

CABBAGETOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 14, 2015

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Irv Gastro Pub, 195 Carlton Street, Toronto

In Attendance: Tyler Fleming, Phil Frei, Keith Lawrance, Scott Moreau, Chiara Novak, Marc Simmons, Kelley Teahen, James Wood

Regrets: Trish Finkelstein

The meeting began with a welcome from President Phil Frei and a roundtable of introductions: of the [nine members on the board, five are newcomers](#). President Frei says he has three high-level goals for his term:

- Engagement with the community is key, with continued focus on renewing and growing membership
- Transparency to community: the board's composition is now visible via the website, which hosts bios of all members, and Frei wants to ensure Cabbagetowners know what the board is doing; he suggests posting regular minutes of the board meetings, as a next step.
- The "process component": the board work is entirely volunteer and he would like to improve processes, recording of "how-to" information to share, to make it easier to run the business of the CRA and more easily hand over responsibilities. As well, he wants to introduce a system to track input from members and how their concerns are addressed.

At this first meeting of the new board for 2015-16, following the 2015 Annual General Meeting, Frei suggested that the first order of business was to fill various roles /portfolios for the board members. After discussion, the board will serve in the following capacities:

President: Phil Frei: President (decided at AGM)

Vice-President: James Wood decided at AGM)

Treasurer: Trish Finkelstein (decided at AGM); also mentoring for Forsythia Festival

Communications lead / newsletter / website / social media: Keith Lawrance

Secretary: Kelley Teahen

Membership lead: Tyler Fleming

Safety & Security / Laneway Cleanup lead: Scott Moreau

Forsythia Festival/events: Chiara Novak

While Trish Finkelstein is treasurer for 2015-16, Marc Simmons agreed to back her up and learn the association's financial books. Tyler Fleming also pointed out that the [board bylaws](#) call for a President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer positions but, in practice, two people have been serving separately in the secretary and treasurer functions for many years.

Tyler Fleming moved, and Phil Frei seconded, that the board will examine the bylaws and draft amendments – including that the roles of Secretary and Treasurer be described as separate positions, and the duties of Secretary/Treasurer currently in the

bylaws be divided between these roles – and those amendments will be taken to the membership for approval. MOTION APPROVED

Keith Lawrance presented a report on web and social media statistics for the CRA's online vehicles and outlined several projects – from updating the online payment system for memberships to writing more profiles for the newsletter – he wants to undertake in 2015-16. He would like backup for the heavy volume of communications work he now does; Tyler Fleming, Keith Lawrance, Scott Moreau and Kelley Teahen will meet as a marketing/communications subgroup of the board to further discuss.

Keith Lawrence and Phil Frei reported on several ongoing topics for Cabbagetowners, including the [splash pad construction at Wellesley Park](#), the revival of the [Cabbagetown Farmers' Market](#) and [ongoing noise issues with the Community Energy Centre at Regent Park](#). Keith Lawrance has been writing regular updates about these for the newsletter/website to share with the community. The board agreed that, in the case of the splash pad, if the city wants help canvassing local residents for their opinion about the pad's canopy colour, we could facilitate through our email list.

The group also discussed the association's boundaries – Gerrard to the south, Parliament to the west, St. James Cemetery to the north and the Don River to the east. This configuration leaves a chunk of what's popularly thought of as Cabbagetown without resident association representation: most of the area between Parliament and Ontario Streets, from Carlton north to Wellesley. (Exception: there is a small residents' group for Aberdeen Avenue and another group for residents of Winchester Street; the [Cabbagetown South Residents Association](#) covers south of Carlton between Parliament and Sherbourne streets, south to Shuter).

As well, the board members noted there is much confusion among those who live in Cabbagetown over what organizations do what because of there is a Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area (BIA) and a Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) as well as the CRA.

The group agreed to table further discussion about boundaries, and how we will best liaison and work with the BIA and CPA, to another meeting.

Currently, the CRA organizes two events; the post-Hallowe'en Pumpkin Walk in Riverdale Park (Nov. 1) and the spring (early May) Forsythia Festival, which consists of a parade and daytime, family-friendly activities at Wellesley Park. The board discussed whether the group should consider a third community event to be held between these two and agreed to discuss further after seeking and getting community input about the desire for another Cabbagetown event.

In the final piece of business – to set ongoing meeting dates – members will be canvassed to find best dates throughout 2015-16. Scott Moreau moved, and Chiara Novak seconded, that the meeting adjourn at 9:15 p.m.