

Blackburn Community Association

Agenda – September 17, 2015

7:30 p.m. Blackburn Community Hall

REVISED VERSION – approved by the board

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Ali moves to approve the minutes
 - b. Kaitlyn seconds
 - c. PASSES
3. Business arising from minutes
 - a. none
4. Guests:
 - a. John ApSimon – Gloucester Allotment Gardens Association
 - i. Background:
 - BCA supports the GAGA off and on as needed
 - John became president in the past year, the first new president in a few decades
 - Two sites – behind Orient Park Dr. there are 400 plots, with paths and often browsed by residents. Down Anderson road is a site with 70 plots; it is a bit more remote and is fenced against deer
 - NCC land leased to city, contracted to us
 - Anderson doesn't have its own water, got it from Just Food and Friends of Mer Bleue
 - 5000 gallons / year
 - Rental available to anyone, not only Hamlet residents; long waiting list, limit on the number of plots 1 – 1.5
 - Two kinds of plots available:
 - Annual plot (plowed out in the spring, load of compost provided by the city, and city water is provided)
 - Perennial plots also available
 - Gravel donated by Lafarge helps with the road
 - Planting starts in early May (after turned over after ground is thawed)
 - Cleaned out after Thanksgiving
 - Rules include respecting water wastage, other plots, weeding (can affect neighbouring plots)

ii. Theft problem

1. Every year there are plots full of produce and pilfering does happen
2. Last couple of years several occurrences of serious theft
 - Early May, dozen plants started from seed were stolen as saplings
 - Three rows of beets completely gone
 - Anderson – truck came in and cleaned out 4 or 5 plots. Locks were changed but in the Hamlet we don't want to lock it up as it's a nice place to walk.
 - Plots are rented and people put in a lot of work so they do feel offended when theft is extreme
3. Volunteer scheme to keep an eye out while it's still light out, relying on asking people who are passing through if they have plots
4. Some license plates noted but difficult to follow up
5. Last week on Facebook, there was a story about a challenge from gardener, but children have been known to be used to collect produce for parents waiting in car. So gardener was on "high alert" already
6. Volunteers always wanted on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to help with clean up, will be paid in sunflower seeds

iii. Tangential comment from Frank on another neighbourhood event – Discover Café

1. Last Friday of every month public lecture by academics and students from the area at the Community Church (next to Blackburn Arms)
2. Short talk for the layman on a variety of topics
3. Information on upcoming topics is on the Community Church's website's front page
4. Free admission, refreshments provided

b. Preschool board members

- i. As you know the lease was going to end because of infrastructure / cost issues

- ii. Public support and councillor's office got all the people together to negotiate a 2 year lease renewal
- iii. Renovations were necessary to reopen safely for these two years
 - 1. Roof repairs
 - 2. Exploratory work
 - 3. Foundation repairs
 - 4. Volunteer effort helped with painting and small odd jobs
- iv. But that will only extend it two years. Search starts now and time will be needed to find a location, get it to code, get it licensed by the ministry
- v. New building will allow them to become a full-day care provider with bigger groups while adhering to new regulations
 - 1. More programs will be possible
 - 2. Currently only half-day programming is allowed
- vi. As a cooperative, purpose is to provide programs which support families' needs
- vii. Need volunteers, fundraising
- viii. Either new building or retrofitting of existing buildings.
- ix. Some ideas about new programs but need community input (survey on website and in BANAR) on what is of interest to community members
 - 1. New co-op bylaws include memberships available for community members to be involved even without a child enrolled in a program
- x. First day Monday September 21
 - 1. Lots of spots are available in both preschool programs due to uncertainty over the summer
 - 2. Currently losing money
 - 3. Non-profit means it's difficult to find the right price to charge, but it is competitive with private providers because of parent helpers instead of staff
 - 4. Getting word out that registration is available. Grand Reopening / Open House, probably early October.
- xi. Around the same time, community awareness campaign to promote the next phase and new building(s)
 - 1. To show support, decorate a tree in your yard with orange (inspired by The Lorax, being voices for the kids like the Lorax was a voice for the trees) called "Truffalo trees" - October 15

2. Take a photo, send to politicians, tell them you care, cc bhps email too
3. Details tba
- xii. Question: Is the word reaching the surrounding neighbourhoods (e.g. Chapel Hill)?
 1. Tammy will help with this
- xiii. Question: Are you considering schools, Just Foods?
 1. Talking more with Just Foods (preferred location) still working out the details. On NCC land, unsure if it's permitted, and is there enough time before September 2017
 - a. Good for nature-based education
 - b. Need a good proposal to make long term commitment
 2. School might be a possible temporary location if there is another space but isn't time to prepare it before deadline
- xiv. List of roles and expertise really needed will be going up on the website to help bring in volunteers for the project of moving sites

5. President's report

a. Summer overview

i. Canada Day fireworks

1. Wonderful event that went well (no injuries!) all permits in in time
2. Next time maybe free rental of the park
 - a. There was only time to go through the regular booking process which has a fee
3. \$2000 bought us a decently-long show
4. Volunteer set them off and got us the fireworks wholesale
 - a. On board for next year or two
5. Resident comment: Everyone appreciated the event, great community feel, much enjoyed
6. Question: So do we keep it quiet? Yes, keep it word of mouth, but we're not going to advertise it in the newspapers or anything.
7. Next year we'll advertise ahead of time that we'll be accepting donations (\$265 this year passing a hat)

ii. Theatre in the park

1. Not much BCA promotion since they were doing their own promotion
2. Big crowd

3. Resident: Show was great, but not aimed at kids
4. No cost to the BCA
5. We'll try to get them again next year
- iii. Mural touched up at Bearbrook pool
 1. Noah MacDonald
 2. Plaque reinstalled which had fallen off recently
- iv. Dapo Agoro Fun Day (BCA is a sponsor)
 1. We sponsored \$500 for access to the BBQ
 2. To promote peaceful resolution and give children a chance to interact in productive way, in memory of Dapo Agoro
 3. Same group does scholarship fundraising
- b. Federal election
 - i. Candidates can visit the meetings but there won't be presentations or a debate
- c. City budget
 - i. Process about to begin
 - ii. City is in a deficit so every dollar is fought over
 - iii. We should raise issues important to us, **even if** it's just status quo and upkeep and maintenance
 - iv. September 26 10am-12pm at community kiosk at Place d'Orleans (where they rent the strollers) to speak to the councillors and explain what's important to you – less formal than previous events
- d. BCA budget preparations start
 - i. Process started for January AGM
 - ii. Directors need to look at last year's numbers and adjust for the next year (whether you need more or less)
 - iii. Submissions probably about mid-October
 - iv. 2 weeks prior to third Thursday of January required by bylaws so it can be posted for community involvement
 1. But we like to have it earlier so people can see it before the holidays
- e. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
 - i. A chance to recognise BCA volunteers, a chance to say thank you
 - ii. Awards – volunteer from board, and community member
 - iii. Here's a reason to volunteer!!!
- f. New BBQ
 - i. We bought a new BBQ after the old one almost set the softball team on fire

6. Treasurer's report

- a. \$36000 in the bank, a few cheques out
- b. Review of this year:
 - i. Expecting more from grants that haven't come in from the city yet
 - ii. BANAR revenues seem on track for the year for projected revenue
 - iii. Revenue is low but the year's not out yet
 - iv. Park expenses were lower so there's some extra there
 - v. Deficit of \$6400, budgeted \$3400
 1. As opposed to accidental surpluses in recent years
 - vi. \$11000 on new signs
 1. The base is still to be touched up
 - vii. Budget to be drafted for next year
 - viii. Deposits into bank account need to be reconciled so we know where it's coming from – Al just sees “money coming in”
 1. Send Al emails to go along with deposits so that he gets a “receipt” of sorts

7. Directors' reports

- a. Entrance way signs complete – final cost - \$11000
- b. Upcoming community tree planting event
 - i. Tree planting Oct 24th 11am Agnes Purdy Park near Ecole Sainte-Marie
 - ii. Stumps weren't cleared at first choice but Agnes is ready
 - iii. City provides plants, BCA has tools
 - iv. Laura: We might be planting a Agnes Purdy memorial tree
 - v. Question: Is it a kid-friendly event
 1. Yes lots of families come. No big holes to dig, just small manageable stuff
 2. And tools are provided
 3. And it's not a very very long event
- c. Parks and Rinks
 - i. Park grooming going well. No complaints. Getting ready for rink season – recruiting in a month or so for outdoor monitors
 - ii. Earlier start to planning for Hockey in the hamlet
 1. Working on a bigger event, maybe
 2. This year it can be advertised in the February BANAR thanks to the timing
 3. Weekend before Family Day

d. Membership

- i. 70 members
- ii. Still recruiting
- iii. Table at Cancer Chase – needs someone to man table since he'll be running
- iv. Chasing down non-renewers, there were some bounces
- v. Some who signed up at Santas think it's January to January but it's to June
- vi. Will be in charge of the t-shirt sales – they are a good way to raise the BCA profile

e. Website

- i. Splashpad keeps coming up in the Facebook group so I did a poll of the interest in locations
 1. Most popular were Michael Budd park and near the community hall.
 2. Agenda for October meeting to discuss
 3. Location might not be able to be picked first
 - a. But chicken and egg problem
- ii. New website
 1. Have to decide which groups / teams get a mention on the new website BEFORE I reach out and say that we are migrating their information and is it up to date
 2. Other pages' first drafts are done
 3. Continue to send me any updates; I am updating the site as it stands.

8. Councillor's report

- a. First meet-the-councillor drop in session at the Blackburn library
 - i. Really good turnout, some happy, some not
 - ii. Next one Friday Oct 9 2-4pm also at the library
- b. Calls and emails re: Bearbrook traffic (as in, every day)
 - i. Area traffic management program, request for study on Bearbrook
 - ii. Request for flex signs with "Your Speed" and radar guns

Other topics already covered by Laura's summary. See full report from Councillor Mitic at the end of the minutes

9. Committee reports

a. BANAR

- i. BANAR went out for September
- ii. Oct 21st deadline for Nov 9th delivery
- iii. Need groups for November and April deliveries. Paid work.
- iv. Comments from residents: Some double deliveries, some maybe missing (Glen Park: one house doesn't remember getting one)

b. Fun Fair

- i. Final numbers \$17000 in profit (most profit EVER)
 1. Great weather, great volunteers, great participation
 2. \$11000 to be shared with community groups, non profits
 - a. September 22nd committee meeting to decide which
 3. Rest retained by Fun Fair because arena may not be available next year
- ii. Next year's location
 1. Arena may not be available next year (renovations) and this will incur a lot of extra costs (tents, porta potties, etc). but renovations might be delayed long enough
 2. More information about next year's plans will be available soon
 3. Question: Hornet's nest as a possible location?
 - a. Nope because of the midway taking all the parking spaces there
 4. Question: Maybe we can push the renovations a week through Jodi?
 - a. Tammy: I'll check it out
 5. The fun fair has to pay for stuff up front but don't get paid until after, so seed money is really important even if it's a low chance the arena won't be an option
- iii. First weekend in June (midway already booked)

c. Cancer Chase

- i. New location – Hornet's Nest
- ii. Has its own website cancerchase.com
- iii. Registration through running room – preferable way to register, guarantees a t-shirt
- iv. Great sponsors for raffle / silent auction including indirect non-Hamlet companies

- v. Running through the paths this year, volunteers positioned to guide runners, optional run up the toboggan hill
- vi. Advertising is sponsor-supported
- vii. Weather is going to be perfect! We know it!
- viii. Doors open at 8:15, starts at 9
- ix. Technically you don't need to register to participate in the run and the day
 - 1. If paying on the day in person at the event, a donation of \$15 or more gets a tax receipt
- x. Question: t-shirts come out of donations?
 - 1. Yes. \$1000 seed money from Lafarge and they get a tax receipt
- xi. Question: do you have a treasurer? Bank account?
 - 1. Yes

d. Seniors Advisory Committee update –

- i. New name: Seniors' Action Committee
- ii. Raise awareness of activities for seniors in the area
- iii. Point out ways to help seniors in the area
- iv. S.I.N (Senior's Information Night) in the Hamlet on October 1
 - 1. Invited people who serve seniors in the neighbourhood to come and have a table (for donation) to advertise services. 16 tables booked; hall will be tight
 - 2. Tell seniors you know in the area. All ages welcome to the information night 6 – 8:30pm
- v. Still working on a budget so volunteers are helping out financially in the mean time
- vi. Question: what age is “senior”?
 - 1. 50+

e. Community Hall – Diane has taken over administration of the hall.

Contact info on the website, BANAR already

- i. Discussion with City about space at the hall – programming hiccups in the summer
- ii. Laura attended events that were very under-attended.
- iii. Talk to the city about stepping back under-used programs that use up the space which is in high demand from the community members

10. New business
 - a. Discussion of Splashpad – which comes first, proposals or choosing a location?
11. Neighbourhood watch meeting upcoming
12. Adjournment

Councillor's Report:

It was a very busy summer with lots of great community events in Innes Ward.

Happy to be invited by the Agoro family to participate in the 13th Annual Dapo Fun Day on August 22nd where I met with many Blackburn Residents and purchased some great baked goods!

I was pleased to hold my first “Meet the Councillor” drop in session last Friday at the Blackburn Library. It was a good opportunity to meet with some Blackburn residents about issues in the community. My next session at the Blackburn Library will be Friday, October 9th.

My office continues to get calls and emails about the traffic and speed on Bearbrook Road. For long-term solutions to speed concerns, we turn to the Area Traffic Management program with the City. The ATM program is how we can obtain physical traffic calming measures like speed bumps or road narrowings. Bearbrook has been submitted by Councillor Mitic to be included in this program. The first step is to do a detailed study on local traffic to compare it against other problem streets in the City. We are expecting these results any day now, which I confirmed with staff this week. This afternoon, I authorized flex signs be installed along Bearbrook Road.

I look forward to attending the upcoming BCA Cancer Chase next weekend at the Hornets Nest.

On a final note, I am very happy to report that my office working closely with City Staff were able to grant the Blackburn Preschool a two year lease extension until June 2017. They hope to be up and running on Monday!

Meeting Attendees

Kaitlyn Demasi	Website Director / Acting Secretary
Ian Chamberland	Resident
Lucille Kingsbury	Senior Action Committee
Shane Leslie	Senior Action Committee
Lesley Silva	Senior Action Committee
John ApSimon	Gloucester Allotment Garden Association
Justine Payne	Environmental Director
Tammy Lynch	Councillor Mitic's Office
Valancy Reynolds	BHPS board
Julie Williams	BHPS board
Laura Dudas	President
Al Ross	Treasurer
Bill Horn	Cancer Chase Chair
Laurie Trépanier	Fun Fair Co-Chair
François Trépanier	Membership Director
Ali Yassine	Parks and Rinks Director
Evelyn Budd	BANAR Director
Frédéric Venne	Resident