

Blackburn Community Association

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023 7:30 pm

1. Call to order at 7:35pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
 - Motion to approve the minutes from October 19, 2023 by Brent Lawrie. Seconded by Barbara Whittaker. Carried.
4. Insurance Update (Mark Lister)
 - The BCA has benefited from the Ottawa Community Partnership Insurance Program (CPIP) since amalgamation, which provides us with Liability Insurance for almost all of our activities at no cost. Approximately 125 Community Associations are grandfathered into this program and Associations who were not included at amalgamation have to obtain and fund their own insurance. The City realizes the disparity and Council had asked staff to report on options for a more equitable solution.
 - This was exacerbated earlier this year when the City had significant challenges finding an insurance provider to renew the coverage. It is expected that the June 1, 2024 renewal will be even more challenging.
 - At the November 7 meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee, staff proposed to eliminate the CPIP program and reallocate the funds to the existing Community Funding Framework (CFF). This would force all Community Associations and other Community groups in the City to fund and acquire their own insurance and then submit a grant request to the CFF for reimbursement, with no guarantee of receiving the grant. Councillor Dudas put forward a motion to defer any decision until February 2024 as there were many unanswered questions and limited consultations were held with the affected Associations.
 - Ottawa is the only City in Canada that provides free insurance to Community Associations.
 - This does not affect Community Gardens and Community Rinks programs as they are covered under separate programs.
 - With the wide variety of activities and events that the BCA offers throughout the year, it could be difficult for us to obtain a comprehensive, flexible and reasonably priced insurance package through an insurance provider.
 - The BCA met the City and Councillor Dudas regarding the impact this could have on the operation of the Community Hall and all of the programs we offer the community. City staff are willing to discuss alternative strategies under our Recreation Renewable Funding Grant but no details are available at this time.
 - More updates will be sent to the board and committee chairs out as they become available over the next few months.

5. Councillor Update (Chelsey Wynne)

- The budget 2024 process is underway. Community members are encouraged to reach out to Councillor Dudas at any time regarding their budget concerns. Two public consultations are scheduled. A joint east-end consultation will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 12:30pm to 2pm at Ray Friel Recreation Complex. On Saturday, November 25 an Innes Ward consultation will be held from 11:30am to 1pm at the Ottawa Public Library Orléans Branch, located at 1705 Orléans Boulevard. There is also a survey for ward priorities is available at <https://lauradudas.ca/budget2024/>.
- An information session regarding the upcoming on-demand bus pilot will be held at Lois Kemp Arena event on November 25 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. OC Transpo has confirmed that this pilot will serve all existing route 28 stops as well as two stops on Cleroux Crescent. No date has been given for the launch of this pilot.
- The OCTranspo Route Review includes replacement of route 28 with the extended route 24, which will not serve Tauvette Street or South Park Drive. The draft documents have been updated to reflect this change and are available at <https://lauradudas.ca/oc-transpo-route-review/>. Community members are encouraged to provide their Feedback to Councillor Dudas and OCTranspo via their routereview@ottawa.ca email address.

6. Board Positions (Mark Lister)

- Maureen Forsythe will not be seeking re-election at the AGM. Her work over the past few years has made a significant impact on the community and is greatly appreciated.
- Shashank Iyer is interested in taking over the Membership role with help from Lisa Margeson.
- A campaign to fill vacant board positions will be conducted closer to the AGM.

7. Grants (Lisa Margeson)

- After further review, the proposal to subsize Hall Rentals for Recreational related programs was withdrawn. In addition, the distribution of Grants will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis.
- The Grant request to cover the Bridge Club costs for replacing aging equipment and supplies was reviewed, but no motion was put forward to vote on it.

8. Community Christmas Tree (Don Kelly)

- The original proposal was to purchase a tree to place in front of the Blackburn Pharmacy. Concerns were raised about a display near the intersection and there are also concerns about cutting down a tree to use for this display.
- The new location for the display will be the 20' tall Spruce Tree at 4 Southpark Drive, which is the home and future business location for George the Barber (who is currently located in the Blackburn Shoppes Plaza).
- A professional company will be hired to supply and safely install and remove the lights and the cost will be split between the BCA and George the Barber.

- The lighting ceremony will be held on December 9 at 7pm and will be commissioned by Councillor Dudas.
- Motion to approve hosting this activity at 4 Southpark Drive by Brent Lawrie. Seconded by Lisa Margeson. Carried.

9. BCA Finances (Lisa Margeson)

- There are no areas of concern to discuss. Our revenue is on track to match the forecast and our expenses are lower than budgeted due to cancelled activities.
- Most of the draft 2024 budgets have been received and will be reviewed by the Executive in December.

10. Event and Safety Updates (Don Kelly)

- Christmas Market. Angie Jodoin, Jenny Lawrence and Don Kelly chose a diverse mix of vendors. Setup is scheduled for Friday night and the event runs on Saturday.
- We have not been able to connect with the Office of Emergency Management regarding the BCA Emergency Preparedness Plan. Don Kelly will create a draft plan and then submit it to the City for their review and feedback. Satinder Sahota will work with Don Kelly to determine if we are eligible for the Ontario Emergency Preparedness grant and if so, submit an application.
- The proposed First Aid Training received a low response from the community. This will be revisited in Spring.
- Santa's Breakfast is scheduled for December 2 from 8:30am to 11:30am. Additional volunteers would be welcomed.

11. Seniors (Barbara Whittaker)

- A Seniors Survey will run from November 18 to December 8. It will be promoted on our Website, Facebook and in the BANAR. Paper copies can be returned via mail or deposited at the Ottawa Public Library and Metro.
- Two Seniors Walk-and-Talk events have been held with 11 and 10 in attendance. Both included long and short route options. The next event will be on Wednesday, November 22 at 10:00am. It will be determined at the next Seniors Advisory Committee meeting if we add more dates.
- The November Seniors Breakfast Get-together had 15 in attendance. We usually announce upcoming BCA events, but this time a small printed list (from BCA, OPL and other things on FB) was distributed to attendees as a take-away. The December 6 breakfast will be a holiday theme. There will be no breakfast in January, but it will resume in February.
- A Seniors Karaoke Evening, with fixed dinner menu will be held at Olito's on Wednesday, December 13 starting at 5:30pm. Participants must register in advance.
- The Seniors Saturday Social date has changed to March 16, 2024.

12. Discovery Café (Barbara Whittaker)

- 25 people at the October 26 event (including speaker and organizers).

- Barbara Whittaker will be supplying a microphone and speaker for future sessions.
- Next Thursday, November 23: Robin Grosset, CTO, Mindbridge: Detecting Fraud: A behind the scenes look., 7:00 pm, Community Hall.
- Speakers are now booked for sessions in January, February, March, April and May. More details about the sessions to come.
- The co-organizer have committed to support this event until the end of 2024, so we will work on speakers for September, October, November in the coming months.

13. Youth (Maureen Forsythe)

- Winners of the fall short story contest will be announced in the November BANAR; total of 25 submissions received
- Horrifying Halloween Costume party for youth was held on Saturday October 28th; there were about 37 participants
- New BCA Midwinter Poetry Prize will be announced in the November BANAR; the deadline for submissions is mid-January 2024
- After 3 years of supporting youth engagement in Blackburn, Maureen will not be seeking re-election to the Board in early 2024; this will give others an opportunity to lead and/or support local youth engagement

14. J&S Closure & Farewell (Jenny Lawrence)

- We received an enquiry from a Hamlet resident regarding the upcoming closure of J&S Service Station asking if the BCA would be organizing a farewell event. Brent Lawrie will follow up.

15. BCA Board Christmas Party (Brent Lawrie)

- The party will be held on December 16 at 6pm at the Blackburn Arms. Invitations will be sent out soon.

16. Volunteer Management (Mark Lister)

- Monthly reminder of the volunteer list that is available for upcoming events.

17. Rinks (Mark Lister)

- Last year's volunteers have returned to the Bearbrook Rink and new volunteers have joined to help fill out the other vacancies.
- We are looking for an attendant coordinator.
- Boards have been installed at Michael Budd and Norman Johnston.
- Weather permitting, there will be a Hockey Day on Family Day Monday, February 19, 2024.

18. Adjournment at 10pm (Next Board meeting is January 18, 2024)

Attendees

Mark Lister
Brent Lawrie
Lisa Margeson
Lynn Lefevre
Barbara Whittaker
Don Kelly
Jenny Lawrence
Miriam Hampson
Robert Bellizzi
Satinder Sahota
Steve Vesely
Chelsey Wynne
Emal Safi
Sharon Kes
Shashank Iyer

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