

**Blackburn Community Association (BCA)
Minutes for Thursday November 18th, 2010**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Laura Czekaj Dudas
Trisha Cloutier
Al Ross
Evelyn Budd
Rainer Bloess
Tom Scott
Helen Rosseau
Annick Laporte

GUESTS

Charles Beddoe
Louise Beddoe
Eric Henderson
Mike Murphy
Roland Lecomte
Jeff Miller
Amie Duquette
Jessica Rousseau
Chris Fraser
Gus Phillips

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October minutes were approved. Motioned by Tom, seconded by Trisha, carried. remitted to the next meeting.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

In response to the branding announcement, **Mr. Charles Beddoe** and several concerned residents attended the meeting to stress to the BCA the historical and cultural importance of the original emblem designed by Alan B. Beddoe for Blackburn Hamlet. Besides being an expert on heraldry and an important Canadian artist instrumental in creating the Book of Remembrance housed in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill, Alan Beddoe was also a founder of Blackburn Hamlet itself and one of its earliest residents. His son Charles and the residents at the meeting asked that the emblem be preserved and kept unmodified. It was agreed that the branding initiative would preserve the emblem and endeavour to highlight the history behind it.

Eric Henderson and Trisha Cloutier presented a request for funding to cover a

financial shortfall for the Children's Welcome Center. Despite a revival in clients in 2010, the centre is struggling as a result of a rise in their operating costs caused by the new HST tax and a rate increase in the lease agreement. They asked for a \$500 donation as a top-up to their fund raising and a monthly contribution of \$400 as Community Program Funding for their Monday and Wednesday morning and Family Friday programs. They provided literature and statements showing they are filled to capacity and provide a non-profit community service. Rainer suggested pressure be put on the local provincial government to give them a tax break from the HST.

Helen motioned that the BCA donate the \$500 top-up. The motion was carried with Trisha abstaining. The \$400 monthly contribution will require further discussion. Eric and Trisha will make more detailed documentation available for this. It was suggested the Children's Welcome Centre initiate a campaign to let the public know about its situation. The BANAR will run an article concerning the centre.

Mike Murphy spoke on behalf of Kevin Frost, an Ottawa Olympic athlete with Usher Syndrome who wishes to compete for Canada in the Paralympic speed skating. A fundraiser, entitled FrostFest, is planned at the Blackburn Arms on December 11th and Mr. Murphy asked if the BCA would donate to the cause. The board will review the bylaws of the association in regards to private citizen donations and discuss the matter again in a future meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Laura introduced Roland Lecomte, Jeff Miller, and Amie Duquette as possible new board members. Jeff and Amie will review and consider the currently open positions as well as any new positions their skills and interests might engender. Laura stated that having the President's message in both French and English will be a 2011 goal.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Al reports that the BCA finances are at a comfortable level.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIPS

Al pointed out that buying a membership grants Community Hall users a significant discount and he believes memberships are being purchased by non-residents to take advantage of this. He suggested instituting a non-resident membership with a price of \$25.

There was some discussion regarding the draw for the membership drive winner. This draw was previously announced for October in the BANAR but a change in policy carried in the October meeting for start and end dates to occur in June to coincide with Funfair caused some delay. To adhere as much as possible to the declaration already made for a Fall draw, the winner will be drawn at the December meeting and announced in the next BANAR. Dates will then be changed on the membership cards and the next

draw (for a prize as yet to be determined) will be done at the summer Funfair of 2011. Amie suggested buying an Ipad instead of a television for the Funfair draw.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Tom had a meeting with Jeff McDonald and the ice makers. He has four returning monitors and is still looking for rollers. Windows are needed for the skating shacks for security reasons. Minimum wage has increased so rates will go up. Tom also learned that organizations are responsible for deciding how often their volunteers or hired help get police checks, as these do not expire. Tom also updated the application forms and rules package for hiring ice rink staff as discussed at the end of last year.

SENIORS

Roland Lecomte presented himself as a possible replacement for Sarah Cloutier, who can no longer continue as the Senior's Representative due to personal obligations. Roland was here to observe and will let the BCA know if he wishes to commit to the position.

WEBSITE

Helen is looking into using a web hosting service and moving the BCA web server to a commercial one. She will have more details at the next meeting.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

The OC Transpo 94 route is still overcrowded at peak hours. Meetings have been scheduled to resolve the problem.

There is a new east end association in the area, the Bradley Ridge Association. They have 30-40 people involved. Most of their issues are growth related. Rainer suggested the President's Council of east end associations be revived as it is a very useful tool in keeping the diverse east end associations working together, especially at times when the inter-provincial bridge or Greenbelt issues come up. Regarding progress on the the Huntclub extension, the NCC is reluctant to cut up the greenbelt, The transportation need there is strong but so is making sure the Greenbelt and the position of the BCA on cutting it up are considered with consistency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BANAR

Evelyn is looking for a group to deliver the February BANAR. This is the most challenging one. Al suggested the Children's Welcome Centre could do it as a fundraiser.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The sub-committee for expansion met to do a transfer of information and paperwork with Charles, who previously headed the endeavour. The sub-committee will meet again in January. A professional designer or architect may be contracted for the meeting to provide technical advice and a cost analysis for the various concepts. The meeting should take place before the AGM.

FUNFAIR

Trisha reported that Funfair, despite inclement weather, made over \$12,000 gross, in comparison with the \$6000 to \$7000 average of previous years. Most of the profit, after shares have been paid out to volunteers and community groups, will be rolled back in as seed money for next year's Funfair. Trisha suggested that certain items and facilities (such as tents, bleachers, and tug-of-war ropes) which are usually rented for the event be purchased outright with the profits. Al and Ben (the Funfair treasurer) will go over the Funfair books together.

NEW BUSINESS

The idea of putting on a BCA Children's Christmas party has been shelved. The Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre and the Children's Welcome Centre both already put one on so it would not only be superfluous, it might also be detrimental to organizations that use the event as a fundraiser.

Annick attended a school council meeting at Ste-Marie elementary to disseminate information on the BCA to the french community and to ask for volunteers. The council has a community initiative on the table which could benefit from seed money and they will send a representative with the details in the new year. Several members of the school council expressed an interest in becoming engaged in the BCA and two persons who have translating backgrounds offered to translate pertinent pages on the BCA website to French free of charge. When Louis Riel french secondary school meets in the new year Annick will meet with them with the same goal in mind.

The Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre (EORC) is preparing a new survey. Several BCA members found the last one to be slanted toward the negative and at times wholly inappropriate to the region and its issues. Tom suggested it ask more pertinent questions (like asking "why not?") when quizzing residents about using facilities like parks. A representative will be at the December meeting to help focus the survey and the EORC has put up a link on their website to encourage feedback such as suggestions and refinements.

Meeting was adjourned by Laura at 10:10.