

MINUTES — AWWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, April 8, 2013

Location: St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St.
Present: Shelli Eisenberg, Paul Faure, Barb Mansfield, Ken Moyle, Jay Parlar, Ira Rosen, Vinnie Welsh
Regrets: Cary Kinsley, John Wigle, Kevin Russell, Lois Freeman
Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. by President Jay Parlar
Recording Secretary: Linda Ellis
Quorum (seven)? Yes
Guests: Councillor Brian McHattie, Oliver Hierlihy (Student Phi delta Theta)

The minutes from the last meeting will be distributed at a later date. The November 2012 minutes have not been distributed to date.

Agenda Items

1.0 Oliver Hierlihy is a student of Phi delta Theta, which is a group of 30 students interested in helping out in the community. Oliver is currently with outreach and has also teamed up with Marie Louise of the Westdale BIA to help with their efforts, and they are looking at helping us out with events, cleanups, or any community project. They want to get involved with our community. Oliver's contact information is PDTONGamma@gmail.com

2.0 Plan to increase membership – Kevin e-mailed Jay his report.

Membership as of March 31 – 641 (includes 20 Friends)

Members eligible to vote – 492

Members with invoices outstanding – 149

Renewals processed February 7-March 31 = two memberships for four members plus one new membership for two members.

Plan for remaining outstanding renewals:

1. Include a reminder notice in weekly notices
2. By "reverse directory check" confirm if phones are still in service (about 25 per cent complete)
3. Ask each member of the executive to call about 10 addresses
4. Notify remaining outstanding that their membership has lapsed and we will have to drop them from membership if not received by X date
 - One batch of memberships that has not been renewed is 4 on Binkley Crescent
 - There is a similar concentration on Dalewood Crescent.

3.0 Rental licensing strategy/151 Sterling/Article in Sil - regarding lack of space or inadequate preparation for moving groups during construction of the new building - The university has expressed interest in purchasing 151 Sterling to use for the Student Community Support Network, Off Campus Housing Office, and lounge space for students who commute to Hamilton. The city is looking into the zoning for Cordoba House (a Muslim association house), the Jewish

association house, and 151 Sterling should the university purchase it. The initial investigation shows that they are in compliance, which is interesting because this area is zoned for single-family homes. The Muslim association house on Forsythe is up for sale. The university is also looking at providing a location for Muslim students' prayer, as they currently use Wentworth House.

In terms of rental licensing, the landlords and real estate people are saying the city should enforce the bylaws currently in place. We discussed bylaws not being enforced and feeding the landlords' claim. One example: the next door neighbour of 5 Dromore has been trying to get garbage removed from the back yard of 5 Dromore for a month. Even though there is an order to comply it took about two weeks for the city to send out an inspector and then a number of follow-ups. Vinnie stated that we need an update from the city to understand their own internal standards in terms of response time and their system for processing complaints received from various sources. She is following up with Glyn Wide. Vinnie also believes that there needs to be a feedback loop to the constituents who report the complaints as not all complaints go through Brian McHattie's office and this seems to be the only way of finding out the status. We need to talk with Brian and the correct people at the city on some type of feedback mechanism. We need to talk with Brian and the correct people at the city on some type of feedback mechanism. We also need to meet with Patrick Deane, Gord Arbeau, and Brian on the university's plan with respect to expansion and how it going to affect us. We also need to talk to the university in general about their support regarding off-campus housing.

4.0 New board member as recording secretary – Linda Ellis will take on the role of recording secretary for this board.

5.0 Change Camp McMaster - There were approximately seven groups set up, and at each group someone from SCSN facilitated the discussion. Gord Arbeau was also in attendance. Jay wanted to speak to Gord about having the university pay for a mailing at the beginning of the school year to every home in the neighborhood giving information about all the different types of resources the school offers. Gord stated that there were fewer complaints going through his office this year than in other years. Most home owners in Westdale are not aware of Gord's office, however, and therefore do not call his office stating their complaints. If this is something Gord wants people to do, the residents of Westdale need to be made aware of this. Brian asked if there was any mention of new residences being built to reduce the number of students concentrated in certain areas off campus, which causes a lot of conflict. Jay and Vinnie stated that last year the university was talking about new residences, but it seems to have dropped off their agenda. Perhaps it is time to speak to Dr. Deane again. Jay did indicate to him that we are past 50 per cent in terms of student population in many areas. Dr. Deane was not happy with this percentage. Vinnie stated that the students were saying that the quality of student housing is awful and it is taking too long to get the landlords to fix problems. The students felt that if the landlords were not keeping the houses in good condition, why would they as tenants? The students all felt that there should be a rating system for the houses. Some of the upper-year students were aware that the Off Campus Housing Office's listing service is paid for by landlords and is not a list of approved housing, but they had not been aware of that the first few years they were students. They felt the university should be more proactive in helping to guide them toward quality housing. It is probably time that an agenda be put together with some specific points for another meeting with Dr. Deane. Vinnie will draft it.

Follow-up Items

1.0 Police report from March 4 to April 7, 2013:

- Two commercial entries – one was a copper theft to Hydro 1, one attempt at Kosher Meats
- 15 student house entries – unlocked doors
- Five residential entries
- No cars stolen
- One theft from auto and that car was unlocked
- Saint Patrick's Day planning was successful. Only one house had to be cleared. This house had a "jumpy castle" and a keg.
- There were a couple of house parties this past weekend. Mac 91/92 dealt with them. One of the houses was 5 Dromore, which is the same property with garbage issues.
- Approximately 60 tickets were issued to cyclists.
- One person charged with an indecent act
- Churchill Park ravine trail assault – no one has been identified or charged
- A drug store at Main and Broadway was broken into at 4:00 p.m. and drugs stolen. Scott will follow up and report.
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2.0 Update on parking issues on Dalewood and Arnold/rental housing licensing/survey results:

- Brian reported on the rental-licensing bylaw. The councillor used the DemocraVise Program that Ken from McMaster Innovation Park had worked on. A number of questions seeded the survey. The program then allows users to generate their own questions and people vote on which ones are most important. Initially, forty-five per cent were in favour of a licensing bylaw. Forty-one questions were created, and 1,540 "up" votes were registered for user-generated questions. Jay stated that we would need a separate number because one person can do an up vote on every single question. Terri Whitehead is also using this program. There is an exit poll, and on exiting support for the bylaw dropped to 40 per cent. This is not statistically accurate as a poll. There was some discussion that perhaps people who were in favour of licensing should have created more questions slanted towards licensing. At the end of the day, this seems to be a tool for gathering input but cannot be seen as statistically accurate.
- City planning staff met with the Hamilton and District Apartment Association and the Realtors' Association, which had offered to provide comments on and solutions to rental licensing. They presented some ideas that were of no real value, so they are going to do some more work and submit suggestions again. The next step is to come back to the city's planning committee with an information report that responds to a lot of questions that were asked at the previous planning meeting. After that the likely next step would be to re-introduce the bylaw. The city's legal department has been asked if we can phase in the bylaw beginning with Hamilton West.
- Brian was asked what limitations are being placed on truck traffic to and from McMaster during construction at Sterling and Forsyth and also the construction at George R. Allan and Dalewood schools. The construction traffic for the university will go through the Main Street entrance. He has not yet seen plans from the school board for the G. R. Allan and Dalewood construction sites.

- Brian reported they have started the Participatory Budgeting Advisory Committee again. Approximately 10 people from last year are on this committee, plus 10 new people.
- The bylaw enforcement change regarding the ability to ticket cars parking on lawns is coming back.
- In Brian's citywide initiatives, the first citizens' forum on cultural-heritage protection will be held April 20 at 9:30 a.m. to get people involved in protecting historic buildings. An e-mail will be coming out on this shortly.

3.0 Good Student Awards and spring cleanup –

Shelli reported that 27 students were nominated for the Good Student Awards.

She only has two locations for pickup and dropoff; normally she has five locations. Shelli needs area captains for Ainslie Wood North and South. Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.--12:00 noon.

4.0 AGM update – Jay, Ira, and Vinnie met a few weeks ago and have laid out what they feel is a pretty good plan. Jay will continue to work on this in a few weeks' time. We talked about having Marie Louise from the Westdale BIA do a keynote speech. There have been some substantial upgrades in Westdale because of the BIA, and she should be recognized for those efforts. Jay will send her an e-mail formally inviting her to give a 10-15-minute update.

5.0 Plan for non-paid-up members – discussed under Agenda Item 2.0.

6.0 FUN update (Federation of Urban Neighborhoods) – FUN asked member associations to fill out a survey about the Ontario Municipal Board. Vinnie went through it but could not comment as she did not know enough about the inner workings of the OMB. We discussed our membership in FUN. There does not appear to be any type of benefit to us for belonging, so perhaps our money would be better spent somewhere else.

New Business

1.0 Treasurer's report – Barb reported that as of April 8 we had a balance of \$2,898.60 in our ING savings account, including \$2 interest earned during the past month. Our TD chequing balance as of April 8 was \$4,968.97. During the month, we deposited \$40 in membership renewals.

2.0 Police report – The police did a lot more door-to-door proactive policing for St. Patrick's Day. They also got advance notification of keg parties.

3.0 Corresponding secretary's report (Cary)

Feb. 4-March 6: E-mails re St. Paul's application for a variance to permit a McMaster administrative office in their building (Vinnie/the church's project manager)

March 5: To the Committee of Adjustment in support of the above application (Vinnie/Jay)

March 5: To the Committee of Adjustment in support of an application for variance for 151 Cline Ave. South (Vinnie/Jay)

March 6: Sgt. Scott Moreton's letter re Project Trauma Prevention (Cary sent it to members through Mailchimp)

March 7: Reply to above from member Joyce Killin asking police to address car drivers endangering runners on Longwood (Cary forwarded this to Sgt. Moreton)

March 11: E-mail discussion of AWWCA's possible position on the university's interest in buying 151 Sterling to house some activities from Wentworth House, which is to be demolished (Vinnie, Jennifer Kleven, Rob Payne, Ira Kevin, Cary, Brian, Phyllis Tresdder)

Next Meeting

Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson.

Jay adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.