

CABBAGETOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 29, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Pear Tree restaurant, Parliament Street

In Attendance: Trish Finkelstein, Phil Frei, Marc Simmons, Kelley Teahen, Keith Lawrance, Tyler Fleming, James Wood. Regrets: David Swain.

Minutes from the February meeting were not available for review / approval and will be carried forward to the April meeting.

SPRING CLEANUP EVENTS

James Wood reported that local residents who frequent the off-leash area of Riverdale Park West (the lower basin) were organizing "Poopalooza", a spring clean-up, tentative date of April 10. Kelley Teahen pointed out a city-wide Earth Day initiative was running over April 23-24 and this cleanup and a Cabbagetown laneway clean-up could align with the larger effort. James suggested all the clean-ups could be organized under the auspices of CRA and volunteered to register the initiative with the city site, and Keith volunteered to publicize the events and seek suggestions for a laneway through the membership newsletter and social media.

FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL

Co-chair Trish Finkelstein updated the board on progress to date:

- Alcohol licence in place
- Adding a photo booth this year as well as tire swings
- About 50 per cent of volunteer spots are filled, so more volunteers are needed; board members all stepped up to be a "captain" of an area of the festival on the day and there will be a walk-through of the site on Saturday, April 30. James – Beer Tent; Tyler – Bubbles & Fishing; Kelley – Face Painting; Marc – D.J. Tent & Podium; Keith – Welcome Centre; Phil – Dangling Donuts; Shawna (co-chair) – Photo Booth. The Scouts handle the rope walk on their own.
- The group discussed food at the festival: last year, supplies ran out quickly. The bread/buns are donated and Steak and Chops makes further donations; discussed whether the organization should offer to purchase additional food for sale on split-cost basis so as to not burden this generous donor.
- Former president Steve DuBois will help marshall the parade and the board discussed nominees for Festival King and Queen.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is static with 189 paid members in 2016 and 133 additional secondary members (second person in a household), generating approximately \$2,500 in revenue to support the association's activities. Keith and Tyler completed a review of Mail Chimp and are discussing ways of increasing membership, especially around the Forsythia Festival opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS

Keith Lawrance noted that a popular link from the website in the previous month was the new Toronto Police Services crime indicators site; the rest of the web traffic and patterns was steady with previous months in 2016.

CITY LIAISON / CITY INITIATIVES

Kelly Sather from Councillor McConnell's office has reconnected with the group after a personal visit from Kelley Teahen – she stated that she was not receiving our emails and meeting invitations so promised to contact the city's IT department to ensure that our emails would get through.

Kelley also agreed to represent CRA at a Favourite Places Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for April 7 at Regent Park Community Centre, a community consultation organized by the City of Toronto planning department's TO Core project.

BIA PROJECT

Kelley represented the CRA at a meeting of area groups – Cabbagetown BIA, Cabbagetown Preservation Association, Cabbagetown South Residents Association Association, Winchester Park Residents Association, and Cabbagetown reLEAF. The BIA called the meeting to generate ideas for a proposed new mural in the neighbourhood. The BIA has submitted a proposal for funding for the mural, which would be unveiled in fall 2016 at the 40th anniversary celebrations for the Cabbagetown Festival. A decision on funding is expected by end of May.

Mural artist Michael Cavanagh was also in attendance and discussed the possibility of working with a botanical theme that draws on both the gardens and parks of the neighbourhood while capturing a Victorian style of decoration: Kelley advocated for the inclusion of forsythia to represent the CRA Festival and creating a four-season theme.

NOISE ISSUES FROM REGENT PARK

Keith reported that the long suffering of Cabbagetown residents living just north of Gerrard may soon be over as authorities have announced mufflers are being installed by May to mute the noise of mechanicals at the Regent Park Aquatic Centre. He has also received correspondence from several other residents' associations about proposed changes to the noise bylaw and reports are conflicting about whether or not changes are proceeding and on what timeline. He said he would reach out to Councillor McConnell's office for clarification.

AGM / BOARD MEMBERS

The current board members need to actively recruit new board members for 2016-17. The bylaws state the board should have between seven and 12 members, "two of whom shall be ex officio (i) the person designated by the Board as the Corporation's Historian and (ii) the representative of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association." Currently there are seven board members plus David Swain from the CPA, and the role of "Corporation Historian" is lost in the mists of time; this role should be eliminated from the bylaws as part of the bylaw update to be approved by the membership at the AGM. Trish Finkelstein has already indicated she will not be seeking to serve another year, so the board needs to recruit between one and four new board members for 2016-17.

The bylaws also call for the organization to form a nominating committee 60 days prior to the AGM: "At least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of members of the Corporation, the Board shall by resolution create a Nominating Committee consisting of not less than two (2) directors and two (2) members of the Corporation. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members and shall adopt rules of procedure with prior approval of the Board."

ADJOURNED: Moved by James, seconded by Tyler, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.