGM flyer
- Phil to approach Loblaws and Starbucks about donations. Others are welcome to solicit donations as well.
- Tara to contact the Laneway Project and set up a meeting.
- Tara to followup with Stanley about BHP dog park redesign work and if it to start soon.
- AGM meeting to be called.

6 Upcoming Events

- Next CWNA exec meeting Mar.15th, 2025

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