

Blackburn Community Association
Agenda – October 15, 2015
7:30 p.m. Blackburn Community Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Corrections added – new version will be uploaded to replace draft asap.
 - b. Kaitlyn moves to approve the revised minutes. Ali seconds
 - i. PASSES
3. President's report
 - a. Federal candidates Meet and Greet recap
 - i. Event was run with other community associations
 - ii. 150-200 ppl attended
 - iii. Great partnership between associations
 1. Let's repeat that partnership as it was a success
 2. With a bigger venue and more notice we could collaborate with more groups
 - iv. The event was also an opportunity to advertise the community associations and show what we do
 - b. Santa Pancake Breakfast update
 - i. Early December
 - ii. Used to be run by The Children's Welcome centre but it has closed
 - iii. Doubles as a membership drive and those with memberships eat for free (there's only one membership fee per household and all household members eat for free)
 - iv. We need volunteers. There's an event coordinator but people to help run the event
 1. Contact Laura if you or someone you know are available. e.g. high school volunteer hour opportunity
 - c. Civic Events grant application update
 - i. A grant for events held on any civic holiday
 - ii. We've applied for Hockey Day in the Hamlet but never received it
 - iii. We will apply next year for our Canada Day fireworks
 1. Yola is preparing the application

- d. The Canada Day event might be growing into something bigger (food truck idea)
- e. 2017 preparations
 - i. Canada's 150th birthday.
 - ii. City is hoping for a large number of tourists
 - iii. A great opportunity for communities to promote their existing or new events to citizens, tourists
 - 1. e.g. maybe FunFair can be tied in to this
 - iv. November 12 – Community information session at city hall for resources for 150th celebrations, information on events already planned 6:30-8pm
 - 1. Work with other CA presidents again to lobby for support for bigger events instead of all separately looking for support
 - 2. Registration required. Please contact Laura with your ideas or if you would like to attend

4. Neighbourhood Watch Presentation/Discussion – Do we want to start/revive this in our community?

- a. Our community safety officer had a meeting in the winter hosted by Jodi Mitic re: safety concerns brought up online. One of the things that kept coming up was people asking how they could pitch in. Nancy looked into Block Parent program. Our local safety officer Heather, Nancy, and others decided it wasn't the way to go. OPS recommends the Neighbourhood Watch (NW) as a way for people to get involved.
- b. **Summary:** essentially the Neighbourhood Watch is a way to educate residents on how to observe and report suspicious events appropriately, whether to 9-1-1 or to a list of non-emergency numbers. Most participants simply register their intent to watch out for each other and follow the correct reporting procedures. There are no patrols. When participation on a street is high enough, that street earns the Neighbourhood Watch signs at each end. The installation of signs is linked to a reduction in crimes on that street.

- c. Const. Brad Burleau, Ottawa Police Service
 - i. Brad is our new community safety officer (Heather has left CPC)
 - ii. Normally, a NW volunteer, Pete, accompanies Brad but he was unable to join us tonight
 - iii. First step to implementation: measure interest in neighbourhood.
 - 1. Generally aim to 80%, 50% acceptable. Less than and there are too many gaps and crime concentrated there.
 - iv. After interest measured, coordinator chosen and hosts neighbourhood meeting to discuss further steps with participants
 - 1. All participants need to complete a NW registration form
 - 2. Find volunteers to go door to door, and advertise other ways, to spread word about the program
 - v. Pamphlets, door decals to the program participants
 - vi. Neighbourhood Watch signs earned with the 50-80% participation rate
 - vii. Chain of command
 - 1. Brad, Pete
 - 2. Watch Coordinator
 - 3. Street captains
 - 4. Block captains per ~15 houses
 - viii. Communication between watch and police essential
 - 1. One NW point of contact to police to streamline communication
 - ix. Role of coordinator – maintain and update any list of members (esp with membership changes as people move in, out, approach new residents) updated with Brad once a year
 - x. Additional service provided: a free safety audit for participants
 - 1. home visits from volunteers to assess home safety, including crime prevention measures you can take at home

- d. Denis Rouleau, Bradley Estates Community Association
 - i. Bradley Estates started organizing their NW last year
 - ii. Pete is the volunteer representing OPS for them as well
 - iii. Instead of starting with a neighbourhood meeting and a coordinator for the entire area, Denis started as a single block coordinator, designating his street one block to focus on first.
 - iv. Everything is provided to legitimize door-to-door visits from Block Coordinators

- v. Denis has 26 houses on his block. It took two and half months to get enough registration forms, replace missing ones, find everyone
 - 1. 25 out of 26 now signed up
 - 2. This street-level count is the engagement level measured when deciding if the 50% (or better, 80%) threshold is met for police to agree to put up a NW sign
 - vi. Residents may say “I don’t really have time”
 - 1. All they have to do is continue to be a responsible resident
 - 2. We tell them what to watch for, and who to talk to (e.g. non-emergency lines)
 - 3. There are no “shifts” to cover, or rounds to walk
 - vii. After 50% engagement reached, you get the street signs, and that is correlated with a drop in crime.
 - viii. Each November, Brad collects the updated list of registered residents
 - 1. Lists only used for neighbourhood watch, nothing else
 - a. Requests to access this by other groups have been refused in the past
 - ix. Safety tips distributed for seasonal concerns (e.g. at Halloween)
 - x. The neighbourhood has 6 participating streets now. Soon, 150 houses will be registered
 - xi. The first signs which go up create interest in neighbouring streets
 - 1. “How do we get signs for our street?”
 - xii. The coordinators continue to raise awareness at community events, association meetings
 - xiii. Once a street is done, that was the hard part. Maintenance of the list is a small amount of work each year as new people move to the area
 - xiv. The support from OPS is phenomenal
 - xv. Cardinal Creek had great tips on how to do successful doorknocking campaigns and Denis was able to put them into use
- e. Questions / comments:
- i. Cost associated with it?
 - 1. Everything’s provided by OPS / City including the signs
 - ii. I love the idea; how is it applied to a condo? e.g. row-house condo, 40+ units
 - 1. Need to be broken down into smaller blocks (20 houses)
 - iii. Does it need to be discussed with the condo board?

1. I would say you need, not permission, but let them know, check if they have a problem / concerns
- iv. The kinds of offenses have changed in the last generation, from “larger” crimes to small theft, narcotics. Are guidelines provided to classify which kinds of offenses fall under NW?
 1. If you have neighbours talking to each other, and the neighbourhood is aware and switched on, people realize and petty crime reduces. Harassment / emergency remains 911
- v. So if you see something, who do you call?
 1. The guide has different numbers for calling other than 911 if it’s not a 911 thing. e.g. NW reports a suspicious truck pulling up to empty house, but it was a truck hired by the real estate agent
- vi. Do they dispatch a unit?
 1. In this example they didn’t have to; the non-emergency contact was able to make some calls and figure it out without needing a police officer on scene
 2. Brad – if there’s something suspicious, do call the police first. Contact the NW later with the details so that they can track.
- vii. Of course there are privacy issues, but goal is OPS will provide NW with a monthly report of crime across the city: type of crime, vague location, whether or not street is NW. Info goes down through chain of command so they know what to look for.
- viii. Has a coordinator stepped up from Blackburn?
 1. Not yet. Is there anyone here who wants to start it or knows someone who wants to?
- ix. Does it generally start with the coordinator’s street? Or do they just start the meeting?
 1. Depends on who steps up as Street Captains / Block captains
- x. Denis, how did you start it?
 1. We didn’t have an event, I just started my street
 2. At our AGM, we got two more streets when we talked about it. Every time we have an event, we promote the NW and get more people
 3. We are launching a Facebook campaign soon
 4. The hardest part is getting the door-knocking volunteers
- xi. Is there a timeline for this? Did we want to get it started by?
 1. Whenever you have an interest

- xii. We should use the BANAR to advertise it, and its deadline is soon. Or at the FunFair.
- xiii. Ryan steps up as coordinator**
 - 1. We still need to advertise for street and block captains
 - 2. Laura will do her block, and find someone for the other block(s) on her street
 - a. A few other attendees mention they can act as block captains.
- xiv. This will be a good replacement for people complaining to the Facebook group
- xv. What about really long streets?
 - 1. At least one sign at each end, but 2 or 3 in the middle on a street like Centrepont makes sense

f. Next steps:

- i. Ryan and Laura will work with Brad on next steps
- ii. BANAR deadline – we'll need a date, location for the meeting before that deadline

5. Treasurer's report

- a. BCA budget prep reminder – deadline next meeting
 - i. Send electronically and bring a hard copy to the next meeting
 - ii. If you want to run something, ask for it! And make sure you budget realistically and ask for what you need so that you don't go over. We keep being in deficit and that's a habit we want to break
 - iii. There are lots of committees so we need to know what our expenses are
 - iv. Big budget items are Hockey Day in the Hamlet, Santa's Breakfast, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Seniors' Action Committee, Fireworks
 - v. We're required in our constitution to post a draft budget two weeks before AGM
- b. \$30,500 in the bank right now; that's typical
- c. As far as I know all bills have been paid (for those with receipts)
- d. Need to make contact with new Hall coordinator
- e. We get money from the city for administration, rinks (and their monitors), park cleanup, renting out the community hall. Big expenses include the BANAR

6. Director's reports

a. Environment (by Laura)

i. Upcoming community tree planting event

1. Tree planting is happening 24th – relatives of Agnes Purdy coming to plant a memorial tree, 4 generations coming

b. Communication

- i. Signs: have a big sign for the SIN event. Norm needs access to where these are stored.
- ii. Working with the tree planting for the 24th – will go up this weekend

c. Additional topic from Norm: Root Beer league

- i. True Sports organization is seeking communities, athletes, teams to do things to give back. Sounds like us.
- ii. We'd be able to work with this movement to make sport better. Hockey. I'd like to see more youth using the outdoor rinks.
- iii. Some youth can't play without equipment
- iv. "Root beer league" – kids' version of a beer league
- v. Introduction to kids who don't normally play organized hockey
- vi. Details like, Insurance
- vii. Need volunteers to help with implementation
- viii. I'd like to see ages 12-16 especially, to keep them busy
- ix. Will you have equipment?
 1. That's way down the line
- x. One of the grants to GRDO for some equipment through Canadian Tire maybe
- xi. Al: we'll have to check if our insurance will cover you already. We don't have complete accident insurance that pays out in every injury but we might protect ourselves as sponsors.
- xii. Timeline?
 1. Next steps: sub-committee for ideas
 2. Currently coaching 16-18 and I want those boys to give back and teach the younger kids to skate - high school volunteer hours. So we already have a group to tap as instructors
- xiii. This winter?
 1. Yes

- xiv. Comment: When we lost the drop-in centre, we don't have any BCA drop in. we're really missing something there
- xv. Great idea, Norm
 - 1. We're not doing teams, keeping score – just giving the kids a way to learn and play
- xvi. Is there a cost associated with booking the outdoor rinks for exclusive-use time?
 - 1. No. Ali can help Norm with that.

d. Parks

- i. Park cleaning is over
- ii. Already getting calls about hockey day
- iii. It's the 5th year, a little bigger
 - 1. We're going to coordinate with the BANAR
- iv. Going to need to check the old budgets for paying someone to clean the ice after storms
 - 1. A couple of neighbourhood people whose names were thrown out have already opted not to

e. Website

- i. Waiting on community input for the last few pieces of content for the new website
 - 1. I've set a deadline – mid-November. Hopefully that will give us time to place all the content in the drafted website template and let us review the site as a whole (content and design) before the AGM in January.
- ii. I've seen the design template so it's come a long way.

f. Vice-President

- i. all good, nothing to report

7. Committee reports

a. Fun Fair (Brent)

- i. We made a profit of \$17200.
 - 1. 43 shares of \$256 each to be distributed out around the community
 - a. \$11008 back to the community

2. Another bill was still due
3. That leaves \$5289 to go into the account – arena issue for next year not resolved yet
- ii. \$31000 total in the bank
 1. \$12000 upfront operating costs, \$3000 capital expense
- iii. Next year the arena might not be available
 1. Applied to book the parks (here and Tauvette) but also to the arena because it might be pushed back at budget time
 2. In contact with Chris at Metro – to maintain the parade doing the same route, still have beer tent here, maybe need the parking lot
 3. Question: we can put pressure on the city can't we?
 - a. If they're doing it, they're doing it right after the hockey season
 - b. We might be able to use the parking lot, might not
 4. Can Laura find out who is the last decision?
 - a. You have to go through Tammy/Jodi
 - i. Idea cc the mayor
 1. That gives Laura an idea – the mayor's office just emailed her for the breakfast with the mayor and the NA presidents
 5. The renos will take too long to be before or after. If it's happening, fun fair can't also fit in that year.
 6. What about the inflatable domes?
 - a. The problem isn't so much the arena – we can have the showcase under a tent. We really need the right space for the midway
 7. Laura: I'll bring it up at the meeting, we need some backup plans.
 - a. The key to getting the parking lot is make all the other options less desirable (like wrecking their soccer fields)
 8. Comment: If we want to make a big deal out of 2017 (For the 150 year events and grants), maybe we should be encouraging them to do the work in 2016 so we know we'll have the arena in 2017.

b. Seniors Action Committee

- i. Seniors' Information Night was a big success
 1. 16 vendors / organizations, ~100 seniors came out
 2. Good feedback about the sense of community
- ii. Potluck being organized for the 4th of December
- iii. Question: Are you going to submit a budget?
 1. Yes, it's being drafted
- iv. Survey: the survey was open June to October. 72 responses.
 1. Top concerns: Safety (44 responses) (crime, ice (roadways), traffic, speeding); door-to-door salesmen; accessibility (ice, sidewalks, road clearance); environment
 2. How they get information: 45 BANAR; website
 3. Programs wanted: Social activities; sports and exercise
 4. Comment: Want seniors to have more of a face in the community, volunteering and doing more to put themselves out there.
 5. Question: Are you going to become more social?
 - a. We're figuring that out: Do we want to run events ourselves, or set it up and let them run it (empower them to do their thing)
 6. Aged 61-70 was the largest cohort that replied
 7. Still getting emails from people interested in presenting at SIN night next year

8. Councillor's report

- a. See below

9. Adjournment – Next meeting November 19

- a. Ali moves to adjourn, Al second.

Councillor's report

I held another Meet the Councillor event this past Friday at the Blackburn Library. The next one will be Fri. Oct. 23rd at the Orleans Library. And then Fri. Nov. 6th at the Blackburn Library. This is a great opportunity for residents, especially those that cannot get downtown, to have a chat with me about any ward issues.

My office has looked into the installation of flex signs on Bearbrook Road. Unfortunately, we will not be able to install them this year as they are seasonal and would have to be removed in November (basically by the time they are installed they would have to be removed). We will however look at having them installed in the Spring. I am still pursuing the installation of a speed board as a long term measure on Bearbrook Road.

Regarding the garbage cans and excess litter on Innes between the plaza and Orient Park, there is a three stream recycle bin presently located at the bus stop in front of the Tim Horton's and Gas Station, where a large portion of the litter is being produced on a daily basis. The BCA does have the option of approaching the business owners requesting they install additional bins on their property (including approaches to the City right of way) so that neighboring residents, who are also their customers, have more opportunity to place their litter in bins prior to leaving the property. Also City staff have been asked to frequently patrol this area to determine if and when debris and litter is present and requires pick up along the City boulevards and right of way. If you do see an accumulation of litter, please contact my office and we will send someone out.

Councillor Jody Mitic

Meeting Attendees

Kaitlyn Demasi	Website Director / Acting Secretary
Ian Chamberland	Resident
Lucille Kingsbury	Senior Action Committee
Frédéric Venne	Resident
Tammy Lynch	Councillor Mitic's Office
Laura Dudas	President
Al Ross	Treasurer
Ali Yassine	Parks and Rinks Director
Ryan McKay	Resident / New Neighbourhood Watch coordinator
Darlene Avelar	Resident
Jeff Miller	Vice President
Brad Burleau	Ottawa Police Services – Community Safety Officer
Denis Rouleau	Bradley Estates Community Association
Brent Lawrie	FunFair co-chair