

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

AGM Meeting Minutes March 16, 2023

Zoom Video - 7pm – 9pm

Present – Connie Langille, Don Altman, Robert Packham, Neil Gibb, Trevor Hennig, Tara Schorr,
Attendees - Paul Farrelly

Guest – Cori Death, Parker Gauld, Luben Blagoev, MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam, Tyler Johnson and Marzio Silva from
Councillor C. Moises' office

1. Administration

1.2 Land Acknowledgment

1.3 Agenda – Moved - Trevor Hennig, second – Robert Packham

1.4 Zoom management - Tara

1.5 Welcome – Connie

1.6 Introduction of Board Members

Connie Langille, Don Altman, Robert Packham, Neil Gibb, Tara Schorr, Trevor Henning

2. Committee Report-outs

2.1 Safety – Tara

- Safety is a key issue in the community, Covid has exaggerated issues
- Key challenges were outlined, Crystal meth use and sale, mental health crisis, lack of supportive housing, increased vandalism, increased lateral violence, decrease of public space, lack of feeling safe of housed community
- Ways CWNA engages with these issues, Downtown Action Plan, CW Safety Network, Community Police Officers, Park Ambassadors, Streets to Homes, Here 2 Help, new community housing partners, TPS town-halls, ongoing activities to animate park, working with all partners in the community BIA, Progress Place the 519 etc.
- Encouraging BIA on Yonge to fill in coverage and provide safety.
- Community Crisis De-escalation Response Pilot was outlined.
- Harm Reduction Community Care Project for public or private property was outlined
- Community initiatives, additional community cleanups, activation projects lead by the 519 and Dog Park People
- Advocate for local , provincial and federal level to ensure appropriate funding.
- Advocating for Heritage Designation for AIDS Memorial
- Advocate for green space.
- Ideas for action were outlined, hosting Safety Walks, liaison for safety audits public and private, increase community involvement in local activities

Q&A

- Q - What can be done about Allan Gardens?
- A – Allan Gardens is out of our catchment, better answered by Councillor's office

Tyler Johnson then presented a half hour slide show about the work Councillor Chris Moises' office is doing.

Q&A

- Q – Kyle Iannuzzi – George Hislop Park, what is the official reason for it being closed all this time for a build out? Why have we had no access for three years?
- A – After staff moved the encampment the Parks Dept wanted to rejuvenate, then in 2021 Parks need to do work, Toronto Water went in to do the work. 2021 work was to begin on the park but this didn't happen so the park was left closed because of encampments and challenges with Sanctuary. The city has been able to build some relationships with Sanctuary. In the end it was decided to just keep it closed. Work is to begin this year. End of this year beginning of next year the park will reopen.
- Comment Kyle Iannuzzi– There is a high demand for community to comment at community consultation on a multitude of issues it is impossible to keep up with for community members. It is Community Consultation on crack. We need to establish Community Values that staff can work with so we can stop relying on a population that is being slammed by a cost of living crisis to keep giving up personal time to show up and

contribute their thoughts over and over again to plans that are moving at a glacial pace. It takes a lot of privilege to show up for just one of these meetings. We need to assert that we are happy with the size and scale of our community and if Doug Ford's friends want to come in and develop it in a different way they can cut the red tape and the spending of fighting the community and just deal with the zoning that we and the living standards the community is happy with living with.

2.6 Communications & Membership

- Trevor outlined the mandate of the committee
- Stats were given on current membership
- Focus in coming year will be to increase membership
- Fill a Volunteer Coordinator role
- Hold regular committee meetings again
- Do more outreach for specific skill sets in our membership and community
- Update was given on CWNA site, newsletters, FB & FB group all have increased over the last year
- Looking for social media adept exec members to increase our platforms

2.3 Development & Heritage - Paul

- Paul outlined Bill 109 and Bill 23 and their impact on development and the increase in population the community will see. City hiring additional planners, lack of development fees. Heritage taking a great hit, it will change the landscape
- Compressed timelines for consultation and planning. There can be no changes to Heritage after application is accepted.
- Developments in our district were reviewed.
- Heritage listings vs designation was explained, listings are to be removed after two years and can not be reapplied for 5 years. Work is being done to push through several buildings in our community
- Paul talked about community member Adam Wynne's monumental efforts to identify and move forward heritage buildings in our area.
- Heritage Conversation District update was given. There will be a hearing in the fall but new rules may be a hurdle.
- Paul asked for those interested to please step forward.

Q&A

- MPP Wong-Tam praised Paul for his skills and encouraged others to become involved as CWNA has leaders in place to educate and mentor.
- Q - What can be done to protect apartment buildings that have heritage assets.
- A – Not much can be done when a developer gains by tearing down a building and rehousing the current tenants. Best advice is to get involved.

2.4 Placemaking - Connie

- In consideration of time a very quick overview was given. Much of Placemaking was already covered by extensive report out for Councillor's office.
- Of importance is community members asking in the past for the AIDS Memorial to be designated Heritage. This will be a main focus.
- For the redesign of Barbara Hall Park we would like to see a grand entrance at Cawthra that celebrates the AIDS Memorial
- The Green Loop was explained. It is a combined effort by BCCA, McGill Granby, CWNA and the DYBIA
- 311 was given an overview and recommendation for all to use.

Administrative

Minutes from 2021 AGM moved by Neil Gibb, seconded by Trevor Hennig

Treasurer's Report was given – balance of \$4,181.32. Main expenses are donations and Zoom fees. As funds are raised through membership and donation all were encouraged to take out a membership.

List of 2023 Board Members was read out. Don Altman, Tara Schorr, Neil, Gibb, Connie Langille, Parker Gauld, Cori Death, Luben Blagoev

New members were asked to introduce themselves, Parker Gauld, Cori Death, Luben Blagoev

Q&A with MPP Wong-Tam and Marzio Silva Councillor's office

MPP Wong-Tam

- Gave an overview of Queen's Park
- Bill 23 highly controversial Green Belt bill
- The association of Municipalities have flagged the problem with the bill but are not being listened to
- Mental health support an ongoing need
- Of issue is the decline of community doctors in community and the diminishing of health services.
- Private for profit clinics are being funded by public funds.
- Working to develop safety zones for our drag performers and trans members who are under attack on many fronts. Work is being done to work on a new bill to address the issue
- There will be advocates of housing brought to Queen's Park to advocate for housing

Q&A

- Q – Luben how do we address the delays the city is causing developers by adding fees, decreasing the ability of developers to build but still add more people
- A – There are more than 1 million units that have been approved but not built by developers. Some come back for more height, or just sit on the property or for whatever issue. If the units were built there would be no housing issue. The provinces own Housing Task Force said that there is adequate land within urban centres and there is no need to use the Green Belt the government chose to do differently. There is enough development already approved and as Paul pointed out more development is coming. Developers are making money by increasing their density and sitting on their properties
- A – Marzio spoke to apartment buildings being demolished and said the best the city can do is work with developers and have some units dedicated affordable.
- Q – Downtown street including bike lanes and increasing sidewalks.
- A – Marzio stated the city sees increase of pedestrians and cyclists. Studies are done to address traffic concerns so they are not effected.
- Q – Tara, how is the term affordable housing determined? A consistent language is needed.
- A – KWT – The current government talks about Attainable Housing not affordable housing. The city has now defined it as 30% of income. The city also declared housing a basic human right. This shifted housing away from being a commodity being left to financialized forces. The province has not defined the term. Around the new Ontario Line they are not allocating affordable housing in the developers plans as per the governments own guidelines.
- Q – Curran Stikcut – Concerned about multiple parks being worked on this year, we are losing green space the street involved folks rely on. We saw in the past, 2018-2019, when Kensington park was redeveloped we saw an influx of street involved folks in our neighbourhood. Of great concern is the response from the city for two different responses to the issue one being to increase of security and increase iteration of the Downtown East Action Plan but other partners agree security is a fulsome answer to issues around poverty, homelessness, drug addiction etc. We see the DEAP as a way to help address these issues. What other supports can see to support true issues.
- A – Marzio – The city is looking to use the money allocated for encampment be used to keep BHP safer.
- Q – Connie – Corporate Security was not successful. Is there an effort to involve community in solutions rather than from the top down.
- Marzio said it was a community ask when security left the park at the end of the day some did not feel safe.
- Connie challenged this as security was not present at all. Is the city plan data based or based on a few residents opinions?
- Q – Cori Death - Can left hand turns be limited on Wellesley at Yonge, Church and Jarvis? Turns cause a backlog of traffic.
- A – Marzio will consult Transportation Department.

The meeting was adjourned 9:05