

MINUTES — AWWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, June 2, 2014

Location: St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St.
Present: John Coakley, Mark Coakley, Paul Faure, Lois Freeman, Cary Kinsley, Steve Metham, Jay Parlar, Ira Rosen, Kevin Russell
Non-board Members: Tordis Coakley, Ed Sculthorpe
Regrets: Terri Bocz, Julianne Burgess, Shelli Eisenberg, Councillor Brian McHattie, Ken Moyle, John Wigle
Guests: Jen Baker, Dale Brown, A/Sgt. Gino Ciarmoli, Mara McHaffie, Vinnie Welsh, Kristen West
Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. by President Jay Parlar
Recording Secretary: Linda Ellis
Quorum (Nine)? Yes

Approval of Minutes – Kevin moved and John seconded that the May minutes be accepted: the motion passed.

Police Report (A/Sgt. Gino Ciarmoli) –

Theft from Autos – 7 (5 were unlocked and all had valuables in plain view).

Break and Enters – 6 (1 commercial entry; unlocked student houses; 3 residential, one of which appeared to have been targeted, 1 door was left unlocked, and 1 was broken into).

No reported graffiti. A reminder that citizens are encouraged to call 911 to report incidents of graffiti in progress. All other graffiti can be reported by calling the City of Hamilton Contact Centre at 905-546-2489. The city refers incidents of graffiti involving hate crime, political activism, or gang messaging to the police. Citizens also can contact Crime Stoppers at 905-522-TIPS to report information on graffiti vandals.

The topic of sex offenders living in the AWW area was discussed. The sex-offender registry is operated and maintained by the OPP, and the Hamilton Police Service has an officer dedicated to this area. Gino informed the board that when sexual offenders are released, they are required to report to a local police station once a year and provide a current address. He reassured the board that the number of sex offenders in the OPP database is cumulative. Vinnie had read a newspaper article stating there were approximately 240 offenders in our area, but Gino said this is the total number from when the database began in 2001.

In 2008 there were eight names in AWW, and in 2014 there were 19 names in AWW. Some board members wondered if the increase was significant.

The board was concerned about cheap, unsupervised housing in AWW in proximity to downtown and whether sex offenders may be sharing accommodations with students. This also could apply to the area around Mohawk College, where landlords are having difficulty filling vacancies in student rental homes. Gino stated that if there are sex offenders living in AWW, they have restrictions about the people they can live with. He offered to check with the HPS officer assigned to the sex-offender database to see if there is a possibility that a sex offender could be sharing a house with a student. Gino also will inquire if there is a trend in other cities for sex offenders to take up residence in college or university areas. Also, what is the incidence of re-offences by registered offenders?

There was a public meeting regarding Prince Philip School and the movement to have it converted to a full-service, all-ages community recreation center. One area resident who attended the meeting felt there was very little police presence, no police station, and hardly any patrol cars in AWW. Gino stated that if there was a 911 call, HPS officers would be dispatched from downtown, but that there were officers specifically assigned to the AWW area. There are typically two officers in patrol cars in AWW at all times.

There will be a pre-season Ticat game on campus June 14. McMaster is hiring paid-duty officers to work from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Councillor's Report – Dale attended tonight's meeting on behalf of Brian. Dale was asked to check Brian's calendar to see if he is scheduled to attend a Prince Philip meeting on June 11 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will address setting up a steering committee.

Additions to the Agenda - None

Agenda Items -

- 1.0 1100 Main St. West (Kristen West) – Kristen distributed copies of preliminary plans to convert the existing building into an 11-unit student rental with three or four bedrooms per unit. The single-family dwelling beside it is owned by the same developer. Parking will be provided for seven units, and there will be a bicycle lockup area. The developer is applying for rezoning, as the site is currently zoned commercial. The existing building will look the same on the exterior as it currently does; renovations will be internal only. No public meeting has been scheduled at this point. Vinnie stated that we are not opposed to purpose-built student housing in this area, but our biggest concern is the number of bedrooms. We want developers to build a complex that anyone could live in. Typically a four-bedroom apartment would not attract many renters other than students. Our preference would be one, two, or three bedrooms. Down the road if the student housing model changes, the building could easily be converted so anyone could live there. We would prefer to see more units with fewer bedrooms.
- 2.0 Hamilton Naturalists' Club (Jen Baker) – Mara is the lead for the project Trees Count 2014, which is an urban-forest inventory. The last inventory of public and private trees in Westdale South was in 2003 by the Westdale Tree Committee under the auspices of Environment Hamilton, using the same protocol as this survey. The data were collected and analyzed at University of Toronto. This will be a reinventory of Environment Hamilton's results. Beginning next week the Hamilton Naturalists' Club will be starting the inventory and will require volunteers. Two Trees Count 2014 volunteer orientation sessions will be held, the first this Thursday, June 5, and another on Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in front of the Churchill Park clubhouse on Cline Avenue North. The orientation will cover some background on the project, scheduling and data collection, and training in the Neighbourhoods Protocol. High school students can take part for volunteer hours. For more information and a map of the area to be studied: treescount.blogspot.ca, www.facebook.com/TreesCount2014, twitter.com/TreesCount, or 905-524-3339.
- 3.0 Meeting with the City about Illegal Student Housing (Vinnie) – Vinnie, former AWWCA president Rob Payne, and Councillor McHattie met today with Jason Thorne (the city's new director of economic development and planning), Marty Hazell (municipal law enforcement), and Chris Murray (city manager) regarding how the AWWCA can work with the city to enforce zoning. The city lawyers think they cannot win if they prosecute 4 Forsyth Ave. North as an illegal lodging house; however, we did get an agreement that Chris would speak to the city solicitor and lawyer about why they feel that is the case. Chris was not aware that our rental percentage had increased from 18 to 41 per cent. The poor quality of housing for students is a serious issue; we need a strategy, and the city needs to help us. Brian had engaged separate planning resources and reports that were delivered to the planning department but nothing has happened. Chris was concerned that there had been no action from the city planning department. He also understood Rob's point that it would be a shame if the city knew there was a problem and failed to act about the trend in rental properties. Rob and Vinnie had suggested to Chris that we could be heading toward another code red area unless there is a strategy to address the issues. He indicated that, at the very least, we were owed a response from the city. The new proactive bylaw-enforcement team begins next Monday, and Vinnie thinks someone will be assigned to our area. Vinnie has given MLE a list of 88 houses with eight or more bedrooms.
- 4.0 Town and Gown Report (Ira) – Ira reported on some of the keynote speakers. One of them talked about student mental health and alcohol abuse and the very high rate of the student population that tries to commit or commits suicide. Property management Domus did a very interesting presentation. They have a big presence in Waterloo and have embraced the university's needs. There is a lot of purpose-built student housing under construction in downtown Waterloo.

Follow-up Items –

- 1.0 AGM (Jay)
 - Jay put in the application to book the school and will follow up with them tomorrow.
 - Jay needs to speak to the principal about audiovisual equipment and the use of the stage.
 - Jay noticed that the cost to rent the venue will be \$10 and not \$200, so he went ahead and booked it.
 - Jay has contacted Leah (Kirkendall) and Jonathan (Strathcona) but has not heard back from them yet.
 - New Rules for Not-for-Profits and AWWCA Bylaw Review Prior to AGM (Kevin) - The legal status is mute. It was approved by the legislature, but the Lieutenant Governor never signed it, so an act that dates to 2010 technically has never been served as the law. The act is 103 pages long. Kevin would like to see the original letter of patent, which Jay has.
- 2.0 Prince Philip subcommittee (Mark/Ira) –
 - Brian McHattie and the four candidates for Ward 1 councillor attended along with people from the community.
 - Mark has a letter from Ted McMeekin expressing support for the project.
 - Ed Schulthorpe will be facilitating the next meeting.

- Judith Bishop indicated to Ira that the maintenance cost on the lower side would be approximately \$200,000 per year.
- This facility needs to be revenue neutral from the beginning. The steering committee can then look at renting out the space to other organizations and outreach initiatives to bring in other programs.
- Ira suggested we have someone from the Churchill Park clubhouse attend our next meeting to find out how their operating model works. Ira will contact Jesse.

3.0 SASH (Senior Activities in Southwest Hamilton) (Ira) –

- The date for the Tea and Information Fair has been moved to June 19 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Victoria Park to honour seniors in our community and to offer them access to activities for health and wellness. Bad weather location: Zion United Church, 69 Pearl St. North.
- A table will be set up on behalf of the AWWCA; John volunteered to sit at this table.

4.0 Churchill Park Clubhouse (Ira) –

- There is a board meeting on June 10.
- The police will be installing hidden cameras on the outside perimeter

New Business

1.0 1487 Main St. West Meeting (Vinnie) – Nothing new to report. The developers were told that 12 storeys was too high.

2.0 17 Ewen Rd. Update (Vinnie) – The board voted in favour of a letter Vinnie wrote to Councillor McHattie. It will be sent June 3.

3.0 YWCA's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on June 19 (Ira) –

- The question was asked if we had criteria for choosing groups to support. We do not have any specific criteria, but we try to keep it to events or groups in AWW.
- The board agreed to publicize this event to members but not to donate money.

Treasurer's Report (Steve) – report to follow.

ING balance: \$.

TD activity: Opening balance: \$.

Membership Secretary's Report (Kevin) -

As of May 31 there were 346 paid-up members. No new members joined over the last month.

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Cary) –

2014.5.11-27: Series of e-mails regarding food waste in the alley behind the Bean Bar, started by a complaint from Marilyn Gear Pilling to Cary in response to one of our weekly e-mails; Cary forwarded the complaint to Nikola Wojewoda-Patti in Brian McHattie's office; she sent it to Pat Tompkins, coordinator, Municipal Law Enforcement; handled by Jason Manning, District North Roads Supervisor, Public Works Dept.; thanks to all from Marilyn. We have to monitor the alley ourselves, as it is not one of the city's "assumed" alleys.

Committee Reports –

- PACCR has not met.
- TGAO - Ira has volunteered to be on the board so Jay's name can be removed from committee reports.
- Police Liaison – report to follow.
- PBAC – voting is now closed.

Next Meeting – Monday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m., St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St. The first meeting in the fall will be Monday, Sept. 8.