

**Blackburn Community Association (BCA)  
Minutes for Thursday February 17, 2011**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**GUESTS**

Constable Charles Beniot, Ottawa Police  
Amie Duquette  
Chris Fraser  
Ali Yassine  
David Bertschi  
Phil McNeely

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting began with the presentation by Constable Beniot and was called to order by Laura at 8:20 pm.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Constable Beniot gave a presentation on safety in the neighbourhood. He provided several safety tips and published material on decreasing the likelihood of a break-in. The **break-ins in Blackburn** are of two types: planned break-ins and the *smash-and-grab*. The former relies on information gathered on the habits of the owners and may include knocking on the door while posing as canvassers or lost person to check for occupancy. The thefts occur when the owner is away, usually on a weekend, and many valuables are emptied from the house. Unlocked garage doors have been used to gain private access to the house through connecting doors or even a common wall. A man and woman working together in a van have been identified as likely suspects. Police are asking residents to reports any suspicious canvassers or unidentified parked vans on their street. *Smash and grabs* usually occur when the house is empty but have happened when owners are home and busy elsewhere in the house. Small, valuable items withing easy reach are snatched by way of unlocked doors. Keeping doors locked is the best defence. "Car Surfing", the act of randomly trying car doors to find unlocked targets and removing items from them, is still occurring. Locking doors and not leaving valuables like GPS systems in plain sight is a simple prevention.

Constable Beniot informed the BCA that the Ottawa Police offers free **Security Audits**. He invites the public to call his office and book this service. An officer or volunteers will come to the house and assess the security measures in place, make recommendations, and provide valuable tips and tricks to make the home safer from break-ins.

The constable praised the value of **Neighbourhood Watch** as an effective means of keeping neighbourhoods safe. He encouraged residents to organize under this program which keeps residents informed of activity on their street and keeps unoccupied homes safe. Pamphlets on how to join were distributed and copies left at the library leaflet counter.

Residents are invited to call 613-236-1222 or visit [www.ottawapolice.ca](http://www.ottawapolice.ca) for more information. Our constable is stationed at 1700 Blair, above the fire station.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion to approve the February minutes was motioned by Trishia, seconded by Annick, carried.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Laura gave her president's report. She listed the initiatives and programs the BCA put on over the year and thanked the many volunteers who made them possible. She underlined the importance of our two information vehicles; the BANAR and the BCA website, and praised the consistent efforts made by Evelyn Budd and Helen Rosseau, who keep these mediums going so efficiently. Laura also thanked departing board members Roger Smiley, Tom Scott, and Sarah Cloutier for their hard work and wished them well in the next endeavours. Laura's full report will appear in the next BANAR.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Al reported on the finances. We are still in need of new programming or we will see a decrease in the programming funds we receive. \$5,000 had to be returned to City as unspent funds. The finances are otherwise balanced and in good shape. The balance sheet will appear on the website. Laura will obtain the written description of what constitutes acceptable programming so that we may better brainstorm possible future initiatives.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Minimum wage has gone up to \$9.60 an hour, which affected the cost of personnel this year. The summer park clean-up is now done by two people, relieving the problems of holiday absences or sickness. Work has been very satisfactory and all 7 parks were kept very clean last year.

The 3 rinks and 2 shacks were well maintained and monitored last year. There were no problems to report.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

A gift certificate will be raffled as a half-year incentive for memberships sold before the next Funfair, which will become the new beginning and end for the membership "year". A larger prize will accompany the drive at Funfair itself.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Spring Clean Up Day is set for April 16<sup>th</sup>. Rain date is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Rainer reported that a new bus route has been proposed which may create changes in the 125 route. This is not defined yet and will be announced later in March.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FUNFAIR**

Trisha reported a great year for upcoming Funfair. Security has been secured free of charge and the fireworks are being sponsored by Lafarge. Ray's Reptiles will perform a show in the arena, A few permits are still pending but she has a great crew of 15 volunteers who are working hard to make the weekend of June 4<sup>th</sup> a special one.

### **BANAR**

Evelyn reported a good year for the BANAR. Five issues went out without problems. The publication has accumulated 56 different advertisers. The February issue will again be delivered at the more higher pay rate as the weather makes it a difficult one for which to obtain delivery services.

### **COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Community Hall Expansion Group met with Josée Hélie, program manager for Parks and Recreation Development at the City of Ottawa. Josée listened to the committee's information regarding the needs of the community and current limitations of the hall. She was familiar with the building and had facts and figures regarding the costs of expansion, how the city can help, funding possibilities, and how the new codes might affect the design of an expansion. She was emailed the information we had available regarding hall use and demand after the meeting. The committee will meet again in March.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Hockey Day in the Hamlet was a great success. Over 200 people attended the event, which will be repeated next year. Many thanks went to Aimie, Chris, Tom, Trisha, and Laura.

The Red Cross will be holding another Blood Drive at Good Shepherd school on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The BCA will again provide refreshments.

The Scouts presented the BCA with a certificate of appreciation for their sponsorship.

The Green's Creek Farm will hold a public meeting on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> between 7 and 9 at the Community Hall regarding the revitalization of the Tauvette green houses.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICIALS**

The following people were voted in as board members and appointments. Nominating members are in brackets.

### **BOARD**

President – Laura Czekaj Dudas (Al, Trisha)  
Vice-President – Annick Laporte (Laura, Tom)  
Treasurer – Al Ross (Trishia, Evelyn)  
Community Relations – Charles Kennedy (Laura, Tom)  
Environment – Paula Rosenquist (Laura, Annick)  
\*Education/Youth – Aimie Duquette (Laura, Al)  
Seniors – Vacant  
Parks and Recreation – Ali Yassine (Laura, Al)  
Memberships – Jeff Miller (Aimie, Laura)  
Communications – Chris Fraser (Laura, Annick)  
Website – Helen Rosseau (Tom, Annick)  
Secretary – Sheryl Tracy (Annick, Trisha)

### **APPOINTMENTS**

BANAR – Evelyn Budd (Annick, Trisha)  
Community Hall – Jan Whitehouse (Trisha, Al)  
Funfair Committee – Trisha Cloutier (Al, Ali)

\*Until the bylaws are ratified, the Education and Youth positions will be considered amalgamated.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:40**