

# Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Meeting Minutes May 13, 2023

30 Gloucester St

Present – Connie Langille, Robert Packham, Neil Gibb, Cori Death, Luben Blagoev, Don Altman

Attendees - Paul Farrelly, Peter Small, Judy Young

Absent – Tara Schorr, Parker Gauld

## 1. Administration

### 1.2 Land Acknowledgment

### 1.3 Agenda - moved Luben, second - Cori, passed

### 1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none

### 1.5 Minutes of Last Meeting , April 15th, 2023 - moved Cori, second Luben, passed

### 1.9 Review of ACTIONS from April

- Paul to call Development Committee meeting prior to May meeting - held Apr 25
- Tara to call Safety meeting in April
- Neil to call Affordable Housing meeting before May exec meeting – will report in June
- Ask Trevor to call a meeting to initiate changes in Membership & Communications - held May 3

### 1.10 Financial Status - \$4,591.44

## 2 Committee Reports

### 2.1 Councillor's Office – Report out Marzio

- Items pertinent to CWNA, safety, development, placemaking
- What does Councillor see as priority areas and projects for our community and what are his plans to address them and move forward over the next several weeks?
- Is there a plan to engage community and how can CWNA be helpful?
- Are there new development proposals or community consultations designated in our area?
- Does Councilor have a clear idea of when the work will start on GH and NJ parks? Can he push it forward?

## **SAFETY & PLACEMAKING**

### Barbara Hall Park

The Community Safety Ambassadors (CSA) pilot program was developed to approach community safety through prevention, de-escalation, and building of trust for all those residing within and visiting the neighbourhood area. The CSAs focus on engaging with individuals within Barbara Hall Park and the Church-Wellesley area to build relationships, help address immediate health and safety needs, and provide enhanced access to various outreach services already present within the community.

It is not in the scope of the CSAs to clear the park in the overnight hours, but rather their focus is on building relationships and connecting community members with appropriate resources, including teams that can provide supports related to shelter or housing.

In regards to your concerns around people being in the park in the overnight hours, the following approaches are currently employed, including those of the pilot “Community Safety Ambassadors”:

- Streets to Homes regularly conducts outreach overnight in the park to support any community members who need a referral into shelter space or, if possible, housing.
- Corporate Security guards patrol through short visits to the park in the overnight. If corporate security determines a new encampment is present in the park the Encampment Office is notified and this office also requests the presence of Streets to Homes to offer indoor accommodations to the unhoused individuals.
- The pilot “Community Safety Ambassadors” (CSAs) are currently attending the park from 10PM to 6AM, seven days a week.
- Several community agencies also regularly attend the park in the daytime hours.

## Community members can also support people in crisis as noted below:

- By contacting **Gerstein Crisis Centre at 416 929 5200 or Here to Help (Tuesday to Saturday, 2PM to 10PM) at (416) 915-4200** for support with individuals experiencing crisis
- Additional supports can be found on the web here: [Toronto Community Crisis Centre](#)
- In addition, we continue to encourage community members to contact 311 about concerns, as this helps to dispatch appropriate resources and track ongoing concerns, **especially after hours and on weekends.**

If you have further questions about the CSAs, please contact Sean Major at [sean.major@toronto.ca](mailto:sean.major@toronto.ca)

## Placemaking

According to City Planning Division, The City has a Section 37 balance of **\$106,051.09** related to the development of 454-464 Yonge St (By-Law 1724-2013) to be used for Church-Wellesley Business Improvement Area or other purposes. Improved garbage disposal has been identified in the BIA's Streetscape Master Plan. Please let me know if you require more information.

## **HOW COMMUNITY CAN ADDRESS SOME OF THE PLANS**

Some of the priorities are Barbara Hall Workshop, new developments, Pride. Councillor Moise is bringing participatory budgeting to Toronto Centre! We are looking to hear back from residents about projects and possible improvements they'd like to see in their neighbourhoods. Through this process, Ward 13 will be divided into six neighbourhood groups (zones) to ensure ideas can be better localized and organized by our office. Each year, we aim to focus on 2-3 zones through this process.

For 2023, we will be Participatory Budgeting for:

**Zone 1** - East of Bay Street, South of Bloor Street, North of College/Carlton Street, West of Sherbourne Street - Church Wellesley area

**Zone 5** - East of Bay Street, South of Queen Street, North of The Esplanade, West of Parliament Street

**Zone 6** - East of Parliament Street, South of Queen Street, North of Mill Street, West of the Don Valley Parkway

For more information and to see the map of the zones, please see [ChrisMoise.ca/PB](http://ChrisMoise.ca/PB)

There will be a virtual information session on **Thursday, May 25, 2023 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**. Additionally, there will be in-person pop-up information sessions happening for each neighbourhood zone, during Pride weekend, and times will be confirmed soon!

- **Saturday, May 27 - Zone 1: Dr. Lillian MacGregor Park & Barbara Hall Park**
- **Saturday, June 3 - Zone 5: St. James Park & St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre**
- **Saturday, June 10 - Zone 6: Corktown Commons & Cooper Koo Family YMCA**
- **Friday, June 23 to Sunday, June 25 - Pride Toronto Booth**

The goal of public participation in Participatory Budgeting is to provide transparency and increase civil engagement on capital projects that concern all neighbourhoods of given zones. Once a list of ideas for projects is received, feasibility will be analyzed. The funding required for each project will be determined and shared with the community.

Community members will be responsible for generating ideas for projects, and they will also have the opportunity to formally vote on the projects generated by their own neighbours. The projects will be judged based on cost, timeline, and feasibility. All projects combined for each zone must fall within the threshold of \$500,000 to \$750,000.

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

Please find attached the list of projects in the CWNA Neighbourhood area attached. I've also included the files at Sherbourne and Linden and Huntley Selby because the CWNA has shown interest in them.

## **GH AND NJ PARKS**

We are pleased to announce that construction of George Hislop Park and Norman Jewison Park

Improvements, led by City of Toronto (PFR Capital Projects), **will begin the week of May 22nd.**

Exact date that week TBC.

Both City parks will have construction hoarding erected by the contractor and will not be accessible to the public.

We anticipate construction to take at minimum six months, weather dependent. Further updates will be provided during the construction period.

Construction notice signage will be mounted on the fence, and the project website will provide updates: [www.toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks](http://www.toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks)

Note - the content of the report out from Marzio was contained in an email he sent prior to the Saturday meeting.

- Don asked about calling the community engagement Participatory Budgeting as he felt the process did not fit the city's past practices and goals of Participatory Budgeting. Marzio will consult and get back to Don.
- Connie asked about current safety initiatives that all seem to address the concerns and needs of the under-housed but do not address community safety overall, drug dealing, violence etc. Marzio will look into it and get back to us.

## **2.2 Summer Schedule**

- Taking one summer month off was discussed. All decided July will be meeting free.

## **2.3 Safety – Tara**, absent

- no report

## **2.4 Communications - Trevor - Cori**

- Cori was introduced as the new chair of Communications
- Trevor and Cori to meet to transfer details
- Website editor Trevor will continue updating the CWNA website, including the interactive map. (tool:Weebly web editor)
- E-blasts: Cori will create and send out bulk news e-mails to subscribers, as needed (tool: MailChimp).
- Trevor will train.

## **2.5 Membership – Trevor - Luben**

- Membership – transition May 3 meeting decision - Luben chair
- Luben will be responsible for maintaining and increasing memberships - requesting renewals, updating information in the database, etc. (tool:MailChimp) - Trevor will train
- Fundraising to be folded into Membership
- Facebook Page, Facebook Group, Other Social: Tara, Connie
- Matti will contribute to communications team as well, to be determined when election sabbatical is over.

## **2.6 Development & Heritage - Paul**

- 88 Isabella has been resubmitted
- 64-66 Wellesley E – corner of Church and Wellesley, new design submitted. Incorporates Dapper Lane. Question was asked about city's decision to sell, price etc.
- 33 Maitland
- 34 Maitland: Peter reported on the first public meeting for the development. He noted that most of the questions from the public were from sitting tenants worried about their future.
- Rabba at the OLT – 1-9 Isabella, 619-637 Yonge

## **2.7 Placemaking**

- Application sent to Heritage re designation of AIDS Memorial. There was some concern that this was premature with the redesign of BH Park. It was noted the subject had been discussed at past meetings and no concerns were raised then. It takes a year or two for the process to work it's way through the system.

- Report out on the official opening of Lillian McGregor Park at 11 Wellesley W. The event was well attended by many family members of Lillian, Indigenous ceremony was performed, the Toronto Police Service named a horse in honour of Dr. McGregor. In all a wonderful day.
- BH Park redesign, an overview was given of the May 9th Zoom meeting held by Daniel Fusca. General review of online input. Reps from, Progress Place, BIA, 519, CWNA and Barbara Hall attended. This group will be the Community Advisory Group.
- \$200 donation to Gary Myers Community Engagement Workshop to help cover honorariums was discussed. A agreed to the donation of \$200.

### **3 Other**

- FoStra Mayoral Candidates meeting – June 1, tentative, Paul relayed there are issues recruiting candidates, work in progress

### **3 Recap of Actions & Upcoming Events**

- CWNA exec meeting June 10, 2023
- BH Park Revitalization Community meeting May 15 at the 519
- Naked Bike Ride June 10, 2023