

## Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes Monthly Meeting November 8th, 2025  
560 Church Pop-Up, 10am – 12pm.

### Board members present

Present - Matt Bell, Kelvin Kung, Don Altman, Connie Langille, Luben Blagoev, Phil Parsons, Matt Bell, Scott Morrison  
Regrets – Madison Charlton  
Associate members regrets – Paul Farrelly, Tara Schorr, Peter Small

### 1. Administration

- 1.2 Land Acknowledgment
- 1.3 Agenda moved Don, second Matt
- 1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none
- 1.5 Minutes of last meeting – Oct 18, moved Luben, second Matt

### 1.6 Actions carried forward from Oct 18th

- Committees to meet
- Development committee draft letter re 81 Isabella – in progress
- Confirmation of support for Open Streets – sent
- Prep for 2x open houses, posters, food etc. - done
- Site meeting on Dundonald for new planter arrangement - done
- Check in with Scott re updating website - done
- Phil & Scott to organize building flyer and drop. - to be arranged
- Luben to arrange building blitz walkabout.

### 1.7 Financial Status

- \$6,608.61
- Open House OLT = \$64.47

## 2 Activities Report Out

### 2.1 Councillor's Office – Update – Stanley on vacation – To be answered Dec. 13th

- 1. Progress orphan lane?
- 2. Missing rainbow signs
- 3. Update on e-bike blitz?
- 4. Encampments GHP & BHP? - We received an update that the Encampment Task Force has been revived. The focus will be on BH Park and the linear parks going forward. They are to meet this coming week.
- 5. Dundonald planters bulldozed – plan?
- 6. Other?

### 2.2 BIA – Jaret Sereda emailed

- Light up Church St. Nov 14th to Jan 1. The BIA is encouraging all businesses to light up Church St. Help is available if needed.

### 2.3 Heritage & Development - Don

- FoSTRA activity – committees – The Affordable Housing Committee continues to clarify it's mandate. There was a discussion at the meeting about Bill 60 and focusing on the impact on renters.
- Queen's Park meeting – there was about 60-70 people present. The main requests people have for the new design were laid out and try to come up with an inclusive design. Not impacting the trees was important. It was noted with some ideas, fountain, bathrooms etc. it would be difficult to manage around the trees. Adding a elevated walkway, replacing grass

under the trees with plantings. There was concerns about putting in food service and the increased volume of garbage. There was also conversations about connecting the park to the surrounding areas. Don pointed out the many improvements Transportation has made to access the park more safely.

- There were three main areas of discussion: Trees and vegetation, Services and Heritage. There was also discussion about the inclusion of Indigenous fire pit for ceremonies that would be accessible when needed. There was also discussion about moving the statue at the north end. The gift from the Weston's is \$50 million.
- There is another meeting for associations Nov 12. Kelvin asked for the groups input as he plans to attend. Phil brought up the history of the park as a place to gather to protest and it should remain accessible for this purpose. Many agreed with this as a key point when discussing design.
- Don recalled discussions about connecting Queen's Park to UofT, Philosophers walk and a liner park system. Also discussed was peoples dissatisfaction with the new TTC exit behind the statue at the north end of the park. No consultation and how to design around what has already changed the park? There are few details at this point.
- Development – Don mentioned that new lights have been installed in Al Sparrow lane that pose some issues for the developer taking down the adjacent building. The wires make it more difficult to move the equipment around. Originally the demolition was to be completed by the end of October, this will not happen as the building is only half down at this point.
- It was mentioned that a new proposal is in for the south east corner of Yonge and Wellesley E. Eddie will be emailed for any details available.
- Kingsett challenging OLT – Ian Flett is taking the lead on this.

## **2.4 Placemaking** – Connie

- OLT Open House – The Open House was very well attended. Folks really appreciated being able to talk with Ian and Gary about 69 Wellesley E and the OLT decision to refuse the application.
- Dundonald planters - Email was received from TPS stating there would be no charges but a stern warning was given about tampering with the new steel planters. This Connie felt was unacceptable and replied that the original planters had been built with the cooperation of the landlord and for there to be zero consequences or compensation for their destruction was very dismissive of the work and expense the city, BCCA and CWNA had invested in the planters. A reply stating this was sent to TPS.
- Town Hall Oct 23 – Don felt the Councillor did a pretty good job managing an angry crowd. It was noted that community is felling unheard and conditions have gotten worse. It was noted that the revival of the Encampment Task Force was a good step to add resources but the impact was more than just the tents. Luben stated it was good to see so many residents participate and have their voices heard. All agreed that what is currently happening is different than past years and people are frustrated. It was noted that TPS is often in the middle of encampment issues as they are called in the keep the peace. This can be difficult with opposing sides taking their frustration out on officers. There needs to be a commitment and action from those who have the power to make necessary changes.
- BHP public meeting Buddies Oct 22 – The venue was small and difficult to navigate. There was posters of the park and folks could stick notes with comments to the posters. There was no overview given just a walkabout by residents. It was commented that there was no fence in any of the designs even though Councillor had talked about fencing the park. Connie noted that at the Community Advisory Committee meeting that all groups were opposed to fencing the park and the idea should not be put forward as a choice.
- Comments were made about the current park survey and the lack of input allowed by those filling in the survey. It is felt that comments rather than simply reinforcing presented ideas gives a better picture of the communities opinion.

- It was noted that the broad ribbons in two designs tend to take away from the basis that the park is a queer park in the Village that houses the memorials and not the AIDS park.
- Luben talked about the Design David had presented to CWNA in a Zoom earlier. The design focused on the AIDS and Trans Memorials. The plans were detailed and showed a lot of thought and excellent ideas. It is hoped that the plans are presented to the BH Park committee for consideration.
- General comments about the designs still showing large grass areas that would not stand up during events. It was agreed that any design needs to accommodate events and activities sponsored by the community. The loss of the rainbow canopies took away the branding of the park and it is hoped BHP will continue to be seen as the queer park in the Village.
- It was also noted that Tonya from the city design team was informed that Church St School has a large gym that is suitable for community meetings.
- Halloween – The evening was packed. The BIA did a great job with Halloween themed signage throughout the Village. There was discussion about the event outgrowing the Village. It was noted that as most of the bars and entertainment are at the south location the Village will be where folks want to be. Comments were made about those attending seeming to be there to look but not participate in the Halloween event. Comments were made about incidents were some attending did not understand the focus was that Halloween is a queer event proper behaviour to display. Discussion was had about how to improve promotion of the event to clearly relay Halloween in the Village is an important queer event, come to participate and follow protocols. Kelvin suggested a QR code could be put on all promotional material to educate the public about the vent and expected behaviour.
- Also people should be discouraged from ringing pets as the crowds can be overwhelming for them. Bikes can also be an issue and should be walked at all times.
- Ideas about how to spread out the crowd were discussed, perhaps placing a venue at the north end near Gloucester to draw folks more evenly along the site.
- It was also noted that gates placed along the sidewalks at specific venues act as barriers to pedestrian flow and are dangerous as they can create bottlenecks in the crowd. More thought needs to be put into their use and placement.
- Lane naming update – The city has sent a petition list with the of addresses to contact about support for the lane name(s.) The city has said the lane can be looked at as one lane, or two with one portion running NS and one portion running EW. As there are others= names being put forward it is not exactly clear how the city decides on a name. More details to follow as they become available.

## **2.5 Membership** – Luben

- Update – Renewal sent for 86 Gloucester – membership was renewed
- Engagement plans date – 18 or 19 Nov. email to be sent
- Grace MacInnis co-op update – Matt – The co-op has deferred joining CWNA until next year and finances are tight. Phil suggested individual residents at Grace be invited to join with the same flyer being designed for his building. Connie wondered about waiving the fee. Don put forward that an individual can be offered a waiver but a building, who has not met with their board about taking out CWNA membership should not be offered the option. This made sense to the group.

## **2.6 Communications** – Scott

- Update website with OLT decision & past minutes – Scott will use the newsletter info and link to update the website.
- Fliers for apts, Phil and Scott to coordinate a flyer and building drop – Luben will work with Scott to design the flyer. One for buildings he already has and one for individuals.
- Mailchimp tutorial - co

## **2.7 Safety** – Luben

- Update - Luben to schedule a committee meeting – to be determined

## **3 Other**

- FB posting dangerous situations in community – Connie had removed a FB post showing a person in GH Park in what was said to be an incident involving weapons. It was removed as the video showed only a piece of the event and showed a person in the post which had the potential to elicit multiple negative posts. Luben noted the video was disturbing but people should know about the activities in the park and agreed it is about finding a balance.
- Phil commented on the potential for becoming the Neighbourhood Watch and if we let one post stay others will follow and as there are two Village FB groups where this type of content is displayed. Phil asked if CWNA wants to become a Neighbourhood Watch page?
- Kelvin mentioned we should review guidelines for deciding about content for FB.
- It was agreed that support groups in the community are better equipped to deal with these incidents. It was suggested the PSA be posted reminding people of these resources.
- It was noted that the FB groups has rules members must agree to prior to joining that include that posts are not to include information that identifies community members.
- FB additional moderator – A FB meeting will be called to discuss further.

## **4 Upcoming Events**

- Next CWNA exec meeting December 13th, 2025
- BCCA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary AGM, Nov 17th, 7pm. Central YMCA
- AGM March 18, 2026

## **5 Actions Carried Forward**

- Provide feedback to BIA re Halloween issues and recommendations
- Luben & Scott to design membership flyers
- Matt & Don to provide histories of their co-ops for sharing with community
- Kelvin to present group input re Queen's Park at next meeting
- Email Eddie LaRusic re new development on the south east corner of Yonge and Wellesley E
- Luben to follow up on building membership campaign