

Blackburn Community Association

Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2020 7:30 pm

1. Call to order 7:35pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
 - Motion to approve the minutes from October 15, 2020 by Lisa Margeson. Seconded by Kiel Dixon. Approved.
4. Councillor Update (Laura Dudas)
 - The City is focusing their attention on the 2021 budget. A draft was tab;ed on November 4. Each section of the budget is being reviewed by committees for adjustments. A final version will be presented to council on December 9. This budget holds to the 3% promise and is focused on maintaining services. While the Province agreed to make up for the deficit this year, there is no guarantee it will happen next year.
 - A question was raised as to why the City is running empty buses. The reason is that it would be difficult to ramp up to full service when it will eventually be needed as there would not be a sufficient number of trained drivers available.
 - The City is now working on the logistics for storing, distributing and administering a COVID vaccine when it is ready.
 - The Westbound lanes of the 174 from Jeanne d'Arc to Blair will be closed the November 21'st weekend for LRT construction. From December 4 to 7, portions of the old Montreal Road interchange will be demolished in preparation for station construction.
 - Laura continues to host virtual events, including a Seniors chat and a presentation on Winter Activities in Ottawa.
 - Ski Ottawa East is expanding their trail network this year. Other than the need to cross the road, citizens will be able to x-country ski from Hornets Nest all the way to Petrie Island.
 - The Arena is on schedule for spring completion.
 - Innes Road from the 417 to the start of the bypass will be repaved in 2021. This should also result in some improvements to bike lanes along this corridor.
 - Repaving of Innes in Blackburn Hamlet is not at the top of the Priority list so we will continue to see patching on the areas that are deteriorating.
 - A question was asked on Laura's position for the transit fee hike. Laura supports it as there have been additional costs and reduced revenue during COVID and these were not covered by the Federal grant that only funded PPE and other COVID related public health costs.

- A question was asked regarding who has the financial agreement for the splash pad. Our Parks and Recreation contacts should have a copy. Mark will contact Ian Chamberland first and will contact the City if he does not have it.

5. BCA Board Introductions (All)

- Tracy and Jason moved to Blackburn Hamlet recently. Both have experience planning large events and been involved in organizing an August Ottawa Music Festival. They are looking to fill the openings in organizing the Santa Breakfast (or alternative this year) and Canada Day.

6. Rink Snowblower (Mark Lister)

- Our Rink volunteers are asking the BCA to cover the cost for a new snowblower to be used at the Bearbrook rink as the one that was donated to us is dying. It will be safely stored in the shelter that the City built last year. They will continue to use a plowing service to clear heavy snowfalls.
- Ali has agreed to manage the Norman Johnson Rink. Our tractor will be used to clear it.
- Motion by Satinder Sahota that the BCA approve the purchase of a snowblower up to a maximum cost of \$2,000 plus tax. Seconded by Don Kelly. Approved.

7. Community Hall Fees

- A BCA sub-committee reviewed the pricing of our hall and compared the rates to other Halls in Ottawa. The proposal is to align the costs with the City Hall rates for similar locations. The expectation is that this will reduce the number of groups outside of Blackburn Hamlet from using our hall because it is a lower cost than others in the area, which would increase the hall rental availability to the BCA and our community.
- This also simplifies our rates to 3 tiers no matter the day or time:
 - Not for profit \$9.85/hr
 - Private \$39.50/hr or \$300 per event
 - Commercial \$54.55/hr.
- There was a discussion regarding not for profit definition. It was agreed that we would replace the definition with the following:
 - A not for profit organization is at least one of the following:
 - An incorporated non-profit organization
 - A registered charity
 - Sponsored by an incorporated non-profit organization or a registered charity (for example activities sponsored by the BCA).
- Once the new fees are approved the next step is to consult with the groups who currently rent the hall to determine the impact the change might have on community focused activities.
- Satinder Sahota motioned that the BCA approve the proposed rates with revised not for profit definition. Kendra Brett seconded. Approved

- The new rates take effect January 1, 2021, although it will likely be much later in the year before the COVID restrictions are lifted and we can reopen the hall.
- The new rates will be posted on the BCA website the first week of December and will be published in the February edition of the BANAR.

8. BCA Bylaws

- A BCA sub-committee was formed to review and update the BCA bylaws in order to deal with some inconsistencies in the current version.
- Since many members of the Board had not had time to review the proposed changes, they are asked to complete their reviews and provide feedback to Satinder Sahota, Lisa Margeson and Brent Lawrie before the next board meeting on December 10.

9. BCA Financial update (Lisa Margeson)

- Our Bookkeeper is working on the BCA registration for HST.
- Updated statements have been circulated to the board. We have a \$17k Surplus due to our event cancellations this year.
- The City will be asking if organizations will be waiving their funding request for 2021 as some will not be able to hold any events in 2021.
- Lisa will circulate the draft budget for 2021 to the board members to review and update.

10. BCA Donations (Mark Lister/Nina Ryan)

- A community resident recently passed away and family asked if the BCA would accept donations in lieu of flowers. Nina to include an article in next e-blast.

11. BANAR (Kendra Brett)

- It is not clear if we can we continue to post BANAR PDF's on the website if they are not compliant with AODA rules. We will continue to post them until the website is completely rebuilt.
- The next deadline is Feb 3. Will need to include information for the Spring AGM, including a link to the proposed bylaws as well as an article on why they are being revised. Other items that could be included are an update on BCA activities, potential open positions that we need to cover and an article highlighting the Rinks and the volunteers who maintain them.
- All editions will have a dedicated page highlighting key BCA activities and decisions.

12. Neighbourhood Watch (Don Kelly)

- We now have 11 Captains.
- Some activities have been paused due to COVID concerns as many Captains have reservations about their canvassing neighbours.
- Over 100 registrations have been received.
- The goal is to have some streets officially designated by end of the month.
- Don encourages all BCA Board members to sign up as Members or Captains.

13. Halloween Event results (Nina Ryan)

- We had great participation in the Photo contest and all prizes have been distributed to the winners.
- Results will be published on facebook and our eblast newsletter thanking everyone for their participation and highlighting the prizes purchased from local businesses that were handed out.

14. Festive Season

- It would be good if we could organize something to celebrate the upcoming Festive Season. This could be something like a photo contest, treasure hunt or a drive by display.
- Tracy will take the lead and the board is encouraged to send their suggestions to her.

15. Bike Repair Stand (Dave Garand)

- Safer Roads Ottawa as agreed to leave the charge at \$2,500 for a bike repair stand, despite an increase in the cost to \$3,000. We are hoping for the installation to be completed in the spring 2021.

16. OC Transpo (Dave Garand)

- At this week's Transit committee meeting, a vote was passed 6-3 on a fare increase of 2.5%. This will have an impact on low-income population.
- Ridership is down significantly leaving OCTranspo with a \$70 million deficit.

17. E-Blast newsletter

- November 25 is the deadline for a December 1 newsletter.
- It will include a note that the Environment Chair will be vacant as of the upcoming AGM and an update on Neighbourhood watch.

18. The BCA will be holding a discussion with Ski Ottawa East to see if there is anything else we can do to expand outdoor activities.

19. Adjournment 9:30pm (Next regular meeting on January 21, 2021, 7:30pm, Board meeting to review the bylaws on December 10, 2020, 7:30pm).

Attendees

Mark Lister
Lisa Margeson
Lynn Lefevre
Nina Ryan
Satinder Sahota
Kendra Brett
Don Kelly
Kiel Dixon
Zack Jackson
Laura Dudas
Tracy Wilson

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: Kendra Brett

Seniors: Vacant

Beautification: Vacant

Community Hall: Auramarina Sawyer

Events

Fun Fair: Ian Chamberland

Canada Day: Tracy Wilson & Jason Wegner

Cancer Chase: Don Kelly

Hockey Day: Mark Lister & Zack Jackson

Pot Luck Dinners: Auramarina Sawyer

Santa's Pancake Breakfast: Tracy Wilson & Jason Wegner

Volunteer Appreciation: Mark Lister

Spring Cleanup: Kendra Brett

Seniors Information Event: Vacant

Bike Rodeo: Dave Garand