

Blackburn Community Association (BCA)
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on Thursday, November 15, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

Al Ross	Rainer Bloess
Tom Scott	Charles Kennedy
David Cameron	Helen Rosseau
Lynn Leduc	Sarah Cloutier
Laura Czekaj	Paul VanBruinessen

Guests: François Robichaud (Royal Galipeau), Suzanne Sanford (City), Dr. Roy Chappel (resident)

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the president, the meeting was called to order by Charles at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion for the approval of the October Helen, seconded by Tom ---- passed

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

During the discussions of business arising from the minutes, the meeting strayed into other parts of the agenda. For the purpose of these minutes these items of discussion will appear under their agenda items.

Norman Johnston shack: Tom is still waiting for Norman Johnson to set up painting schedule.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

We have received a request for our group to circulate a petition to rescind the naming of the Orleans Recreation Complex. Roger has taken the position that the current BCA is not interested in getting involved in naming anything after anybody. The current BCA has no interest in either expanding the program or revisiting any issue of this nature.

Roger visited with the NCC and an outfit that has signed a long term lease for the use of the greenhouse complex off Tauvette. They will be using the existing facility and leasing about 11 acres of land around it with an option to lease a further 10. This represents less than half the area that the previous lessee had designated to him. I believe this is excellent news for a several reasons: a) the new lessees are going to pump considerable funds into restoring and improving the existing facility (which had been deteriorating badly); b) There will be a few more people around this area which should contribute to security; c) this should open up the remainder of this green space for dog walkers etc for the long term as this will effectively block any further development of this designated agricultural piece of land: d) they promise some job opportunities for Blackburn citizens.

Tim Horton's construction now underway and they have leased the Community Hall for November 19th for their recruiting. In order to encourage this new business, a favorable rental rate was given to them for this event. Both youth + seniors should try to take advantage of this opportunity.

We are trying to reallocate the storage facilities at the Community Hall. We are hoping to move the Boy Scouts to the basement of the Notre Dame des Champs Community Hall. If we are successful, we will probably need to allocate some of our capital funds (with the City) to building a cage at this location. (See City report)

Roger is still discussing a final agreement with the City for their use of the Community Hall for their programs. Suzanne asked for a decision on the City's request for the Hall for the PD day on

Dec 7th. The group decided that we should leave that up to Roger to sort out with Jan and leave Dec 7th the way it is since there is not enough time to change the policy for that day.

Our library is on the list of proposed closures for the 2008 Budget review. Roger would like the BCA to organize community support to preserve our library. We are the seventh most expensive branch in the City with regard to cost per item handled. We need someone on the BCA to spearhead this activity. Please talk to Roger if you can help.

Roger has communicated with Mr. Campeau concerning a report of extreme litter around the fence at Louis Riel. Principal Campeau said they clean it up at least twice a year, but will look into the current situation.

In light of the lack of concrete information concerning aluminum wiring, Roger suggests that nothing be put in the BANAR on this subject at this time. The Board agreed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Al reported that we have \$34,000 in our bank account and a current surplus in our programming budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RINKS

Paul will look after the monitors for the Norman Johnson and Bearbrook rinks. Al mentioned that the money the City gives us for monitoring the inks does not cover our expenses. This was not intended to identify it as a problem since we have other monies to cover any losses in this area. Both Rainer and Suzanne brought up the point that Blackburn and a few other rinks in the old City of Gloucester have been receiving rink services more than other Ottawa rinks. We must prepare ourselves for the day when the City refuses to supply rink maintenance services.

The painting of the rink base at Emily Carr was discussed and the board went with the City's recommendation (Ken) that this would not be an environmentally responsible thing to do. We will therefore not proceed with this plan

COMMUNITY HALL

Suzanne brought up the point about the City requesting our Hall for their programs during the Christmas and March Breaks. These programs are well attended by the youth in Blackburn. In other halls in the City, certain dates are blocked off at the beginning of the reservation season for special days when the City runs their programs.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hunt Club extension - environmental assessment has been completed and is available on line at the City's website. The first Phase is the extension of Hunt Club to the 417, then the province can build the exchange, then the rest of the project can proceed.

Rainer encouraged the BCA to send representatives to the 2008 Budget Public Meeting on Tuesday, the 20th at the Orléans Theatre at 255 Centrum. It is very important that we provide as much input as possible to the City with our concerns about proposed cost cutting alternatives. This is especially important when it comes to our library. Charles said he would attend and make a presentation and Tom, Helen, and Laura will also attend. There are also public budget meetings to be held at the City Hall from December 3rd to the 7th where delegations may address the Committee of the Whole. Roger has indicated that he can attend these meetings.

Rainer told us that we must build up support to save our library. He will email the board a list of contacts to whom we should send emails. There was a discussion about circulating a petition within the community, but no definitive action was determined.

FUN FAIR

Jenn had her volunteer appreciation night at the Arms on Tuesday night. She has started organizing for next year. Al has prepared a cheque for her honorarium.

FIFTY PLUS

Sarah announced that their annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner will be held on Dec 8th.

Sarah also distributed her report to the board concerning aluminum wiring in the Hamlet.

WINTER FUN DAY

The Winter Fun Day will be held on Sat., Feb 16th. Jeff & Jenn are organizing it. Horses should be booked asap.

CITY REPORT

Suzanne reported that at meetings between Roger & the City, that the City has modified its policy with respect to the allocation of what used to be community Capital funding. These are funds that are held by the City and are controlled by the community to support activities in Blackburn. We currently have \$5,336 from our 2007 grant and about \$7,000 unspent from 2004 -2006.

The City have suggested two areas to allocate our 2007 funding:

- a) \$2,500 towards integration support that will support special needs children into regular programs. And
- b) \$2,800 to the Gloucester Recreation Development Board which provides programming to less fortunate areas in our community

Motion: that the funds will be allocated as recommended by the City on the condition that the BCA receives a report outlining how these funds were spent in our community.

Moved by Tom, second by Helen – passed unanimously

Suzanne will report on the cost of constructing a wire storage cage at the Notre Dame des Champs community Hall to store some of the items currently in our community hall. This expenditure will be paid for through our unspent capital funds. (see above)

OTHER BUSINESS

Al brought up the status of the current moratorium on the use of Mobile Signs in Blackburn. Rainer stated that the existing moratorium will expire at the end of November (this month).

Motion: - whereas the board recognizes that the current ban on the use of Mobile signs in Blackburn has been recognized by the community as a huge success.

Be it resolved that the existing moratorium on the use of Mobile Signs in Blackburn Hamlet be extended for as long a period as possible.

Moved by Sarah, seconded by Al - passed unanimously

Al will send an email to Rainer indicating this result tomorrow.

François Robichaud reminded the board that Royal has organized a passport day at the Centrum office for Nov 24th from 10 to 5 PM.

Al asked if the board has found someone to look after memberships for 2008. Apparently Evelyn has someone in mind. Al to follow up with Evelyn.