

AINSLIE WOOD/WESTDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENT HOMEOWNERS INC. MINUTES OF THE 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Location: Adas Israel Synagogue

Recording Secretary: Jay Parlar

Board Members Present: Jay Parlar, Ira Rosen, Ken Moyle , Kevin Russell, Carolyn Kinsley, Shelly Eisenberg

Presentations from McMaster University

SCSN (Student Community Support Network)

- Connects students to the Hamilton community
- Hosting a community cleanup after homecoming
- Run weekly and monthly trips into the Hamilton community, get them out of the "McMaster bubble"
- Peer to peer program. Students speaking to students, getting them to comply with bylaws. They proactively look for infractions, and knock on the door to let them know. Try to do it before ByLaw or Police have to be involved
- This year beginning "in house checks", to help students know what is and isn't safe with regards to existing house stock
- Hoping to increase student presence at AWWCA meetings
- Encouraging residents to contact at scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca with bylaw issues

Gord Arbeau (McMaster Director, Communications)

- Greetings from Patrick Deane (had a conflict this evening) and Mary Williams
- Describing role and membership of PACCR (President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations)
- Ira will be taking over as co-chair of PACCR
- McMaster realizes their role in making this a unique community. Understands the benefits of challenges of a university in the middle of neighbourhood
- LRT
 - McMaster working with the city and metrolinx for nine years
 - Surveys of students and faculty and staff have been done over the years
 - Goal of the university is to make public transit better
 - Proposing two options for the university's LRT platform. Either in middle of Main Street, east of cootes, or on north shoulder of main, east of cootes
 - 450 buses through campus each day
 - Goal is to make centre of campus pedestrian priority. Part of this plan would be to jointly build a transit hub at main and cootes. Giving a real transit centre to serve McMaster, both HSR and GO buses. With easy transition from buses to LRT
 - Need for major storage and maintenance facility for the trains. Piece of land at Andersen and longwood might involve university selling that land to metrolinx
- Student housing
 - McMaster does not have enough on campus student residence to accommodate demand. Not enough spots for first year students who want to stay on campus
 - Ground soon breaking on 500 bed residence where the tennis courts used to be
 - Unique building, combined with McMaster childcare centre, and teaching and learning spaces
 - Still not enough to meet current demand. Green area on Main St. owned by university, parallel to Traymore. Been approached by the developer who owns the traymore houses. Discussions are preliminary at this point. Not clear who will build, or if the fellow who owns the houses has capacity to do it himself
- Enrolment
 - Received a 2% increase in number of applications this year. Made same number of offers. But had significant increase in number of acceptances.
 - Working to accommodate the excess demand.
 - Final number will be reported to province in November, probably 600-700 above target
- ByLaw
 - University continues to fund off duty police officers on certain weekends.
 - MSU has invested in more on-campus activities this homecoming

- Questions from floor
 - What's the actual bed deficit?
 - Probably need another 400-500 spots, even after the new on-campus residence is built
 - Other need we have is for grad students. University has issued a RFP for this, including off-campus locations. Grad students are usually more willing to live far away from campus
 - Questions about Traymore, and public consultation
 - Too preliminary to do consultations now. But there certainly would be if things move along

Metrolinx/City LRT presentation

- Andrew Hope (project director with metrolinx), joined by Trevor Horzelenberg (manager with LRT for City), and Jamie Robinson, communications and public relations
- Just finished seven public meetings across the city
- Going over the makeup of a typical LRT system
- Can move significantly more people than with buses
- Clean, quiet, run on rails, no emissions as they're electric
- Aberdeen site, if built, would be maintenance, storage, operations and control
- Hamilton.ca/LRT or metrolinxengage.com
- Questions and answers For LRT
 - David Hitchcock asking about Cline, and worry about making Cline the main intersection into and out of Westdale
 - 45 degree angle would be fixed. Intersection would be made safer. Vacant lot at south west corner would be used to help with this
 - Question about effects of transit hub on Ronald McDonald house
 - Sound studies and vibration studies will be done. Will possibly be covered, possibly with academic space on top, which will help mitigate the noise
 - Question about noise and vibration affecting nearby homes off track
 - Little noise because electric. Dampers installed in the rails to help with vibration. Probably less impact than a bus
 - What about urgent care centre at Macklin, and access for ambulances
 - There will be a full signal. All patient traffic already comes in from Macklin. Employee parking might get moved to back. Patients will still be able to turn left at Macklin
 - Traffic on King between queen and 403. How do you deal with existing traffic flows?
 - Model takes into account future growth by 2031. Queen to Locke is lots of lanes. Most traffic is diverted outside of the corridor earlier on (linc, QEW, Cannon)
 - Examples of positive impacts of LRT around the world?
 - Calgary, Edmonton, Portland, many others. Can help drive development. Calgary moves hundreds of thousands of people per day

AWWCA Board of Directors Nomination

- Vote for Julie Twyford: passes

Ira meeting with Longwood developer

- Developer hopes to build a stepped design (6, 8 and 10 stories) 500-600 beds.
- Ira believes developer has financial backers who can support the building of this development
- Ira worried about developers buying other complete blocks, hoping that developments like this along Main st should be encouraged, to reduce huge chances of large developments in the more core areas of the neighbourhoods

Membership secretary's report vote approved (Kevin, and Scott)