

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Minutes Monthly Meeting December 14th, 2024

Zoom - 10am – 12pm.

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

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda - moved by Madison, 2nd by Phil

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - no conflict was declared

1.5 Minutes of Last Meeting - Oct 12th - moved by Scott, 2nd by Don

1.6 Minutes from Nov meeting - carry over to Jan meeting.

1.7 Review of Action items from Oct. 12th

• Actions carried forward from November

- Paul - devel. meeting to discuss potential fund raising for 68 Wellesley E. OLT hearing Tara to attend. - Done
- Paul to meet with Scott to update him on development issues for the website. On going
- Mittens to be delivered to Church St School - Done
- Letter of encouragement for John Hodgson grant proposal for his documentary to be written. - Done
- Dave Cook to be updated that CWNA approves the metal fence if safety concerns are addressed. - Done
- All members to provide feedback on website content they are responsible for to Scott. - Done - Safety redo sent to Tara for evaluation, once complete will forward to Scott
- Tara to look for the previous list of significant dates for the illuminated fence on Church Street. - Done - Asked for default to be rainbow2
- Connie to draft a letter to the counselor regarding Dave Cook's fence proposal, addressing safety concerns and expressing support for the business endeavor. - Done
- Connie to email Tyler on Monday about invitations for the rainbow sign unveiling and ask about Carrie Chestnut's honorarium. - Done
- All members to send Connie their list of suggested invitees for the rainbow sign unveiling by Monday. - Done
- All members to read the Ward Council terms of reference, particularly the code of conduct section, for discussion in December.

1.7 Financial Status

- \$6,202.80 - Donations x3 = \$750, Zoom for the year = \$291.36

2 Activities Report Out

2.1 Councillor's Office - no report out from Stanley

1. Safety Network - can the city permanently lead the committee so there is more consistency, clearer vision and more productivity?
 - Starting next year, all the Safety Networks will lead to the Downtown East Leadership Table which includes all of the city division heads.
 - The City and our office are looking into ways to make the Safety Network more effective. We are always looking for input from community.

2.2 BIA

- BIA - Jaret Sereda - Dec 10th Social at The Hair of the Dog, attended by BIA members, MPP Wong-Tam, TPS. Good opportunity to network.

2.3 Development & Heritage

- Plan for funding OLT expert witness - discussion 68 Wellesley E - Discussion was had looking at the issues. Looking to going directly to potential donors for sizable donations. Total of \$50,00 is required. Madison offered a \$1,000 donation. First step is identifying tear one donors and tear two may be community donations appeal like Go Fund Me etc. Anyone has thoughts about potential donors please let Tara and Paul know. Tara is writing a case for support. Madison offered their support to write the case. Paul feels it may be March when the OLT case is called. Connie spoke with Jaret from the BIA to outline the OLT expert witness is for the benefit of community and asked for any suggestions for fundraising.
- FoStra paid = \$100, membership + donation
- FoStra & Retail Study - Don - The city is in the final stages of the study for looking into allowing businesses in residential neighbourhoods. At the meeting Don attended there were several how opposed the idea of business in residential areas, increased traffic, waste, noise etc. Tara reiterated that the issues does not impact our community and felt added businesses in small communities may be a plus. However there is also the issue of supporting other community associations in this cause. Paul pointed out the meeting Don attended was the second consultation as community had asked for more consultation. Paul pointed out the way the report was written there did not seem to be enough mitigation to ensure compliance. It was agreed that more community consultation is needed.
- Don - FoStra has formed a subcommittee on Affordable Housing. It will meet every other week for now. At the initial meeting all aspects of housing were discussed. Don hopes to see a focus on issues. There so far is a broad definition of affordable, more focus is needed. Paul noted Walid fro Regent Park will be at the meetings. Walid has been a driving force in Regent Park.
- Beer Store to be demolished. The property is for sale again. Graffiti removed from site, no other activity. It was noted it may be a liability issue.
- It was noted the fencing at the One Property site has been removed. Connie will contact Ray the manager of the site for any information.

2.4 Safety

- Update - Safety Network Panel moving to different forum, city lead.
- Site research was done on Gloucester St. west end near the new condo. The street is 2 way for a short distance but reverts to 1 way going west. It 10 minutes it was noticed that 3 cars attempted to travel the wrong way. The signage is poorly done and needs to be improved to ensure safety on Gloucester St.
- Toronto Centre Ward Council - Terms of Reference - Tara, Don - Tara reviewed a few of the terms that may relate to CWNA, attendance, conduct etc.
- Code of Conduct reviewed - "believe in fostering an atmosphere that encourages open dialogue, productive conversation, the effective functioning of our democracy comments should be constructive, respectful, and related to the discussion at hand. We appreciate passion and enthusiasm, while we understand individuals may have strong opinions. Our goal is to facilitate a balanced nonpartisan discussion that respects everyone's right to hear and be heard.
Neil stated the point of having the meeting is allowing everyone say their piece. Neil asked if this would be supported. Tara agreed everyone should have a chance to be heard when on topic but with the understanding that there are times when discussion needs to come to an end and the chair will ask for the meeting to move on.
- The question of gauging participation among directors was asked. Should attendance or lack of drive the right to membership? Don pointed out there are lots of ways to participate, being at the meeting is only one way. It was agreed that as volunteers the degree of participation in events, external meetings etc would be a driving consideration. Meetings missed with notice to the chair were not of as great a concern.
- All were asked to forward to Tara thoughts and she will write a draft on conduct for the group
- Toronto Centre Ward Council Meeting - The meeting was in person at city hall, zoom was offered. The first meeting was an overview of how the group will work. Tara pointed out the group has no power to

impact decisions or make policy. Tara pointed out it was interesting to her from groups attending that many of the challenges are the same as ours and some widely different. Tara felt BIA's were more closely aligned with the Villages concerns. The closing of safe injection sites, encampments, etc. Tara is not clear what the purpose may end up being but will wait and see. Don felt the attendance was less than expected. Councillor introduced his staff which was useful. Don pointed out that some groups were focusing on building community rather than specific issues. Tara noted the Distillery District did programming geared towards senior and retirees which have a high representation in the area as an interesting example of area specific focus. Tara noted the commitment was one year and in the future there is options for others taking part. Paul asked if there were notes of the meeting that could be shared as an asset for the work Paul does for FoStra.

- Brief discussion on extending the BIA to cover Yonge between Wellesley and Charles. Paul noted the best solution was to extend the CWBIA west.

2.5 Membership - Luben

- Luben was not available for the meeting
- Membership renewal in Jan Feb.

2.6 Communications - Scott

- Web site meeting. - Productive, changes were discussed to update info. Scott asked if anyone had more edits to contact him.
- Scott asked Neil for an updated bio for the site again. Neil said he would forward to Scott.
- Error on interactive map - block on Gloucester St. was removed.
- Photos were sent to Scott to add to the web site for Placemaking.
- Tara asked about using the Google Drive, Madison will go through the drive and organize it.
- Draft revision of Safety page were sent to Tara for editing.
- Next news letter, park opening, street signs, OLT were suggested.

2.7 Placemaking

- Parks opening - Friday, December 13th was well attended. Excellent community event. Paul pointed out Councillor's speech was excellent. It pulled together. The history of the Norman Jewison's and the George Hislop. Councillor said he wasn't aware of the history at the time and that his assistant had worked on it. Paul stated "It's really good history." He also pointed out the indigenous elements that were incorporated into the parks. "I tell you it's the happiest day yesterday was really, really something. It's like, when we name lanes. You really get a sense of place, of of connection. and there must have been a hundred people there yesterday." Paul stated "I really feel this is ours, you know this is this is a kind of part of something that we help make happen."
Phil commented on an evening walk through the parks and how the space is so welcoming. The lighting at night is phenomenal. It was bright, but yet not too bright. It was cheerful. What a what a victory it really is. All who attended agreed it was remarkable.
It was noted the restaurant from the Anndore House did a great job handing out beverages and cookies.
- Sign unveiling - Great turn out. Carrie Chestnut played the saxophone to the delight of the crowd. MPP Wong-Tam attended, Councillor Moise, TPS etc. Great event to showcase the Village.
- The Councillor's Banquet - It was a white tablecloth event in one of the rooms at the St. Lawrence. It is absolutely stunning with a giant chandelier hanging from the ceiling, and all the decorative plaster work on the ceiling. It was a buffet style. They had lots of excellent food. They had a bottle of sparkling cider on the table for each. For each table. Children for Dixon hall entertained with holiday songs, beautiful. Councillor handed out community awards, which was very, very nice to see. I would like to do a shout out to Madison who received an award there. Unfortunately they were not present. Connie was impressed by the diversity of the award winners and the work they have accomplished. From cleaning up the Don River to building community, education and social development.
It was a great event to see old friends at the gathering.
- Phil reported on delivering the holiday donations to Church St School, Sanctuary and Progress Place. All were appreciative of the kindness. Phil addressed the need at the school for snack program funding

and suggested CWNA support their efforts. It was noted that building a relationship with the school is important to enlist the families at the school and add their voices to our association.

- The 519 has begun work on the alternative garbage storage area on the south side of the building. Garbage will no longer be stored on the north side by the mural. It is hoped the fence to the east of the steps be removed.
- Suggestions for 2025? - Community gardening of planters, 14 Dundonald garden, Tara to further investigate possibility.
The Laneway Project has reached out to CWNA to partnership in the future. Tara will arrange a meeting and let folks know. This would add to the Green Loop
Paul said we need a walk through of the Green Loop east of Yonge that could enhance the overall loop. Working with BCCA together to design signage on our side that would enhance heritage etc. Keeping in mind the AODA guidelines.
Everyone liked the idea of more meet and greet events.

3. Other

- Bobby MacPherson leaving Pride. Replacement will be announced in the near future. For 8 years it has been a great to work with Bobby every year on Pride. He has always been receptive to community concerns and works toward ensuring the event is respectful of community.
- Madison wrapped up the meeting with their observation that this had been one of the most positive meetings they think we've actually ever had. "I think there's been a lot of really good things going on like the opening of the parks, new signs and everything. They just feel like this has been very constructive, and we should acknowledge that because it's really good when everything's working well, it's really nice."

4. Actions to carry forward from December

- Paul & Tara to continue to develop fundraising strategy for OLT
- Tara to draft CWNA focused code of conduct and terms of reference. Circulate.
- Ask if minutes are available from Toronto Centre Ward Council meetings
- Neil to provide bio to Scott
- Connie to look into the fence coming down on the One Property site.
- Follow up with safety sign improvements on Gloucester St
- Paul to organize walk about along our side of the green loop in the new year.
- Tara to investigate 14 Dundonald's potential for community gardening activation

5. Upcoming Events

- Next CWNA exec meeting **January 11th, 2025**
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