

# Blackburn Community Association

## Meeting Minutes

### June 18, 2020 7:30 pm

1. Call to order 7:40pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
  - May 21, 2020
  - Motion to approve by Kendra Brett. Seconded by Brent Lawrie. Approved.
4. Councillor Update (Laura Dudas)
  - 105 out of the 110 residents who voted chose Option B for the new splash pad. The City is updating the website with the results. They also received some feedback asking for seating and shade, but that could not be covered by the allocated budget. The BCA can apply for other City and Community grants to cover the cost of improving the area separately.
  - Staff are now preparing the pool for a potential open in early July, if we receive approval to proceed (they need to follow Provincial guidelines and restrictions).
  - The new flex stakes on Innes came from a meeting between residents and City Traffic Management last year. Since traffic calming options are limited along Innes, staff decided to run a trial with the flex stakes this year and evaluate the results before looking at alternatives in future years. City staff have been asked to touch up the cycling lane paint to remind drivers to stay in their lanes. If anyone has concerns about this trial, please provide feedback to Laura who raise it with the Traffic Management team.
  - The City will resume parking enforcement for locations with signed limitations on June 29 and will start ticketing in July.
  - Masks are encouraged when using Transit. OCTranspo is trying to acquire masks to hand out, but do not have any available at this time.
5. Just Food (Moe Garahan)
  - Just Food is a local, non-profit, community-based organization that works on both rural and urban food and farming issues in Ottawa and the surrounding region. The Farm in the Hamlet is just one of their programs. They run a number of programs including
    - Start Up Farm Program to train new farmers who are needed to replace those who are aging and retiring farmers.
    - Community Garden Network
    - Seed Saving
    - Ottawa Farm School
    - Growing food for Ottawa Food Bank
    - Larger Community Garden Plots (1/6 Acre)
  - They only have 1 full time staff member and a few part-time staff to run their programs and deal with local issues. Just Food led the effort to reclass community gardens as

essential and assisted Ottawa associations in meeting COVID guidelines. They also lobbied to open farmers markets across Ontario.

- Just Food farm stand pivoted online order/pickup very quickly – will move to running a stand once they have more crops ready and have worked out a plan for safe sales.
- Sent out 1200 garden kits to classrooms across the city.
- Working with the City to promote home gardens and provide soil and seeds to low income residents.
- One ongoing challenge is safety on the farm as there are a small number of people who do not follow the rules (such as using it as off-leash dog park). Just Food is responsible for the property and anyone who uses it and will continue to enforce rules when needed. They will be working with BCA Safety and Communications teams to foster a cooperative relationship with Hamlet Residents.
- BCA is working on an agreement for Just Food to use our tractor in exchange for our use of their land/barn.
- It has taken a lot of effort and funding to prepare the land to open up the current farm plots, including adding drainage and power. Where there are open spaces, they will continue rehabilitating the spaces for growing food, including the area near the end of Tauvette. Groves of trees will remain untouched, including the maple trees that were planted create a future demo sugar bush.
- In the future they will be expanding beyond chickens and 2 donkeys on the farm, but will continue to limit the animals to minimize the impact on the land.

#### 6. Financials and CRA (Lisa Margeson)

- Updated financials were sent to the Board and have been posted on our shared Google drive.
- The Cheque for the TD Grant was received.

#### 7. Presidents Update (Mark Lister)

- Community Issues – No topics have been brought forward for this meeting.
- Community Hall Review - First meeting was held and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for next week.
- Bylaws and Funding Committee - Brent is working on updates to both with the goal of tabling proposed changes at a fall board meeting.
- Our Insurance provider has asked for BCA policies on preventive controls we have in place regarding sexual abuse by our staff or volunteers. Lisa has asked another organization for a copy of their policies/forms to use as a starting point.
- We are waiting for City/Province to identify when we can open the hall and hire a student to clean the parks.
- There has been an increase in property theft in the area.

#### 8. Events

- Funrun Results (Nina Ryan)
  - 32 participants attended the virtual funrun. \$727 was raised for our local food bank.
- Graduation Day (Nina Ryan)
  - We received a lot of great feedback on the celebration and the mobile slide presentation.

- Photo Contest (Kendra Brett)
  - Reminders will be sent out that the photo contest to show off the beautiful nature of the Hamlet runs until the end of June. This is one of the events funded by the TD Grant.
- Scavenger Hunt (Kendra Brett)
  - The next event will be held in July/August and will be a scavenger hunt to explore each park in the Hamlet.
- Canada Day (Chelsey Wynne)
  - A web page is under construction and will feature photos and recordings of past Hamlet Canada Day events.
  - The community will be asked to decorate their homes and explore what others have done to celebrate.
- Cancer Chase (Mark Lister)
  - Due to cost/uncertainty, the event will likely be cancelled.
  - It is possible to hold a virtual event, but Don might need assistance. An alternate would be encouraging individuals to run and donate directly to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation. Mark will follow-up with Don Kelly.

9. Website (Kevin White)

- A meeting with Mark and Johan was held to begin discussions on updating and supporting the website.
- Will work with Satinder to integrate the membership form better into the site.
- Would be helpful to have someone with good graphic designed skills.
- Alternative would be to hire someone to rebuild/redesign the site.

10. Diversity Messages (Lisa Margeson)

- Should we be looking to incorporate Diversity messages in our platforms throughout the year?
- Personal stories from Hamlet residents reach out through social media (such as the Humans of New York Stories) would be preferable.

11. Summer Virtual Meetings (Lynn Lefevre)

- Do we continue meeting third Thursday of the month July/August or take a break?
- Keep meetings short and focused. Participation is Optional.

12. BANAR (Evelyn Budd)

- Aug 12 next BANAR deadline with Aug 29-31 delivery.
- Performance Printing sold to Metro but has not had an impact on our costs.

13. The Seniors Committee Chair post is now vacant.

14. Friends of Mer Bleu (Brent Lawrie)

- Next meeting is on June 29.
- They are encouraging the BCA to apply for their grants.
- We should consider using it for adding benches/shade near the new splash pad.

- They have established a sub-committee to look at expanding their boundary line from Tauvette to Greens creek so that it would include Just Food in the catchment area for their grants.

15. Adjournment 9:35pm (Next meeting July 17, 7:30pm)

## **Attendees**

Mark Lister  
Brent Lawrie  
Lisa Margeson  
Lynn Lefevre  
Chelsey Wynne  
Don Kelly  
Nina Ryan  
Satinder Sahota  
Kendra Brett  
Kiel Dixon  
Kevin White  
Evelyn Budd  
Laura Dudas  
Moe Garahan  
Erik Leicht

## **BCA Board**

### **Executive**

President: Mark Lister

Vice President & Facilities and Operations: Brent Lawrie

Secretary: Lynn Lefevre

Treasurer: Lisa Margeson

Past President: Ali Yassine

### **Director Portfolio's**

Environment: Kendra Brett

Parks & Rinks: Zack Jackson

Communications: Nina Ryan, Dan Gosson, Patrick Phillips

Community Relations: Kiel Dixon

Website: Kevin White

Transportation: and Community Safety: Don Kelly

Youth: Vacant

Membership: Satinder Sahota

### **Committee Chairs**

BANAR: Evelyn Budd

Seniors: Vacant

Beautification: Ian Chamberland

Community Hall: Auramarina Sawyer

### **Events**

Fun Fair: Ian Chamberland

Canada Day: Chelsey Wynne

Cancer Chase: Don Kelly

Hockey Day: Mark Lister & Zack Jackson

Pot Luck Dinners: Auramarina Sawyer

Santa's Pancake Breakfast: Chelsey Wynne

Volunteer Appreciation: Mark Lister

Spring Cleanup: Kendra Brett

Seniors Information Event: Melissa Cinquino

Bike Rodeo: Dave Garand