

MINUTES — AWWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2014

Location: St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St.
Present: Terri Bocz, John Coakley, Mark Coakley, Shelli Eisenberg, Lois Freeman, Cary Kinsley, Steve Metham, Ken Moyle, Jay Parlar, Ira Rosen
Non-board Members: Ed Sculthrope
Regrets: Councillor Brian McHattie, Paul Faure, Kevin Russell, John Wigle
Guests: Vinnie Welsh; Duane Dahl, assistant executive director, Boys and Girls Club Hamilton; Leah Fuller, president, and John Romano, vice president, Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association; Jonathan Therien, president, Strathcona Community Council
Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. by President Jay Parlar
Recording Secretary: Linda Ellis
Quorum (Seven)? Yes

Cary moved and Terri seconded that the February minutes be accepted; this motion passed.

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

- Three residential entries.
- Two mischiefs to vehicles which included a break-in.
- One stolen truck.
- One mischief to property which encompassed graffiti.
- Thieves are monitoring obituaries and breaking into homes while families are at visitations or funerals. Gino recommends asking neighbours to keep an eye on your house.
- Gino will be meeting with Councillor McHattie this week regarding the lighting along the rail trail to increase the amount of time the lighting is on.
- An operation plan is in place for St. Patrick's Day. There will be the same type of police presence as last year. The Snooty Fox patio extension was approved for St. Patrick's Day. McMaster has hired Mac 91/92 for Friday, Saturday, and Monday the 17th.

Councillor's Report – Deferred to next meeting.

Additions to the Agenda

- 3.0 Town and Gown Association of Ontario
- 4.0 Good Student Awards and Neighbourhood Clean-up

Agenda Items:

- 1.0 Hamilton Boys and Girls Club event update – Duane Dahl provided information about programs and services. The fundraising event Race for Kids is happening on Saturday, May 31, and will be held in Hamilton's west end. This one-day event is similar to the television show The Amazing Race. Some local businesses have already come on board either as a checkpoint or as sponsors of prizes. Contact Duane if you know of a location or a sponsor who might be interested in this event. Information for this can be found at <http://raceforkids.ca/>
- 2.0 Strathcona and Kirkendall – Jonathan Therien was elected in October as the new president of the Strathcona Community Council. He believes that having community groups interact gives strength to get things done. A group that began as SASH (Seniors Activities in Southwest Hamilton) uses the Ryerson Community Centre, but a lot of people are coming into their group from other neighbourhoods. There was a meeting organized by the Hamilton Council on Aging, which did a project called What About Us. It assessed how older adults get around the city and the services they need. This assessment showed that services are lacking and recreation facilities are needed. The South West Hamilton Seniors Planning Committee has been formed and is being led by Mary Lou Reiman and others from the Strathcona and Durand neighbourhoods. Jonathan would like someone from this area to sit on this committee.

Leah mentioned that the Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association is having its annual Fill a Bus food drive on May 3. At the end of May they are also having a compost sale where they will be selling manure from mushroom farms.

The Oct. 27 municipal election was also discussed. As our annual general meeting is held in September, it was tentatively decided that the Ainslie Wood/Westdale, Kirkendall, and Strathcona associations would hold one all-candidates' meeting. The proposed dates are Monday, September 29, or Monday, September 22. Ira will follow up with Adas Israel to see if their main sanctuary or the auditorium is available.

3.0 Leland letter – Vinnie had drafted a letter and sent it out to the board for review. Do we support the developer's plan to move forward, noting that we are not necessarily in support of more development? Mark stated he cannot support the development; however, he does praise the developer for coming here and showing some flexibility. Mark would like to reach out to the community to explain that the zoning change happened 10 years ago and explain the situation more clearly to the residents of that area. Since an e-mail would only reach our members, Mark suggested we poll people door to door to see if the community supports bachelor- and two-bedroom units versus the 25 four- or five-bedroom suites, or 124 units, permitted by the existing zoning. If the city does not grant the zoning change he can either build four- or five-bedroom suites, sell the property, or appeal the zoning to the Ontario Municipal board. Should we support the developer's plan versus the alternative? It was suggested that we wait until Vinnie has confirmation from the city planner of the actual number of units approved and then put something together that we can send out to our members, as well as a small handout that emphasizes the key points, noting that this is something that is going to happen and these are our alternatives. Ira offered to help Mark go door to door with the handouts.

4.0 AGM – This was discussed under 2.0

5.0 Discussion about having block representatives – The MSU indicated that students living in the community don't feel comfortable going to neighbours' homes to ask for help for such things as borrowing a shovel or a lawn mower. We used to have block reps who put signs in their windows stating they were reps and the students felt comfortable going to those homes. Block reps used to deliver newsletters to members, distribute AGM notices to every house, and update our list of rental properties. It was felt that there may be value to reviving this system. It was suggested that we could include a note in the student welcome bags with the names and addresses of block reps.

6.0 Donation to the school grounds redesign at George R. Allan School — Before this board meeting, the AWWCA received a letter from the Outdoor Space Committee asking for a donation toward landscaping plans to avoid much of the grounds being paved over as the school is enlarged. The city and HWDSB require an official design by a landscape architect with a deadline of April 30; the cost will be \$12,000-\$15,000. The Home and School Association will be providing the bulk of the money but the committee is \$2,500-\$3,000 short. Vinnie suggested supporting the Outdoor Space Committee to make the larger consolidated school more inviting to the students. Mark argued that donating to the playground design would favour Westdale over Ainslie Wood, rub salt into the wound left by the closure of Prince Philip, be like reverse Robin Hood, and would damage relations between the two communities. He said that he planned to send his kids to a private school, that one of our guests from the previous board meeting would be sending her kids to Catholic school, and some parents would be homeschooling theirs. Jay pointed out that the new playground would be regularly used by students from both areas. Shelli said that the Prince Philip students who would be homeschooled or attend private or Catholic school instead of going to Cootes Paradise School would be in the minority, that the largest percentage would attend Cootes and would benefit from the playground. Steve, who sits on the participatory budget committee, mentioned that Westdale residents on the committee had strongly and successfully argued in favour of significant investment being made to benefit families in Ainslie Wood. Among other AW-based projects, \$25,000 was being spent on a splash pad at Alexander Park, and \$300,000 was being put aside for the city's potential purchase of Prince Philip School. Vinnie, who is on the Transition Committee, described the positive and productive attitude that has developed as parents and representatives from both areas continue to work together on planning the merger and future of the two schools. Shelli moved and Terri seconded the motion that the board donate \$3,000 toward the landscape design. For the motion: T. Bocz, S. Eisenberg, L. Ellis, L. Freeman, C. Kinsley, S. Metham, K. Moyle, J. Parlar, I.

Rosen. Opposed: M. Coakely. Abstained: J. Coakley. Vinnie is to contact John Atkinson, head of the Outdoor Space Committee, and will prepare correspondence to our members about the plan.

- 7.0 Use of our rental database for a bylaw letter – Vinnie met with James Buffett, the city’s new bylaw supervisor, about long grass and weeds. Vinnie suggested they do a proactive project with inspectors going to every street and tagging houses that are in violation of property standards. He stated they would probably do this but would not agree to it right then. They are still recruiting the proactive staff. He suggested that in addition a letter be sent to the property owners reminding them of their responsibilities. The general consensus from our board was that this letter be sent to all homeowners, as some permanent residents need to be reminded of property standards.

Follow-up Items

1.0 Open Streets (Sunday, May 31) - Ira

- The funding did not come through for this. McMaster is willing to help, but they want to do it when the students are here, so late spring would not work for them. Ira requested that we hold onto our donation for the time being.

2.0 Churchill Park clubhouse – Ira

- Everyone is welcome to attend the board meeting tomorrow.
- The building has been hit with more graffiti.
- Trace amounts of asbestos were found when the windows were being replaced.
- The board is looking into collaborating with other organizations.

3.0 Town and Gown – Jay/Vinnie

- This year’s symposium will be held in Waterloo on May 12-14. The cost to attend the entire meeting is \$250. As our new board members declined attending, Ira stated he would be interested in going.

4.0 Good Student Awards and spring cleanup – Shelli

- The annual Good Student Awards will be held March 24 at the McMaster Student Centre; 15 names have been submitted.
- The neighbourhood cleanup will take place May 3, and co-ordinators are needed in the various areas.

New Business

- 1.0 Difficulty identifying addresses for advertised rental properties – Terri said there are ads on the websites that do not list the addresses of the student rental houses. She started following up by e-mailing landlords and asking for the address. Having addresses helps to keep our rental housing spreadsheet more accurate. It is very difficult and time consuming to do it this way. Terri would like to be able to call or text-message the landlords but does not want to use her personal phone number. Jay said that the association has a phone number and through the same system he can set it up so that Terri can use her own phone but her number will not appear. Terri is to send Jay an e-mail to remind him.

- 2.0 Property-standards complaint instructions handout – Terri discussed ways for people to file property-standards complaints easily. She uses her phone to take a photo of the property, indicates its address and the date in the subject line, and e-mails it to the city’s property-standards department. We discussed the best way to distribute information about how to file a complaint. One suggestion was to put the information on a large sticky note and put it on front doors. The problem is that if residents are away the notice would not get picked up and this would indicate that no one is home. Fridge magnets would be another option but are expensive. Terri also found microfiber cloths for computer screens, but they are also pricey. Also, after the election the contact information may be changing. In the meantime, we could e-mail our members the current instructions on how to report property-standards violations.

- 3.0 Update on 39 Broadway’s zoning-change application – Vinnie stated the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Secondary Plan was to have most of the development happen along Main Street West. This has not been successful mainly because the lots are too small. Through McMaster’s President’s Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR), we started talking about a balanced neighbourhood and the areas that are 85 per cent student rental houses. Councillor McHattie hired a planning

consultant who used our data to prepare a report for Ainslie Wood East. Property standards were worst in areas with the most rentals. It was suggested that we look at possibly rezoning a small area to allow intensification in specific areas of Ainslie Wood East where housing stock is not great. This would be a huge public process, however. Tyler Ross from Scholar Properties approached the city a few weeks ago, as they want to turn one of their rental properties, 39 Broadway, into a legal duplex. They own seven properties closer to downtown and about eight properties in Ainslie Wood and Westdale, including the two properties directly behind 39 Broadway. Main Street West to Sussex may be a candidate for rezoning. Vinnie said that she did not like one-offs and prefers finding out what the community wants as a long-term plan. Mr. Ross is going to go ahead and apply for a zoning change to build a duplex.

- 4.0 Additional board member to accompany Mark to visit Eva Rothwell Recreation Centre – Councillor McHattie has invited Mark to visit the Eva Rothwell Rec Centre with him, and Mark invited anyone from the board to go with him. Vinnie volunteered. This is a community-based recreation centre, and Vinnie thinks that Councillor McHattie is thinking of this model because there is not a lot of city funding available for recreation centres. Duane said that he is familiar with this model and sustainability can be an issue. It was suggested that partnerships be involved, such as Boy Scouts or child care, to help with finances.

Treasurer's report (Steve)

The TD balance as of March 1 was \$4,202.80. The only activity was the TD monthly service fee of \$4.95. We earned \$2.39 interest in our ING account, bringing the balance to \$2,925.28

Membership secretary's report (Kevin)

Kevin sent his regrets. There is nothing to add at this time.

Corresponding secretary's report (Cary)

You all received the weekly notices to members that I sent via Mailchimp, including Shelli's letter requesting nominations for the Good Student Awards.

Vinnie forwarded to us the revised floor plans for 71-77 Leland that she received Feb. 18.

Vinnie drafted a letter (signed by Jay and sent Feb. 18) to the Committee of Adjustment in support of the owners' application regarding 170 Longwood Rd. North.

2014.2.25 – We received a request for a donation for grounds redesign at George R. Allan School.

Committee Reports

PACCR –

88 Forsyth: the senior leadership team at McMaster is considering what to do with this property.

Wilson Hall construction: digging is about to begin.

The MSU suggested they would lend additional support for light-rail transit.

City staff recommended to the city's planning committee that an advisory committee be formed to deal with rental issues. The MSU has asked to sit on this committee, and we should also sit on this.

McMaster's enrollment target again is not to increase the number of undergraduates next year.

Police Liaison – Ken stated there is a new superintendent, Nancy Goodes-Richie, and a new inspector, Glenn Bullock. Both are internal appointments.

Thefts from autos are down in this area.

There was hate-crime graffiti at the Churchill Park clubhouse.

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