

MINUTES — AWWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, October 7, 2013

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: Brian McHattie, Ken Moyle, John Wigle
Call to Order: 7:05 p.m. by President Jay Parlar
Recording Secretary: Linda Ellis
Quorum (seven)? Yes
Guests: Gino Ciarmoli (West Town crime manager), Jesse Williamson (recreation development consultant, City of Hamilton)

Ira moved and Kevin seconded that the September 9th minutes be accepted; this motion passed.

Police Report – A/Sgt. Gino Ciarmoli reported on the following:

- The biggest issue in this area is residential entries as students are not locking their doors. A safety bulletin from McMaster went out to students to warn them of the break-ins and remind them to lock their doors.
- There were noise issues during Homecoming weekend. There were additional officers on duty along with Mac 91/92. A hotlist of problem houses is maintained so anyone that knows of a problem house that needs to be added to the list can contact Gino; he also sends the information to McMaster. His e-mail address is gciarmoli@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
- If the police have to return twice to a house due to recurring complaints, the landlord is billed. This is a way to get the landlord involved. The city's new superintendent for municipal law enforcement who wants to take this route of giving fines as a way to curb this problem as much as we can. The Student Community Support Network run through the McMaster Student Union has also been effective.
- There will be another educational phase for cyclists who are not abiding by the rules of the road. After the 2 week educational phase, cyclists will be fined. Gino will let us and McMaster know when this project will begin. It was suggested that something go into the McMaster newspaper about this project to educate the cyclists. Gino met with Ken Moyle who suggested handing out small lights to the cyclist to put on their bikes as many bikes do not have lights. Ken had mentioned that this committee may have some money to put towards the purchase of these lights that can be handed to cyclists during one of these projects. It was mentioned that there is a big problem with students riding their bikes on the sidewalks and going the wrong way on a one-way street around the Dalewood School area.
- Vehicle break-ins are still continuing. People are leaving valuables in plain sight.
- MLE has a bylaw officer in the west end on Sunday evenings to enforce its scavenging bylaw, as recyclables belong to the city.

Councillor's Report – Deferred to next meeting.

Agenda Items

1.0 Update Churchill Park Lawn Bowling Club House – Jesse Williamson's direct role in the city is recreation. Jesse was approached in February by Councillor McHattie to find out how we could better utilize this building as it was having very low usage. There was a public meeting held in May to clarify that the city will pay for the utilities and maintain the building but someone is needed to operate the facility. The criteria have to be based around recreation and not for profit. We have been working on engaging community members and over the summer the terms of reference were developed. The first annual general meeting will be held on October 28 at 7:30 p.m. and a Board will be elected. We are looking for any community members who like to plan events or have a special skill to teach someone. In 2010 this facility had 4 rentals in the building and revenue was approximately \$100. This year, up until now, the revenue is up to \$5,000. Last year it was \$2,400 so we have already doubled this. Information for rentals is on the city website or if you need assistance you can contact Jesse directly at his email address: Jesse.Williamson@hamilton.ca

2.0 Board Member Positions – with Vinnie retiring from the board there are duties that need to be taken over. Some of these roles include:

- By-law issues
- Police Liaison – the superintendent said they would like to have a new person take this on every couple of years. Ken Moyle has been doing this and Jay would like him to continue although his term is up. Jay to speak to Ken about this.
- Town & Gown Association of Ontario
- President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR) – Jay is taking over as Co-chair. Paul Faure volunteered to sit on this committee also.
- FUN (Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods)
- Committee of Adjustment
- The second vice-president position is available, but there is no rush to fill it.

Jay to follow up with Vinnie to get more information on the positions to be filled.

3.0 Market Focus Group – On September 10, 2013 Lois represented the AWWCA at a focus group which was held by the City of Hamilton. Representatives from Stoney Creek, other neighbourhood associations and social service agencies also attended.

Research Question: The person representing the City was unable to identify a specific purpose for the research project. He said there was a sense that both vendors and shoppers were dissatisfied with the changes made to the market

Methodology: Focus groups were held with vendors, social service agencies, neighbourhood associations and new immigrants. Qualitative analysis of notes taken during the focus groups will be done to identify themes.

Results

During the focus group I attended people felt that

- Food sold at the market should be locally sourced when possible.
- Free short term parking should be reintroduced
- Non-food products should be kept to a minimum
- The Farmers Market should have a site in Stoney Creek.
- Looking at how other markets are managed and types of vendors would be helpful.

Follow-up Items

1.0 AGM debrief – The meeting went well however attendance was low. We need to try to get the community at large re-engaged. How do we go about doing this? Perhaps a one page newsletter could be resurrected and distributed to permanent residents in this area. Terri said she might be willing to do this.

Jay talked about using Squarespace.com to create our website; this would entail moving information being moved from our old site onto the new site. Jay is not sure how many hours would be involved for someone to do this.

Jay suggested inviting Brad Clark to one of our meetings or perhaps taking him on a tour of the neighbourhood to give him insight into the rental housing issues in our area.

New Business

1.0 AWWCA Mission - There was some discussion about the mission of the AWWCA and whether there was awareness of the AWWCA's value as a source of information for such things as bylaw enforcement and other services (advocacy) . We need to generate awareness in the absence of a newsletter.

Treasurer's Report (Steve): As of October 7 there was a balance of \$2,914 in our ING savings account, including \$2.39 interest earned during the past month. Our TD chequing balance as of October 7 was \$4,400

During the month, we deposited \$425 in membership renewals collected at the AGM and issued the following cheques for the AGM: Temple Anshe Shalom - \$125 (use of the facilities), John Wigle - \$129.60 (insurance).

Membership Secretary's Report (Kevin) – As of noon October 7 the AWWCA had 310 paid up members and 22 friends. A further 299 members had overdue memberships. Six new members joined the association at the Annual Meeting. One member was removed from membership at member's request.

Corresponding Secretary's report – (Cary)

Mailchimp has 387 e-mail addresses receiving our weekly e-mails.

9/14 Letter to planning committee re rental licensing drafted by Vinnie, signed by Jay

9/15 & 9/16 Copies of e-mails sent by 4 of our members to the planning committee; Vinnie said there were 26 posted on the website with the committee's agenda for 9/17 (despite our only giving members one day's notice in the weekly e-mail)

9/26 E-mail from member Cam Nolan (a real-estate agent) objecting to our position on rental licensing

9/26 Follow up letter to city solicitor from Vinnie and Rob after their meeting on 9/25

9/27 E-mail from city solicitor

Committee Reports (PACCR) – nothing to report.

Next Meeting – Next meeting is November 4 at 7:00 p.m. at St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St.