

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes Monthly Meeting March 15th, 2025
560 Church Pop-Up, 10am – 12pm.

Board members present

Luben Blagoev, Scott Morrison, Tara Schorr, Don Altman, Phil Parsons, Connie Langille,
Regrets – Madison Charlton, Neil Gibbs
Associate members – Peter Small, Paul Farrelly
Guest – Ian Flett, lawyer

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda moved Phil, second Scott

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none

1.5 Minutes of Last Meetings – Feb. 15th moved Luben, second Phil

1.6 Review of Actions Items from February

- Tara & Scott setup and launch GoFundMe campaign - completed
- 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 – Scott to design card for 60 Gloucester St.
- Connie to make a list of past exec for AGM invites – list made, yet to invite
- Connie to communicate with Madison about new AGM flyer – Madison is not available due to recent accident. Connie to draft flyer.
- Phil to approach Loblaws and Starbucks about donations. Others are welcome to solicit donations as well. Phil dropped off donation letters.
- Tara to contact the Laneway Project and set up a meeting. - Tara to follow up.
- Tara to followup with Stanley about BHP dog park redesign work and if it to start soon. C/O
- AGM meeting to be called. Connie will arrange.

1.7 Exec member update

- Wasim Ghani has resigned from his position at CWNA. Family business over seas requires him to be absent for an extended time. Connie thanked him for his time at CWNA and wished him well.

1.8 Financial Status

- \$12,909.41 note donation cheque for \$250 still to be cashed
- GFM = \$7,770.00 - \$6,015.44 deposited – outstanding \$1,754.56

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Councillor's Office – Update for Sat March 15 emailed

- Sinkholes – will investigate cause and solution going forward and report back.
- Splash pad – BHP Councillor will look at advancing the repair or replacement of the splash pad liner
- 83 Charles St E, f/u site conditions where Bike Share is, no turf and muddy conditions.

2.2 BIA – Jaret Sereda emailed

- New murals coming
- Look for new Pride flags being hung
- Village Fest is now 3 days June 20-22 with a beer garden and live stage show!

2.3 Heritage & Development

- OLT – Ian Q&A
- Ian explained to the group that Gary Davidson may be available as an expert witness. We should plan for a 10 day hearing and budget for \$20-\$30 thousand. Ian explained we should plan to pay a \$5-\$10 thousand retainer to Gary.
- Gary will work on the witness statement. Jessica Braun from the city was asking Ian if CWNA is still engaged, he confirmed we were.
- Don asked if the city could declare a moratorium on these issues for a number of years to prevent CWNA from having to fight it again. Ian said no as the developers have the right to apply to the OLT.
- Don asked if the tribunal may have some of the same members as with the NW corner. Ian said no as there are several new tribunal members as well.
- Peter asked why Ian thinks it is important CWNA is involved. Ian agreed the city views align with CWNA but pointed out the added pressure at the tribunal hearing the voice of concern from the community adds to the weight of the argument.
- Scott asked if a petition might help, Ian replied as the issues is a policy one.
- Don asked if prior decisions by the OLT tribunal are taken into consideration? Ian said they are not required to look at past decisions but would consider them.
- Don asked who will Ian take direction from if it looks like the issues is not going well and changes might be made. Ian said it is rare that changes in position come about but CWNA would be informed.
- Paul & Tara asked that Ian forward Gary's rate card and contact information so a meeting could be set up. Ian agreed to send the information.
- Connie made a motion was made to engage Gary Davidson as an expert witness and pay his required retainer, seconded by Tara. All agreed.
- The question of amount being asked for be adjusted. It was agreed to wait until we have the rate card before changing the target.
- Paul and Tara will revamp the appeal to be more specific.
- It was suggested that the focus be on positive championing for responsible development.
- Paul & Tara will develop the package and include Q&A which will be included on the site. This will be done within the next week. Tara will share with other groups ie Hanlan's Points etc..
- Paul reported out on meeting with Gee Chung, long time associate and friend of CWNA. They discussed how to arrange a fundraiser for the GoFundMe. The conversation was mainly about an event that CWNA would have to make initial investment in. As no clear plans emerged it was decided to keep the channel open for now.
- Peter mentioned the Prime Timers have the 519 ballroom booked for July but will not be using it. Interest in having a CWNA event at that time was expressed. It was suggested we host a community meeting about development, the GFM campaign etc and say thank you to community. We will need to see if CWNA can take the booked space or not first. Connie to contact Peter and have the conversation.
- Discussion about needed printed materials followed – handout for 30 Gloucester members, poster for GFM and poster for AGM. A new picture of 68 Wellesley E is needed, one to be taken by Tara or Connie. Scott will do the info card for building members and work with Paul on content.
- April 19th Paul will meet with Prime Timers and will hand out info on GFM. Paul can use the poster developed and a separate QR code for the meeting.

FoStra report out Don, Paul

- Update - issues to be discussed for Provincial election was well received by FoStra
- Don has missed a few meetings for the Affordable Housing Committee but no real progress to report.
- Rita, a member of the Annex residents association spoke of receiving several thousands of

dollars from developers in settlement in their area so they have a healthy fund base. It was asked if CWNA could do the same. In theory yes as BCCA does it in their area.

- No More Noise Toronto - Public Health is meeting April 1 and No More Noise will be ramping up their campaigning
- The Committee of Adjustment – The developer will begin a project and then go to the committee for added floors etc. The questions of change to plans of all types go to the committee.
- The Toronto Ferry system will be transferred from the Parks Dept to the Transportation(?). Good news as Parks was not knowledgeable about boats and had not planned financially for the future.
- Billy Bishop Airport was approved for an extension of runways and a 15 year lease extension.
- Development issues
- Beer Store to be demolished soon, site plan has gone through.
- 33-37 Maitland going forward, Some of the site will be retained for heritage value.

2.3 Safety - Tara

- Update Sanctuary meeting – Don
- The purpose was a discussion to improve community relations. In attendance were staff from Sanctuary and clients, Streets to Homes, both Councillor's Office, Moise and Saxe, a rep from Strategy Corp who 33 Charles St E has hired to work on a safety plan but no real community members were present to present their view. Many groups that interact with Sanctuary were not there either, TPS, Parks, MLS etc.
- CWNA was invited to work on the Terms of Reference by Strategy Corp. As there was little real information to base a decision on Connie will contact Strategy Corp for details of the plan and what they see as CWNA's role.
- Don found there had been little communication between parties, 33 was not fully aware of services already in place by TPS and MLS. Had no real idea of CWNA's Safety role in the community.
- 33 Charles E was narrowly focused on issues that immediately impacted their residents.
- Don felt no one really knew each other, suggested community open house type event by Sanctuary where people could really get to know each other and their thoughts on community.
- There seems to be a lot of work necessary in the future to build a more positive community.
- Tara reported two stabbings recently one at Yonge and Charles and one at Yonge and Bloor.
- Tara reviewed that there are funds from the city \$5,000, available if the incident has impacted community. The idea is that this money is for healing, bringing people together, processing, strengthening community. Ideas were shared but no plans were made to access the funds.

2.4 Membership - Luben

- Update – e-blast to be written with OLT update, call for nominations with criteria, AGM details

2.5 Communications – Scott

- Update – Update to web in pace with OLT and AGM are to be completed

2.6 Placemaking - Connie

- Meeting with Laneway Project – Tara reported out the format of the Laneway Project has changed. Danielle Goldfinger will send Tara updated information once it has been finalized.
- Plaque for the Nightshift arrived at Church St School. Connie to contact Richard Christian TDSB about installation details and unveiling plans
- Reviving 38 Charles St issue green space improvements. Toronto Hydro was contacted, waiting to hear back. Will contact Bike Share to follow up once TH has checked in.
- Alexander St. Parkette – An unveiling is to be arranged. Posted on FB that park was open but

there are a few more details to complete, benches etc.

- It was noted that the wider walkways in the new parks make for a more pleasant experience. Gone is the feeling of a runway through the property.
- Scott brought forward the idea came up of hosting a linear market through the 3 parks, include music ie Carrie Chestnut etc. Many agreed this was an idea worth investigating further.
- There was discussion about the Laneway Project. It's funding basis has changed to be inline with the Councillor's Projects. Discussion around potential lanes to improve, what can be done and what has been shown to be less successful ie plantings. Unless there is regular stewardship the plants die.
- The idea of lanes being a part of the Clock Tower Trail was explored.
- More information needs to be gathered fro the Laneway Project team to be able to move forward on initiatives. Tara will continue to be in communication with Danielle.

3 Other – AGM Planning

- AGM May 15, 6-9:30pm 519 Ballroom, program runs 6:30 to 9pm
- Information was shared via email about proposed format for the AGM
- All Chairs need to modify their slides to make a more condensed slide presentation.
- Safety, Placemaking and Communications committees will report out first.
- After the three committee reports time will be given to our guests to speak.
- Development will follow the speakers. Slide suggestions – Crews & Tangos, Pizza Pizza and OLT GFM. Also include slide showing Village Character Area for reference. Other development slide can be included but discussed after in social time
- Finally an acknowledgment of past exec and celebration of CWNA's 15 years.
- A copy of last years slides will be sent out to all members.
- Format changes – discussion
- Phil is progressing with donations for the celebration.
- Archive items to be prepared and displayed. Various accessories for the event to be finalized.

4 Upcoming Events

- Next CWNA exec meeting April 12th, 2025

5. Actions to carry forward to April

- Tara to update the GoFundMe campaign with new information and target amount based on expert witness details.
- Ian Flatt to provide Gary Davidson's CV and rate card to the board.
- Paul and Tara to adjust the GoFundMe target based on more detailed information on the expert witness rates. On hold
- Tara to draft an update for donors and re-post on social media.
- Connie to contact Strategy Corp for more information on how CWNA can be engaged in their safety study.
- Luben to draft the AGM announcement and board nomination form.
- Scott to update the website with AGM information after receiving copy from Luben.
- Paul, Peter, and Don to select and modify slides for the AGM presentation, focusing on Cruise and Tango, Pizza Pizza, and OLT.
- Paul or Connie to send out a copy of last year's AGM presentation slides to the board.