

Blackburn Community Association (BCA)
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on Thursday, September 20, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

Roger Smiley
Rainer Bloess
Laura Czekaj
Tom Scott
Paula Rosenquist
Paul van Bruinessen
David Cameron
Helen Rosseau
Representative for MP Royal Galipeau
Jan Whitehouse
Jeff Miller
Alan Ross
Evelyn Budd

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Roger at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the June minutes was motioned by Helen and seconded by David.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

GUESTS

Jeff told the meeting that insurance companies have flagged Blackburn Hamlet, Beacon Hill and Convent Glen as neighbourhood with houses wired with aluminum wiring. The concern is that these companies will either not insure homeowners without verification from an electrician that the wiring has been inspected or it will become a problem upon the sale of a house.

There are discrepancies as to what insurance companies want homeowners to do about the wiring, with Jeff saying he had been told pigtailing the wiring was the proper method, which was disputed by an insurance broker.

The insurance broker will write an article to be published in the Banar regarding the issue.

Francois, the representative for Royal Galipeau, noted that the passport clinic held recently at the MP's office was a success and another one is scheduled for Nov. 24, 2007.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Roger is writing a letter to Rainer outlining proposed plans for the Community Hall. Jan has been collecting data regarding participation at the Hall.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Not present

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan said income from the Hall was \$9,000, with about \$4,000 in expenses.

He noted that the rain barrel campaign went well with \$215 remaining in the rain barrel account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS

Tom sang the praises of Jordan Davidson who maintained the parks this past summer, saying he was out there regularly and went above and beyond expectations. No drug paraphernalia was found by Jordan, although the occasional liquor bottle was discovered.

New signs have been set up in the parks with the exception of the Richard Dagg park on Red Maple.

RINKS

The rink at Emily Carr school slopes and tends to melt faster on the north side. Tom suggested painting white underneath to slow the warming process. The BCA will supply the paint and was going to see if the city would do the work. Paula offered to approach the school to see if students would be able to do it depending on the type of paint used and its toxicity.

CHAPEL HILL SOUTH

David noted that the park on Silverbirch was maintained extremely well during the summer, but Longleaf Park was not as well kept. It was deemed a city concern. Also a group of residents are establishing a community association called Orleans West that would overlap Chapel Hill South. The first meeting for the fledgling association is planned shortly. Roger offered the new group any assistance the BCA could provide in getting set up.

EDUCATION

Paula attended the committee meeting for the Kidsport Fundraiser Sports Marathon, which is being planned for Sat. Oct.13th. She informed the members that the BCA would be sponsoring the event to the tune of \$400 and clarified that the BCA was not giving the money specifically for the T-shirts, but for them to decide how best to use the funds to pay expenses.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Roger said the city has presented us with an arrangement regarding the community centre; however, there are two components of it that aren't acceptable that will be further discussed. The city is requiring that police checks must be run on all those organizations using the facility. However, it was unclear as to whether that meant everyone in the group, or just key organizers. There is an issue with the city wanting the right of first refusal on programs run out of the centre, but Roger expressed concern on how we would accommodate that requirement.

Storage is a big issue in that there is very little at the time being. There was discussion about sending a letter asking those who are using it to keep the space clean and about setting a consistent fee for rental.

There are concerns about perilously perched items posing a hazard and the demand on the space is increasing.

There was discussion about method of payment for renting the centre and about looking into charging a separate fee for BCA members and non-members.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Rainer said the Tim Hortons is on track and a building permit was being issued by the city. The construction of the building is imminent.

The renovations to the mall have been put on the back burner for the moment, but Tim Hortons will go ahead regardless.

The Hunt Club Rd. extension is getting down to the final strokes on the environmental assessment. The NCC has to give their approval for the road to go through the Green Belt. The Fall Clean up is coming up and Rainer asked committee members if anyone wanted to spearhead the project.

FUN FAIR

The Fun Fair was a tremendous success, making enough to cover next year's event. Jenn is eager to take on the challenge of organizing it once again and everyone was appreciative of her hard work.

WINTER FUN DAY

Jeff and Jenn are undertaking planning of this event.

MOTION TO AJOURN

Tom made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Paula.