

## CABBAGETOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 30, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: House on Parliament

Directors in Attendance: James Wood, Phil Frei, Keith Lawrance, Evelyn Sommers, Kelley Teahen, Tina Card, Carolyn Jarman, Tyler Fleming, Sam Richardson, Shawna Pereira

Regrets: Marc Simmons

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Note: there was no July meeting. Review of June minutes: Motion to approve by Keith Lawrance, seconded by Phil Frei, and carried.

### CABBAGETOWN FESTIVAL BAGS/MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Sam Richardson showed a sample bag pack (10 green bags with CRA sticker on them and “call to action” website to join) and asked the volunteer board members if they would complete the packaging – tying the bag packs with ribbons and added a punched postcard describing the CRA. There have been 2,500 bags and half of those will be used for this year’s handout to residents hosting yard sales on the weekend of the Festival. (125 packages of bags, 10 each). Sam distributed a map with eight zones to cover on Festival weekend and promised to drop bags off to the eight board volunteers the following week. Each director is to take along a clipboard or notepad to get emails from those who receive the bags if they are not already members of the association and we will follow up with an invitation to join.

### TREE FOR ME EVENT HOSTING / TREES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Evelyn Sommers has been in touch with this organization, where residents can get a free tree but first must attend a workshop/session on planting and stewardship. The directors decided that CRA should host such an event in spring and Evelyn will co-ordinate with Tree for Me, which provides modest funding (\$500) toward any cost of such an event. Residents will need to sign up in advance and they are able to submit a soil sample to determine appropriate tree-planting for their property. Evelyn also agreed to follow up with ReLeaf, which began as a Cabbagetown initiative but has branched out elsewhere in Toronto because its founder has moved from the neighbourhood, to see if we will continue to have any formal or funding relationship with it.

Phil Frei also brought up the little-known city plan that allows residents, for a fee, to upgrade the size of tree planted on the city portion of their front yard. He asked the directors to think of ways the residents’ association can promote this.

### COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Keith Lawrance presented a report on communications, noting that the CRA had an uptick in Twitter activity, with 1,461 followers (about 90 new followers a month, recently) and 167 tweets, including retweets. The most popular content was about the BIA-sponsored mural on Parliament Street (on the side of the LCBO), reports of bike thefts, “throwback Thursdays” (historic tidbits) and In Memoriams about noted residents who had died.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

There was no treasurer’s report due to Marc Simmons being unable to attend the meeting.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

A local resident who is a retired police officer has offered to be the liaison with Toronto Police 51 Division and Phil Frei will be meeting with him in September to discuss and confirm his interest / role.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

Members are reporting Car2Go vehicles are being left on residential streets: the company does not have parking spaces for them and has instructed users that, when they are finished using the cars to park them on residential streets and the company will cover any fines/tickets as part of the cost of doing business; other Car2Go vehicles on residential streets may also be there during a local resident's rental period. (This is different than other car sharing services where the cars have designated parking spaces on private property). One member/resident has complained that this is wrong and takes away valued parking space from local residents. In order for the CRA to take a position on this issue and present it to the city, the directors agreed we needed to get some direction from the membership about their views. Keith offered to set up a short poll and promote it through social media.

## PUMPKIN WALK and CABBAGETOWN LIGHTS

James Wood will be the lead on the Pumpkin Walk for 2016 and pointed out that someone should shadow him so that person could take over the walk's organization and promotion for 2017. Carolyn Jarman expressed an interest in helping out with events and said she would consider volunteering to shadow.

Tyler Fleming said he would take on thinking about ways to improve and expand "Cabbagetown Lights", which started modestly in 2015 as a pilot contest where residents submitted pictures of holiday lights in December in the neighbourhood that were then shared on social media and voted on.

James also discussed planning toward an impromptu "winter holiday" event for the CRA – essentially providing hot chocolate and coffee and treats at the Riverdale Park hill when a perfect sledding and dog-frolicking day arrives on a winter weekend day. The only thing that would need to be created in advance was some signage / perhaps have some posters ready to distribute.

## AREAS of INTEREST / ISSUES / PLANNING

Phil said he will be canvassing all board directors to determine their interests and projects they would like to tackle in 2016-17 and all agreed it would be a good use of our volunteer efforts to launch another survey of residents in early 2017, the last being completed in 2013.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:05 p.m.

James Wood moved, and Carolyn Jarman seconded.