

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

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

Board members present

Luben Blagoev, Scott Morrison, Tara Schorr, Don Altman, Phil Parsons, Connie Langille, Neil Gibb, Madison Charlton
Associate members – Peter Small, Paul Farrelly
Guest – Andrea Berman, Sinan van der Hoeven

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda moved Madison, second Scott

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none

1.5 Minutes of last meeting – April 12th, minutes moved Tara, second Phil

1.6 Review of Actions Items from April

- Everyone prep for AGM May 15th, 2025 – on track, final details discussed
- Update slides. - finish by Monday, Tara to review
- Actively promote GoFundMe campaign – everyone - on going

1.7 Financial Status

- \$7,783.97 CWNA funds
- GoFundMe - \$14,262.44 + \$50PP - minus \$5,000 retainer for Witness (\$9,312.44)

1.8 Guest Introductions

- Sinan van der Hoeven introduced himself, he is a community member and looking for ways to become more engaged in the community.
- Andre Berman is a resident and publisher of the Bridge community newspaper. He is part of the 51 Division CPLC, Community Police Liaison Committee. He spoke of looking to build the CPLC and involve more community members. The group meets monthly at 51 Division on the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm. The group does not meet in July or August. The focus is on community policing. Andrea would like to see representation from the Church Wellesley neighbourhood. Currently many other areas of 51 division are represented. The person or persons from the neighbourhood do not need to be on the CWNA board but willing to make the commitment. They have guest speakers in, a budget of \$1,000 per year to spend so a good way to be involved in the safety of the neighbourhood. The CPLC also builds relationships with other associations. The next meeting is Wed 14th May. New members need to attend three meetings in a row. Once completed a person can apply for membership. With membership there is the right to vote and make spending decisions. Community members may also attend on a casual basis. Madison and Scott expressed interest in attending.
- The other members present made their introductions.

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Councillor's Office – Update

- Sinkholes – waiting for reply from Transportation
- Splash pad – BHP – PB submitted
- Benches for Yonge St – Street Furniture following up. A frames on Yonge St were briefly discussed. One next to the building is apparently legal MLS said, will confirm.
- Alternative lighting NW side BHP – on going with Parks
- Stanley is confirming the list of missing rainbow signs with Transportation.
- 25 Wellesley E back lane-way – MLS is aware of the ongoing issues and trying to see if they can serve the owner

2.2 BIA – Jaret Sereda emailed

- Village Fest is now 3 days June 20-22 with a beer garden and live stage show!
- No new updates

2.3 Heritage & Development

- FoStra activity – Tara spoke of Mitchell Cohen CEO of Daniels Corp and the redevelopment of Regent Park talking about housing affordability. He agreed that all levels of government need to come together as there is a need for more supportive housing and off market housing like co-ops. He feels the missing piece is philanthropy, bringing together corporations to tackle housing. Don pointed out that the Affordable Housing group of FoStra meets twice a month and sometimes there is a series of speakers. These meetings are open and if folks are interested in hearing a speaker he will keep the group informed.
- Paul spoke of the city program Toronto Build which focuses on building more affordable housing on public land where the city is the builder. The city is going through the process of identifying potential sites. It is a very promising step.
- Paul also spoke of 68 Wellesley E, the developer Kingsett has revised their proposal, the tower is now 33 stories, this goes directly to the OLT. Kingsett also revised their Heritage plan, this goes before the Toronto Preservation Board. The board has identified a half dozen items they wish to improve on the heritage. A motion must be passed at the Preservation Board which then goes to community council and the city. This is the only opportunity to make the amendment. Paul was asked if a developer could increase the height of a proposal after it has gone to the OLT? Paul confirmed they could.
- Don spoke of demolition starting at 88 Isabella. He spoke to the health and safety manager of the demolition company Astro. The building will be emptied of all old appliances etc., then the asbestos will be removed. Trucks blocking or idling on site was discussed as there are cafes in the area. Don has the contact information for the rep.
- The empty apt on Maitland was discussed. It will apparently be a partnership between Minto and Sick Kids to build a supporting housing and mental health centre. There has been no official application submitted as of yet so little valid information is available.
- Yonge Tomorrow is looking for reps for the next phase, Paul will continue to rep.
- Funding for OLT – Don was thanked for his generous donation of \$1,000, very appreciated. The funding seems to have stalled and Tara reminded everyone of connecting with relationships you have, friends, colleagues etc., even small donations add up. The hope is the hearing does not take all of the 10 days allotted so the cost will be more manageable.

2.3 Safety - Tara

- The Safety Network is on hold pending a rethinking of how the framework and how it functions and the hoped for results.
- 2SLBGTQ+ CCC – There are 4 bursaries to be awarded this year. There were 16 applications. The winners will be presented with their \$1,000 award at the Chief's Pride Reception June 18th. This year the BIA donated \$1,500 to help make extra bursaries available.

2.4 Membership – Luben

- Several emails were sent to remind folks of renewal. There is usually memberships paid at the AGM.
- We now have 6 membership buildings with over 600 members.
- Matt from Grace McInnis Co-op was given information on how the co-op can be a member.
- Luben has a welcome letter for new building members outlining the benefits.

2.5 Communications – Scott

- Update – website is being updated with current development information.
- AGM results will be added when available

2.6 Placemaking - Connie

- New signage for the AIDS Memorial has been installed in BH Park. There are two signs with QR codes to provide more information on the memorial.
- The art work for the TTC mural has been selected. It will go up in June for Pride.
- Grace MacInnis Co-op has their new pollinator garden started. Looking good. They will have a community planting day, details to follow.
- Looking into Pigeon Lane ownership - still
- Alexander St. Parkette – unveiling May 20, 4:30pm
- The new park at 15 Wellesley E was discussed. There is a survey out from the city. Everyone was encouraged to complete the survey.
- Madison had several ideas they would like to put forward. All ideas can be sent to the Councillor. The neighbourhood is excited. After so many years of advocating for a park here it is wonderful to see it finally happen.
- Ideas the group brought forward were a water feature, performance space, quiet space, easily accessible, children's play area. Entrance that welcomed people to the park, all season use. The space should respect and reflect the history of the neighbourhood. Many great ideas came forward.
- Paul talked about the redesign of Queen's Park and a survey the BCCA has put out. Paul encouraged everyone to participate. The Weston foundation has donated \$50 million to the plan. The BCCA is looking for ideas from community as to what the redesign should look like.

3 Other – AGM Planning

- Final details were reviewed. Everything is ready for the AGM, snacks, etc. Folks are to meet at the 519 at 5:30pm to set up.

4 Upcoming Events

- Next CWNA exec meeting June 14th, 2025

5. Actions to carry forward to June

- Circulate Queen's Park survey from BCCA
- Check for any update about Maitland development with Minto & Sick Kid
- Tara to ask for update on Safety Network
- Continue to promote fund raiser.