

MINUTES — AWWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, January 6, 2014

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

We did not have quorum for the December meeting. Cary sent out her notes from this meeting, but they weren't formal minutes.

Cary moved and Ira seconded that the November minutes be accepted; this motion passed.

Police Report (A/Sgt. Gino Ciarmoli) --

- There were 20 residential entries. There is still an issue with students leaving their houses unlocked. There was one business entry and five thefts from autos.
- There has been hate graffiti on the Churchill Park clubhouse. The city was very quick at removing it. Gino spoke with Jesse Williamson, recreation development consultant, City of Hamilton, and he suggested having the local high school paint a mural on the wall. Jesse suggested the high school students feel ownership and pride in their completed project, and therefore discourage vandals. This was done at Beasley Park and the Hunter Street overpass and has been successful at reducing the incidence of graffiti.
- This is the time of year people are going on vacation. Do not advertise this information on Facebook. Let your neighbours know you are going away and have someone check on the house if possible. He also suggested letting a neighbour park in your driveway, leaving on a radio, and putting lights on timers.
- The project for cyclists took place the end of October to the end of November and 27 charges were laid. Education was also done during this project.
- Bill Stewart, police superintendent, has retired and Nancy Goodes-Richie has taken over his position.

Councillor's Report – Deferred to next meeting.

Additions to the Agenda

- 4.0 Summary of Prince Philip meeting
- 5.0 Meeting tomorrow at City Hall
- 6.0 What to do with our extra money

1.0 Introduction to the new presidents from the Kirkendall and Strathcona community associations – Deferred as guests did not attend tonight's meeting. (The weather was very bad.)

2.0 Update on Churchill Park clubhouse - Ira

- The new windows have been installed
- The ice rink is up and running
- The board is looking for a name for this building

3.0 Board member positions

- Jay nominated Paul Faure to fill the vacant second VP position. Paul was willing. Kevin moved and Cary seconded this motion; all were in favour.
- Some residents of Ainslie Wood feel there is not enough representation from their area. The problem we have had in the past is finding people from Ainslie Wood to fill positions.

- If there are people from Ainslie Wood who would like to join the board, they will be able to because our bylaws allow for additional members if an area is underrepresented.
- Julianne Burgess is to be voted onto the board now with the understanding she cannot begin this role until the spring.

- 4.0 Discussion of the Prince Phillip meeting - The residents in this area would like the city to purchase Prince Philip School and use the site for a recreation centre. Dalewood Recreation Centre was slated to be rebuilt but this is on hold for lack of funding. There may be an issue at some point with having two recreation centres so close together.
- 5.0 Meeting tomorrow at City Hall – Vinnie, Ira, Paul and Jay will be meeting with Councillor McHattie and some Ainslie Wood residents regarding their belief that the AWWCA is Westdale focused. They feel that our association does not do enough for their area and that we are trying to push students into Ainslie Wood. They also see their area losing everything, recently Prince Phillip, while Westdale gets everything.
- 6.0 How to spend our money – We have a total of \$2,922.89 in our ING saving and \$4,232.99 in our chequing account. We inherited \$3,000 from our predecessor organization that we don't touch, which leaves us about \$4,000 we could put toward special projects even allowing for our standing commitments (FUN, TGAO, website, etc). Cary will let Wesley Urban Ministries know that we are not going to prepare a Sunday dinner. The project to green the grounds of George R. Allan School did not receive AVIVA funding, but the project's organizers will be applying for charitable status and then asking for donations; this will take a while. Mary Louise Pigott said that volunteers may prepare meals for Ronald McDonald House but she wasn't sure; Cary will ask her to check on this.
- 7.0 Contacting our MPP – Ever-increasing university enrolment is a problem in this area. As a follow up to Paul's suggestion that we ask the provincial government to help fund another residence building, Jay suggested that the AWWCA contact our MPP, Ted McMeekin, regarding some of the issues we face. This would be the ideal time to contact him as they are doing working documents now for the next provincial budget. Mr. McMeekin does not live in our riding, and his focus has always been Waterdown. It was suggested we send an e-mail giving him background information about why we would like to meet with him. The message we want to convey is that university enrolment should not increase without taking into account the housing required. Increases in enrolment are resulting in neighbourhoods being destroyed; they are not sustainable and don't provide good, safe housing for students. This needs to be in the government's thought process when they look at increasing enrolment. We need to show Mr. McMeekin the numbers that demonstrate how the increase in enrolment harms the community. It would be ideal for Vinnie to give him a tour of the area. Jay would like to put together a summary with key points before we contact him.

Follow-up Items

- 1.0 Open Streets – Ira reported this will be held on Sunday, May 31, on Sanders Boulevard. Ronald McDonald House will be approached to see if they would like to participate. Mary Koziol from Special Community Initiatives at McMaster will also be approached to see if the university will be doing something collaborative. Open Streets is looking at having vendors, children's programs, and perhaps a stage. Some businesses like Shoppers, Cadbury's, and Fortino's also may be contacted.
- 2.0 Dog park – The Hill Street leash-free dog park is so successful that the ground there is quite chewed up and some say, due to overuse, it smells of urine. The RBG has no interest in having a dog park on their property. It appears that the only place for another leash-free park is the Stroud parkette. Residents in this area are opposed to it, however. Ira hoped that the AWWCA board would support the idea of a dog park in our area, but we agreed that we cannot send a letter of support if the people in the affected area don't support it. Letters of support can be sent by individual board members, but not in the name of the association.

New Business

Treasurer's Report (Steve) -- Discussed under 6.0

Membership Secretary's Report (Kevin) – As of Dec. 31, 2013, there were 343 paid-up members. In addition there are 69 2013 membership expires which are post due. Kevin will send one more reminder to this group.

In response to Cary's question, analysis indicates that 30 per cent are in Ainslie Wood and 70 per cent in Westdale. Kevin didn't have membership broken down into our six areas.

Cary reported that the Mailchimp list is down from 387 to 383 since she last checked. When she looked at who had unsubscribed since then, no names fell within those dates. Jay will have a look at this.

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Cary) – Since our Dec. 9 board meeting:
12/11 and 12/12: E-mail invitation from Brian to Jay to a meeting with AW residents and replies about who will be attending.
12/21: E-mail request by Mary Louise Pigott to remove photo and identifying information from our website and Jay's reply that he had done so.

Committee Reports (PACCR) – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting – Monday, Feb. 3, 7:00 p.m., St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St.