

MINUTES — AWWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, July 15, 2013

Location: St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St.
Present: Ken Moyle, Jay Parlar, Ira Rosen, Barb Mansfield, Paul Faure, Rob Payne, Vinnie Welsh, John Wigle, Lois Freeman
Regrets: Cary Kinsley, Gino Ciarmoli, Shelli Eisenberg, Kevin Russell,
Call to Order: 7:05 p.m. by President Jay Parlar
Recording Secretary: Linda Ellis
Quorum (seven)? Yes
Guests: Councillor Brian McHattie, David Campbell President MSU, Josh Patel, Director SCSN, Spencer Graham, VP Education

Ira moved and Jay seconded that the June minutes be accepted; this motion passed.

David Campbell is now holding the position of McMaster Student President beginning May 1, 2013 until April 20, 2014. One of the services that the MSU provides is the Student Community Support Network which Josh Patel is the Director. Some ideas for facilitating student engagement with the local community are new while others are continuation or expansions of ideas implemented in the past. Some of these ideas include:

- The Change Camp un-conference which was hosted last year by the SCSN Director Erika Richter and her team.
- By-law Awareness: this program has evolved into a campaign called "Party Smart" which encourages students to party safely and respectfully and educates students on by-law standards.
- Increased Community Awareness of SCSN: SCSN is available for residents to contact with by-law violations and this year the aim is to increase awareness of this service to the community.
- Discover Your City campaign: to improve city outreach and promote local businesses
- Volunteer Recruitment: MSU assists in student volunteers for such programs as Resident Buddy and Snow Angels.
- Good Neighbour Campaign: to promote and recognize positive community involvement from students.

It was mentioned that last year Jennifer Kleven from Off-campus housing called the landlords to let them know there was a party at the house they own and asked them to intervene.

Police Report

An e-mail report from Sergeant Gino Ciarmoli is as follows: I can tell you that things have progressing well and there have been no major issues over the last couple of months. Just to give you some crime stats over the past 2 months, there have been 7 residential entries, 2 garage entries and 4 thefts from autos. If you remind the neighbourhood that when they park their cars at night do not have electronics, money, GPS units, etc lying in plain sight. That's been the continued trend and autos continue to get broken into.

I will also forward you a flyer which indicates a service available to the community to have safety audits done by our volunteers. If you can pass these out also, it can be of great assistance to many.

Councillor's Report

Prince Philip is closing and G.R. Allan School will be taking on these students. There is a site plan of how G.R. Allan will be changing and this is currently being reviewed by the City. Brian will be asking for a public meeting to be held so everyone can have an opportunity to see what is being suggested. It appears construction will be done over next summer in 2014 and students will move in September 2014 however Brian cannot confirm exact dates at this time.

Brian has received call from developers interested in building purpose built student housing.

Brian met with President Dean about where we are at with the challenges we have in the neighbourhood. It appears that the University is unlikely to grow from an undergrad perspective. It was suggested that Dr. Dean go public with this and have a discussion with the community so if the Province does ask McMaster to grow, then the residence can help from a balanced neighbourhood perspective. Dr. Dean said he would think about this.

There is a plan to build another student residence on campus however Brian was not given any details of where this would be built or when.

Brian had mentioned briefly about the Balanced Neighbourhood Sub- committee of PACCR. It might be useful for McMaster to play a role in the Ainslie Wood east and Emerson Street area. There is a Balanced Neighborhood meeting scheduled for this Wednesday.

Churchill Park Lawn Bowling building - there is a community group of citizens looking to take over managing this building and this group would be responsible for renting the building instead of having to go through the city.

There is interest by Anshe Shalom of building an outdoor labyrinth. A public meeting will be held to share this suggestion.

Cathedral Park behind Fortinos for leash free park and skateboard park – City staff felt vehicle traffic is dangerous having to make a sharp left turn off King Street and they want to revisit the traffic issues. Brian is hoping to get this one back on track.

Agenda Items

1.0 City of Hamilton not enforcing zoning – Healthy Balanced Community Discussion: Control through Planning information was distributed to committee members. Statistics from 2002 to 2013 showed student population homes. In 2002 there were 24% student houses whereas today there is a 48% population. There needs to be a planning process with the city and the university. The city has always said they cannot do anything about zoning and rental houses however in 2008 in Oshawa there was a court decision proving that something can be done with zoning. People in Oshawa were buying single family homes and then changing them by adding a number of bedrooms and this is against zoning which is very similar to our situation. An example of this is the house that is next to Rob that has been turned into a 9 bedroom student home yet the city claims it is not a lodging house. The city should be enforcing zoning and they are not doing this. The lodging home fire rules state 5 bedrooms are allowed however a lot of these student houses have more than 5 bedrooms. We need to engage the university and the city to be involved in long-term planning for a balanced neighbourhood. Rob has gone to see a lawyer, and the lawyer stated the city is not upholding zoning. The lawyer did tell Rob that if you have a lodging home (improper use of the home beside you) and something happens to that house which causes damage to your property then the city can be sued. The Hamilton city lawyer said Oshawa was a unique case however we are stating that the general principal is still the same. As Oshawa has now set a precedent, gathering of evidence for illegal rental property is easy. After a lot of discussion it was suggested that the city lawyer speak to some members from this group. We don't want to happen here in the Ainslie Wood/Westdale area that is happening around Mohawk College where there is a large amount of student houses that are not being rented by students so rooms are being rented by non-students either by the hour or by the week. We are now starting to see non students renting rooms in a student house and this is very concerning.

Moving forward a meeting will be scheduled with the city lawyer and a few members from this committee. A second meeting with the MSU will be held as a follow up. AWWCA to send a letter to City Legal and Planning giving a list of target houses in our community stating these houses are not following zoning and the city will be responsible for any damages caused to a surrounding home.

2.0 OMB representative at hearing starting October 16th on Ewen Road - Vinnie may not be able to attend this hearing however Ken Moyle stated he probably would be able to attend in her absence. Vinnie will go over all information with Ken prior to this hearing.

Follow-up Items

1.0 AGM update – we need to put together a list of members that we don't have e-mail addresses for so we can stuff envelopes and send the information to them (there are a total of 60 people). A question regarding family memberships and who can vote when there are more than 2 names listed? The answer is anyone over 18 can vote.

Jay contacted Gord and the university would be happy to attend the AGM. Patrick Dean wants to do community engagement but we still don't have final decision on what the other sessions will be. Marie Louise will be the key note speaker. The police will be doing a presentation but it needs to be very specific as we don't want long presentations. It was suggested they do a presentation about break and enter. Jay to speak with Judith Bishop to see if someone from the school board will come out to speak possibly to address the G.R. Allan/Prince Philip move. We need to get a list of names for the official invitations for this meeting. The list should include Brian, Gord, Dr. Deane, Marie Louise.

For the AGM:

In the past we have had 3 tables and these tables will be manned by Carry, Shelli and Linda.

We will also have iPhone/ipad to take credit cards for membership payment.

Voting list and paid members – Kevin

Water and ice – using kitchen – Ira to see if we will require cups for water. Ira and Jay to go to the Temple to see what they have and what we will need to supply.

Need a list of churches/temple for posting notices. Ken Moyle to send a list of churches to Jay.

Nomination process – we can do it at the September meeting. Barb will look to see if she has the nomination forms. Jay to send Barb an e-mail reminding her to do this. According to the bylaws, Kevin has to call a vote.

Permission to put up AWWCA sign on Temple lawn – Ira to ask.

Breakout session leaders – Jay to do McMaster,

60 envelopes – Jay to ask Kevin

2.0 Brochure distribution – Linda distributed brochures in her area and Shelli did every street south of King Street.

New Business

Treasurer's Report (Barb) - As of July 15 there was a balance of \$2,903 in our ING savings account, including \$1.00 interest earned during the past month. Our TD chequing balance as of July 15 is \$4,421.22

During the month, we deposited \$145 in membership renewals and the following cheque was issued:

Jay Parlar - \$60.36 (Dreamhost Web Hosting for IP address & SSL Certs)

Membership Secretary's Report (Kevin) – Nothing new to report.

Corresponding Secretary's report – (Cary) The only correspondence I'm aware of since the last board meeting was our letter to Glyn Wide June 14 on the occasion of his retirement and his thank you e-mail of June 17 saying that Acting Manager Kim Coombs would do her utmost to enforce the bylaws.

Committee Reports

PACCR – Nothing new to report.

Next Meeting

Will be held on Monday, September 9, 2013.