

## **CABBAGETOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Jan. 18, 2017

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: House on Parliament

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

Guest: Margo Mullin, co-ordinator, Tree for Me; Kelly Sather, constituency assistant to Pam McConnell

Regrets: Tina Card

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

### **TREE FOR ME PRESENTATION**

Margo Mullin, who works with Toronto Parks, presented an opportunity for the CRA to organize a "Tree for Me" planting workshop. These have been held in conjunction with residents associations around the city and typically 50 to 150 native streets, 3' to 5' tall, are distributed. There is up to \$500 funding available to cover the cost of organizing and promoting the event. She noted that one challenge with Cabbagetown is that it is an "already well-treed neighbourhood" and clarified that this is a program complementary to the one for front-yard trees on city property: these are trees for a residence's private yard. The workshops are usually held in spring so the group discussed if this could pair with the May 7 Forsythia Festival or could be held at another time. The group tabled further discussion until the next meeting.

### **STREET CAPTAINS and MEMBERSHIP**

Sam Richardson presented a proposal to start a Street Captains program for Cabbagetown (see Appendix A). The board directors agreed it is a great idea, and will be a boost to the neighbourhood, and had a wide-ranging discussion of the concepts presented, including:

- Whether to start small with volunteers on certain streets or map out the neighbourhood and actively seek a full roster to cover all streets / residential lanes
- What should be the scope / duties of a street captain: letter or information delivery? Reporting issues to the board of directors?
- How would the board of directors vet volunteers? Individuals may well have differing views on certain issues contrary to the board or could do something in the name of the CRA that the elected board can't support
- We could look to models such as the street captain system deployed in the past for Blair's Run, a charity event for the Cabbagetown Youth Centre

Sam commented his initial proposal might be too formal for initial launch and he said he would revise it based on feedback.

The group noted two membership initiatives that require further investigation: Approaching Spruce Court Co-operative Housing about having those residents join en masse in exchange for an appointed board position (like has been done in Winchester Park Residents Association with the Hugh Garner Co-op) and providing doggie pick-up bags at our parks promoting the CRA.

### **CITY HALL REPORT**

Kelly Sather from Councillor Pam McConnell's office reported on the following:

- News reports that Regent Park redevelopment was falling short of budget. She says that is in error but that the city is exploring if the construction timelines can be sped up, with provincial / federal funding, so that those in subsidized housing who are being displaced by the tear-down and rebuild can return to their home neighbourhood faster.

- The project to move Toronto Community Housing buildings on Winchester Street to management by Margaret's House has now received official funding.
- There is a public meeting on March 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss construction plans and renovations of Simpson House, slated to begin in April.
- Councillor McConnell is holding a budget town hall on Feb. 8 at the Regent Park Community Centre
- The bike share rack at Riverdale Park West will stay where it is "for now", a position supported by the CRA Directors. A second rack may be added to the southwest quadrant of the park in spring 2017.

Several board directors mentioned a recent issue with dangerous driving at the intersection of Sumach and Carlton, with drivers failing to stop. Kelly said she will notify Police 51 Division to see if they could more closely monitor the situation.

#### FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL

Shawna Pereira reported that she and Carolyn Jarman have been moving ahead with getting many of the permits and bookings in place for the festival including for the park, for waste, for the parade, police, Special Occasions Permit (liquor licence), noise exemption, the master of ceremonies, Scouts (rope walk) Pizza Pizza (bouncy castle), Heavyweight Brass Band, Steak and Chops (for barbecue), Magician, Caricature Artist, Port-a-potties and have begun the work on posters for promotion. They have run into challenges around insurance (Boy Scouts rope walk) and also with the Beer Garden. Regulations now are requiring there be 12 marshalls smart-serve-trained to be around the garden, in addition to Smart Serve trained servers. Kelly Sather of Councillor McConnell's office agreed to look into the change.

The group discussed donor recognition and if the organization should create a new (higher) level of Platinum donor. Shawna said one benefit on offer – a profile published on the CRA website and in the newsletter – has limited appeal to donors and she has a difficult time getting them to agree to answering questions for a write-up. Two potential new donors are Chartwells, which is opening a retirement residence in Regent Park and is looking to make connections in the Cabbagetown Community, and Meridian Credit Union, which has opened a new branch on Parliament. Phil Frei said he would approach TD Canada Trust.

#### CABBAGETOWN LIGHTS

Tyler Fleming reported there were 427 votes cast through online voting, with a good-natured fight among photos of houses on Aberdeen, Wellesey and Geneva, with the home on Wellesley Street pulling ahead in the last hours. The winners have been acknowledged on the website and through social media and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies will be awarded. Tyler said he looks forward to running the contest again in 2017.

#### HOLIDAY CARDS

Kelley Teahen reported the Holiday Cards initiative went off without a hitch – until it came time for delivery.

She engaged the same delivery service used successfully by the CRA before and the delivery service picked up the printed cards from her. They were to deliver the cards to homes in the CRA official boundaries on Monday, Dec. 19. Kelley lives outside the CRA boundaries so on Tuesday, Dec. 20 she sent an email to the board of directors checking if they had received a card. None had. The delivery service insisted the cards were delivered but did say it had been a snowy day and they were prevented from accessing some houses due to unshovelled snow and that they would not leave a card where a household has a "no flyers" sign at the door. (The card was supposedly delivered with two other printed pieces that day.) He also acknowledged they had missed a couple short streets, including one where two board directors live.

The service came out on Thursday and delivered cards to specific addresses where we had reports of no delivery (they claim there were a few cards left over to make this possible) but it appears the box of 1,300 cards was ditched and not delivered. Phil as President had worked with the company before, so discussed the situation with the owner. He agreed in the end to forego

payment and said he would deliver a new set of cards for free but by that time it was too close to Christmas to execute a reprint, not to mention expensive.

Moving forward for 2017, the board needs to review if such a service should be hired again or if the association should draw on volunteers to do the delivery of the holiday cards.

Another idea that came forward from the judges for 2017: select more winners and get more artworks framed to create a gallery of the images to display at a local store. Only the top winner in each category would be made into printed cards. This would increase the funding needed for the initiative.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Marc Simmons reported that he has now merged an old Tangerine account with the group's main account at TD Canada Trust. As of January, there is a balance of \$16,800, a number that will fluctuate as expenses for projects such as Holiday Cards and Forsythia Festival are drawn out and Festival sponsorships are deposited.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:24 p.m.

Tyler Fleming moved and Evelyn Sommers seconded.

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APPENDIX 1:  
(Sam's report To Come)