

CABBAGETOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: Oct. 26, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Pear Tree, Parliament Street

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

Guest: Kelly Sather, constituency assistant to Pam McConnell

Regrets: Sam Richardson, Shawna Pereira, Marc Simmons

Review of September minutes: minutes: Motion to approve by Keith Lawrance, seconded by Carolyn Jarman, and carried.

PUMPKIN WALK, 2016

James Wood reported that posters and Necropolis-fence banner were up and that all arrangements were in place with the city for the organic waste compost dumpster. He distributed reminder flyers and street route maps to board volunteers, who will deliver the flyers to people with Jack o'lanterns on Oct. 31 during trick or treating time. The event is set to start at 5 p.m., running until 9 p.m. and James asked all to let him know if they would be doing the first shift (before 5 to 7) or the second shift (7 to cleanup is complete).

KELLY SATHER REPORT

Kelly reported on several initiatives and issues in the city: a summary of her report is attached as Appendix A.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The directors agreed that memberships should revert to a year-from-signup system; two years ago, the CRA synchronized all membership renewals to begin Jan. 1 but this has not appeared to improve membership retention and has created more administrative problems than it solved. As well, the board agreed the CRA should provide an automatic renewal option for those paying by credit card but that it must be an opt-in system. Evelyn suggested the CRA needs to create some kind of communication, beyond a note on the newsletter status that membership is coming up for renewal, as a "nag factor" to prompt renewals. Tina Card said she will present her plan at the next board meeting for working with local realtors to reach newcomers to Cabbagetown.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Tyler Fleming reported he has been working on a way to create a separate voting page for the contest, where people submit photos of their own or a neighbour's holiday decorations and the winner is determined by votes / likes. He hopes to have a prototype complete for mid-November and will present at the next board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Keith Lawrance reported that recent polls and crime alerts created the most traffic for the CRA webpage as well as on twitter and facebook; there have been eight crime alerts in the month of October, to date. Kelley Teahen volunteered to monitor facebook while Shawna Pereira was travelling out of the country and Kelley and Keith agreed to meet to examine all the communications responsibilities Keith has been carrying solo to come up with a transition plan that will outline how the work can be carried out by a committee of people, rather than rest on one individual.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Marc Simmons could not attend the meeting so there was no report this month.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The records scanning project is complete: all paper documents are now scanned and organized on the info@cabbagetowner.com Google Drive. Kelley Teahen is now reaching out to past board directors and event volunteers to retrieve electronic files stored on personal computers scattered around Cabbagetown and organizing that material under standardized naming conventions. She is going to learn more about how best to share and access files on a common Google Drive so that board directors can access this information.

SECURITY

Des Ryan has volunteered to be the police liaison and security and safety lead for CRA but to date no projects have been undertaken. A group discussion landed on two first projects:

- A volunteer audit, where Des assesses a property volunteered by a CRA member and points out how that place can improve its home security
- A write-up for the newsletter on general "tips and tricks" for deterring vandals and thieves around a property.

Phil Frei volunteered to follow up on this.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:11 p.m.

Tina Card moved and Carolyn Jarman seconded.

APPENDIX 1:

Issues report from Kelly Sather, constituency assistant to Pam McConnell

WARD BOUNDARIES

Proposed changes to ward boundaries do not affect the neighbourhood within the official borders of the CRA but they do affect Regent Park and Cabbagetown South as Shuter Street is proposed as a new boundary division, thereby splitting off parts of former Ward 28 territory, and splitting part of those neighbourhoods from the ward encompassing CRA's neighbourhood and the north parts of Cabbagetown South and Regent Park.

AIRBNB

Kelly thanked the CRA on behalf of the councillor for supplying poll results for this issue as well as for Car2Go and Green Bin (described below). The office continues to receive reports of Airbnbs with "completely absent" hosts and cases such as eight people staying in a three-bedroom home. Some are calling these "hotels on streets". The city is examining how to respond to and regulate Airbnbs and other "sharing economy" renting of space in homes and apartments.

CAR2GO

The CRA poll and other feedback the councillor's office has received indicate few wish to ban these but the issue remains these vehicles taking up scarce street parking spaces. The issue has been forwarded to the Parking and Municipal Licensing Standards.

GREEN BIN CHANGE

Ontario Street in South Cabbagetown has been part of a pilot project using the larger/taller Green Bins designed to be compatible with automated pick-up forks attached to trucks. Feedback there, as with the CRA poll, is mixed: most people want a choice of using the larger bins or the existing smaller bins. However, the problem remains that the small bins must be manually emptied.

TV and MOVIE SHOOTS

McConnell's office recently fielded two complaints of negative experiences with movie shoots in the neighbourhood. Kelly explained that while the office is notified of permit applications, they do not know when the permits are granted for film and television shoots. The permit office does seek feedback from city bodies such as TTC, police and fire on what permits seek and there are some across-the-board rules in place, such as no prop gunfire. Kelly agreed that there should be a better mechanism to inform residents about upcoming shoots.

SPRUCE + PARLIAMENT PARKETTE

The fix-up, spearheaded by the Cabbagetown BIA, was financed through Economic Development funding but caused controversy because residents nearby had previously fought against having any seating or fixtures that would encourage loitering and the plan being rolled out did include some individual seating (although no benches). The fix-up has been amended to remove any seating; there will be floodlighting and planters will have a decorative edging to prevent seating.