

Blackburn Community Association

Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023 7:30 pm

1. Call to order at 7:35 pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
 - Motion to approve the minutes from June 15, 2023 by Barbara Whittaker. Seconded by Sarah Morgan-White. Carried.
4. Councillor Update (Laura Dudas)
 - There will be a budget consultation on November 18 at Shenkman Arts Centre. Additional consultations will be held throughout the ward and residents are encouraged to reach out at any time with their input and concerns.
 - The City will be planting over 100 trees in the ward this Fall. Woodhill Park in Blackburn Hamlet will be one of the locations to receive trees.
 - A section of Innes Road and part of the Bearbrook Park path were paved this year. Councillor Dudas will continue to push for more work to be completed in the coming years.
 - There was an intention was to complete the installation of traffic calming measures on Bearbrook from Westpark to Hornets Nest this year, but it has been delayed to next spring. This will include improved line markings, flex posts and signs.
 - OC Transpo has chosen Blackburn Hamlet for the on-demand transit pilot. Mini-buses will replace the 28 on weekends only. It will operate during the same hours as the 28 schedule and will be available at all stops in the Hamlet plus Blair Station. There may be some virtual stops included on other streets such as Cleroux. If this pilot does not work, the expectation is that service would revert to the regular 28 until changes are made as part of the ongoing route review. There will not be any changes to the 25 route or schedule.
 - A Seniors Tea is planned for the Lois Kemp Arena on Friday September 22 from 10am to 11:30am.
 - The reason why council approved the Carling development across the street from the Experimental Farm is that fell within the rules of the Ontario Planning Act. The Planning Act has no provisions for assessing the impact on an Agricultural research farm.
 - One of the upcoming waste collection changes is that leaf and yard waste will no longer be permitted in the Green Bin. Yard waste pickup will continue for items in reusable bins, leaf and yard waste bags and bundles of branches.

5. Wifi Hotspot Options (Lynn Lefevre)

- Since there is no clear timeline for the City to install Wifi in our Hall, the BCA is looking for options where we can have Internet access for BCA volunteers at our events.
- Options were presented for the BCA to acquire our own 5G Wireless service, or to run a pilot using a board members service.
- Motion by Mark Lister to run a pilot service using Lynn Lefevre's 5G Wireless service and to reimburse all costs incurred when BCA Volunteers use this service. Seconded by Lisa Margeson. Carried.

6. Discovery Café (Barbara Whittaker)

- Discovery Café was a series of free public lectures on general interest subjects that used to be held at a local Church. It has been revived under the BCA and will be running on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7pm to 8:30pm in the Community Hall.
- Three nights have been scheduled: September 28, October 26 and November 23. The topic for September is Chemicals: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly by Prof Robert Burk.
- The only costs will be to cover posters, refreshments and appreciation gifts for the speakers.
- Motion by Barbara Whittaker to reallocate \$250 from the Canada Day budget to Discovery Café. Seconded by Don Kelly. Carried.

7. BCA Finances (Lisa Margeson)

- BCA Finances are in good shape. Revenue is being received as expected and Expenses are low.
- Lisa Margeson and Devin Fraser are planning a free tax clinic for those with simple tax returns in February 2024. Carleton University Accounting Students will be providing the service and CRA will be providing the software.
- We are seeing an increasing number of vendors who no longer accept cheques for payment. We are working with the Bank to identify options to make electronic payments, which are currently prevented due to our requirement to have dual authorization for payments.
- Lisa Margeson is investigating the possibility of organizing a community Social Club showcase next year.

8. Event Updates (Don Kelly)

- Sunday's Cancer Chase is moving forward in the Orleans location. The Orleans fun run team are taking care of the run portion of the event. There have been some issues with the Ottawa Hospital website which many account for the lower than expected registrations. The silent auction has over 40 items available. Ottawa Fire Services have confirmed that there will be a fire truck on site.
- The Christmas Craft event have over 30 vendors showing interest in the 19 tables available. It is being held in the Community Hall on November 18.
- There has been good community response from the Emergency Preparedness Plan article in the recent edition of the BANAR. Just Food is also looking to participate. A community meeting will be scheduled for mid October.
- The BCA held a successful first aid course last year and are looking to run another one this year near the end of October. A motion will be brought at the next board meeting to fund two training spots for members of our emergency response team.
- Sensei Paul Morck is running Shindao Martial Arts self defence training and discipline out of the Good Shepherd School. Don Kelly is working on a proposal that could offer free or reduced cost tuition for a one year program for up to four teens from low-income families.
- Don Kelly continues to work with the Frangian family on a plan to host a Christmas Tree display near the Blackburn Pharmacy.

9. Seniors (Barbara Whittaker)

- The Seniors Breakfasts are continuing with an average of 10 participants (15 in August).
- Seven people are now participating in the Seniors Action Committee.

10. Youth (Maureen Forsythe)

- Completion of new mural at Lois Kemp Arena on August 11th
 - 18 youth participants
 - We are waiting for a response from the City on a recognition event.
- Ongoing/Upcoming Events:
 - The Fall Short Story Contest has been launched. Submission deadline is October 18. Winners will be announced in the BANAR
 - A Halloween Event will be held in the Park next to the Hall on October 28.
 - Since the City provided funding for the Arena mural, the BCA mural funding may be used to for one inside the Blackburn Seniors Lodge at the reception area. The date has not been determined.

11. Beautification (Miriam Hampson)

- Rain Barrel Sale
 - The BCA partnered with RainBarrel.ca to sell rain barrels to our community. RainBarrel.ca reclaims barrels used to transport fruits and vegetables to be used as rain barrels. Partnering with various non-profit organizations, RainBarrel.ca helps stage truckload fundraisers in communities like ours across Canada.
 - The BCA sold over 80 rain barrels and 40 miscellaneous parts! Pre-ordered rain barrels were available for pick up at the Community Hall on June 22. The BCA received \$10 from every rain barrel sold; and \$2 from each downspout diverter, stand or flower pot sold. A total of: \$962.50 was made from the sale to support BCA initiatives.
 - A special thank you to Lisa, Lynn, Barbara, and Robert for all their help with the delivery day (and Maureen for her moral support!)
- Garden Tour
 - There were 15 gardens on the tour, with seven of them being new ones. All adding to the varieties, achievements, and sharing of all the people who make the gardens such a pleasure to visit.
 - This year, we were fortunate to have the Hamlet husband and wife team of Jenifir and David Thies- Thompson beautifully playing the flute and violin, in the garden of Jean Clark and Guy Moreau. We also had Garth Hampson singing, with Pat Messier on the keyboard in John and Gloria Peddie's beautiful garden. His voice, well known to many, is still going strong with a medley of memorable tunes, for his ninety years. The Peddie's family and neighbours came up with the 60 chairs required for the visitors to sit and relax and enjoy his singing.
 - We were fortunate enough to also have two master gardeners, sitting around the patio table at Cynthia Hoisak's. With gardening encyclopedias, and their knowledge they were ready to answer any gardening questions throughout the weekend.
 - Dylan Warrick filmed a few of the gardens and you can see his great maneuvering with his drone on You Tube. Blackburn Garden Tour 2023.
 - Generosity was also extended to the many clay pots for cash donations to the Lifecentre Food Bank. All those coins and bills added up to \$1,706.60. The BCA generously contributed another \$500, for a total of \$2,217.30. These funds were donated to the Lifecentre Foodbank.
 - A special thank you to Cynthia Hoisak for co-leading this wonderful initiative. We are in the planning process for next year!
- BCA Gardens:
 - 15 volunteers continue to take care of the four Hamlet gardens at our entry points. The gardens, now in the 3rd year, have developed nicely with many perennials establishing themselves. This has allowed for more lasting blooms and less watering. The volunteer role is still quite onerous requiring muscle, time, water and transportation. We are fortunate to have community members (of all ages) to help with this initiative.
 - As the weather gets a bit colder, I will be looking at planting more mums and adding fall decor (similar to last year).

- Lightpost Banners
 - The significant amount of process and legal steps needed have made it impossible to proceed with the Light Post banners.

12. Environment (Sarah Morgan-White)

- Summary of Upcoming Enviro & Tree Team Events in Blackburn open to the public!

Date and time	Event	Location	How to Register or Attend
Deadline to apply TBD	Adopt a Tree	Online	<link> <Coming>
April 13th, 2024 (Time TBD)	Community Closet	Community Hall	(Note: hall reserved April 12th 4:30pm until 6pm on April 13th)
April 27th, 2024 (rain date April 28th, 2024) 9:30am - 2pm	Spring Cleanup	Community Hall & Blackburn Hamlet	(Note: hall reserved all date April 27th and
May 4th, 2024 8am - 2pm	Garage Sale	Community Hall & Blackburn Hamlet	(Note: hall reserved 6am - 6pm)
May 5th, 2024 5-8pm	Bee Hotel Building	Community Hall	TBD (Note: hall reserved)
May 25 and May 26th, 2024 8am to 4pm	Neighbourhoods Training	Community Hall	TBD (Note: hall in process of being reserved)
September 8th, 2024 9am-12:00pm	Teddy Bear Care	Community Hall	TBD (Note: hall reserved 6am-12:30pm)

- National Tree Day Coloring Contest September 21, 2023
 - National Tree Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many benefits that trees provide: clean air, cooling, habitat, food, etc. In celebration of National Tree Day we held a colouring contest asking individuals to draw their favorite trees! We had 141 entries. We did a random draw and we are in the process of contacting the winner. Thanks to Metro's manager Sara who will be donating a back to school gift basket (value \$50) and thanks to Julie Linton at the Ottawa Public Library (Blackburn Branch) for her help! Some of the beautiful drawings will be seen on display at the library and Metro once the winner has been contacted. An article will follow in the next Banar.

- **Teddy Bear Care September 10th, 2023**
 - Thanks to Devon, Angie, Rachel and Alex for helping with the event. We cared for and patched up many very loved stuffies! 38 people attended our event.



- **Ticks**
 - On July 9th several community leaders and residents attended a focus group on ticks and Lyme Disease the purpose of which was to: learn more about ticks and Lyme Disease, share experiences, learn ways to help mitigate risks in Blackburn Hamlet and start developing a plan. A big thank you to all those who participated! We have a Tick Talk page now on the BCA website which we hope to keep updated with information about Ticks and Lyme Disease.
 - What is next: receiving final implementation plan from University of Montreal (fall/winter)
- **We are recruiting a new Environment Director and Tree Team lead for 2024!**
 - We're recruiting a new Environment Director. and Tree Team lead for 2024. The BCA is looking for someone who cares about the environment and our community to become our next Environment Director and Tree Team lead. This a volunteer position on our board and the interested participant would be involved in all BCA board meetings and decision-making. The role of the Environment Director is to organize the annual Spring Cleanup and advertise the Garage Sale. However, there is plenty of room for creativity and new ideas in this portfolio. If you are interested or if you have questions, send me an email at enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca.
- **Adopt a Tree**
 - We have ordered the trees for our Adopt a Tree! Something a little different this year, we have ordered an indoor tree for those in Blackburn Hamlet that don't have a yard to plant a tree in! Trees that residents will be able to adopt: Almond, yellow birch, blueberry and fig tree (indoor). Residents interested in adopting a tree can visit the BCA website and complete the form! We hope to have everything on the website by the end of September.

- Carleton University
 - We will be working with a University of Carleton student this fall to help identify tree pests and diseases specific to Blackburn and remedies. The intention is to have a report that can be shared with our residents to help safeguard our urban forest!
 - Our first meeting is October 2nd!
 - The project overview is:
 - a review of research literature on invasive tree pests/diseases and the urban context, emphasizing the CDN context
 - research and report on 10 pests and diseases, most of which are not yet present in Ottawa, that we should be aware of
 - analysis and report of the city of Ottawa tree inventory data for Ward 2 and for Blackburn Hamlet
 - These will provide the groups with the resources to develop their final project deliverables. These are:
 - a final presentation (end of Nov/early Dec)
 - an executive summary (about 5 pages), and likely also a visual/infographic element (which may be figures inserted in the exec summary).
- Neighbourhoods
 - No update. A very big and special thanks to Clifton and Regina who continue to spearhead and lead this project in Blackburn. Now that the weather has cooled down and the leaves are starting to turn, why not take the time to learn more about trees and help with this project! Contact Clifton and Regina at treeinventory@blackburnhamlet.ca

13. Funfair (Brent Lawrie)

- All expenses have been paid leaving a profit of \$23k. \$8k is being distributed back to the community and the remaining \$15k will be used for seed funding next year's funfair.
- Steve Vesely will be taking over role as Funfair Chair.

14. Rinks (Mark Lister)

- We are still looking for looking for more volunteers to maintain the rinks.

15. President Updates (Mark Lister)

- We will be meeting with the City in early October to discuss our recreation funding agreement, which is expected to have changes to the wording.
- There were some issues with the hall cleanliness over the Summer primarily from the day camps who were not cleaning up at the end of each day/week. The Arena staff are working to ensure it is kept clean and are working through the repair list.
- A Hall clean up day is being organized to remove items that have been left behind for too long.
- Mark Lister has spoken with people who have contacted us to volunteer and will be circulating the contact names to appropriate Directors and Chairs.

16. Adjournment at 9:30pm (Next Board meeting is October 19, 2023).

Attendees

Mark Lister

Brent Lawrie

Lisa Margeson

Lynn Lefevre

Barbara Whittaker

Don Kelly

Heather McCuaig Edge

Maureen Forsythe

Miriam Hampson

Sarah Morgan-White

Satinder Sahota

Steve Vesely

Chelsey Wynne

Laura Dudas

Marion Hall

Sharon Kes

BCA Board 2023-2024

Executive

President	Mark Lister	president@blackburnhamlet.ca
Vice President	Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Secretary	Lynn Lefevre	secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca
Treasurer	Lisa Margeson	treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca

Director Portfolios

Beautification	Miriam Hampson	beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca
City Liaison	Kiel Dixon-Lawlor	kiel@blackburnhamlet.ca
Communications	Nina Ryan	communications@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Relations	Jenny Lawrence	jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Safety	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Director at Large	Satinder Sahota	satinder@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment	Sarah Morgan-White	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
E-Newsletter	Lynn Lefevre	newsletter@blackburnhamlet.ca
Facilities and Operations	Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership	Heather McCuaig Edge	membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Parks	Kiel Dixon-Lawlor	parks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks	Mark Lister	parksanddrinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Seniors	Barbara Whittaker	seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
Transportation	Robert Bellizzi	transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
Volunteer Management	Mark Lister	president@blackburnhamlet.ca
Youth	Maureen Forsythe	youth@blackburnhamlet.ca

Committee Chairs

BANAR	Kendra Brett	banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
Climate Team	Anna-Sarah Eyrich	climate@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Hall	Pamela Barton	hall@blackburnhamlet.ca
Tree Team	Sarah Morgan-White	treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website	Steve Vesely Lynn Lefevre (Content)	webmaster@blackburnhamlet.ca webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

Events

Bike Rodeo	Robert Bellizzi	transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
Canada Day	Vacant	canadaday@blackburnhamlet.ca
Cancer Chase	Don Kelly	cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
Fun Fair	Brent Lawrie	funfairchair@gmail.com
Garage Sale	Sarah Morgan-White	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Garden Tour	Cynthia Hoisak	gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Hockey Day	Mark Lister	parksanddrinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Santa's Pancake Breakfast	Don Kelly & Angie Jodoin	santasbreakfast@blackburnhamlet.ca
Seniors Information Event	Vacant	seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup	Lisa Margeson	cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca
Volunteer Appreciation	Mark Lister	president@blackburnhamlet.ca