

Blackburn Community Association

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024 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 November 16, 2023 by Brent Lawrie. Seconded by Maureen Forsythe. Carried.
4. Just Food Update (Moe Garahan)
 - Just Food is 20 years old and has occupied the farm for the past 14 years. They have over 30 Partners at the farm and have the goals of food access, sustainable agriculture and enhancement of community participation and development.
 - Programs at the farm include:
 - The community gardening network and development fund, which includes a seed library and gardening workshops and provides a growing number of family size plots at the farm
 - Savour Ottawa partnership which supports local food farms & businesses
 - Advocacy and education on local food policy
 - Startup farm training program.
 - Forest capital forest, which has 9 acres on the farm
 - Women Warriors Healing Garden
 - Earth Path
 - Many more!
 - A portion of the upstairs barn is now a 4-season space with accessible elevator access and is available for events. The outdoor pavilion is also available for events.
 - The installation of an upper deck of the Barn was postponed due to rising construction costs for the other projects. The plan is to include it when the rest of the barn upstairs area is converted to 4-season space once funding has been secured.
 - Recent challenges have been vandalism attacks on the farm irrigation pipes and a cabin break-in.
 - The community is welcome to visit the farm but must respect the rules that are posted at <https://justfood.ca/just-food-farm/farmrules/>.
 - New signs will be posted this year throughout the farm to explain the activities at the farm and to remind visitors of the rules.
 - They are working with the NCC on an extension of the bike path from Hornets nest parallel to Tauvette. A fence will be installed separating the new path from the farm and it will only have 2 openings. One at Southpark and another along Tauvette.
 - Breakfasts at the farm will be held in conjunction with the monthly farm stand starting with Mothers Day and Fathers Day.
 - This year they hope for more collaboration and shared events.
 - They will also be setting up a pilot neighbourhood composting drop-off initiative.

5. Councillor Update (Sarah Loomis)
 - OCTranspo is still working out the details with the on-demand pilot booking vendor. This will only run on weekends. A starting date has not been announced.
 - The updated OCTranspo Route Review details are posted at <https://lauradudas.ca/oc-transpo-route-review/>. The route 28 weekday service is being replaced with an extension of the 24.
 - Councillor Dudas is holding a Family skating event on February 16 from 6pm to 7pm at the Lois Kemp Arena.
 - The 98/100 Bearbrook development application has been resubmitted and now falls under new Provincial accelerated approval process.
 - The 2024 vacant unit tax portal is now open for residents to submit their declaration.

6. Bridge Club Grant request (Lynn Lefevre)
 - An electronic vote to approve the \$2,058.67 grant to the Bridge Club was held after the November meeting and was carried with 8 Yes votes, 1 No vote and 6 Abstentions.

7. BCA 2024 Budget (Mark Lister) – Vote
 - Motion to approve the 2024 Blackburn Community Association budget by Sarah Morgan-White. Seconded by Brent Lawrie. Carried.

8. Article of Incorporation changes (Lynn Lefevre) – Vote
 - Motion to add the descriptions for BCA Members and Members' Voting Rights as documented in the BCA By-law to our Articles of Incorporation by Brent Lawrie. Seconded by Satinder Sahota. Carried.
 - The following text will be voted on by BCA Members at the Annual General Meeting:
 - Members and Voting Rights**
 - Blackburn Community Association has two types of memberships: Regular and Associate

 - Regular members reside within the boundaries of Blackburn Hamlet. Membership gives them the right to vote on motions raised at Members' Meetings and to vote on the election of the Directors.

 - Associate members reside outside the boundaries of Blackburn Hamlet. Membership gives them the right to vote motions raised at Members' Meetings. Associate members are not eligible to vote on the election of the Directors.

9. BCA 2024 AGM (Lynn Lefevre)
 - The Blackburn Community Association Annual General Meeting will be held at the Community Hall on March 21, 2024.
 - The agenda will include:
 - a vote to approve the 2023 AGM minutes
 - a vote on changes to our Articles of Incorporation
 - a vote to approve the 2023 financial statements
 - presentation of the 2024 budget
 - summary reports on our 2023 activities.
 - The event will also include a meet and greet/social activity which will be planned and announced in early March.

10. Event Updates (Don Kelly)

- A Community Emergency Preparedness planning event has been scheduled for February 26 starting at 7pm at the Community Hall.
- Neighbourhood Watch expansion plans will be presented on March 7 starting at 7pm at the Community Hall.
- The Community Christmas Tree and decorations were well received.
- The Santa's Breakfast, held in partnership with Metro, Tim Hortons and the Blackburn Pharmacy, went very well.

11. Seniors (Barbara Whittaker)

- **Blackburn Seniors Breakfast Get-togethers**
 - December 6, 2023: 25 attended (record); White Elephant and Ornament exchange game
 - Aim to continue in 2024, first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. Broadway Bar & Grill will remain the location for the time being
 - February 7, 2024 (one-year anniversary of the breakfasts)
 - March 6, 2024
 - April 3, 2024
 - May 1, 2024
 - June 5, 2024
- **Seniors Holiday Dinner and Karaoke** on December 13, 2023, at Olito's Café. 22 people attended. Many new faces, door prizes, a lot of fun. Great feedback.
- **Seniors Walk-and-talk outings**
 - November 29: 10 AM, Isaiah Scharfe Park– 8 people attended (walk had been postponed from November 22, due to weather)
 - New series of walks for winter: February 14, 28, March 13 and 27, with new time and departure location: 1 pm, end of Tauvette Street, where Greenbelt Pathway E begins.
- **Seniors Winter Social** on Saturday, March 16, 2024: Potluck and Games afternoon
 - Community Hall, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
 - Potluck and BYOB games
- **Seniors Summer Social** on Saturday June 22, 2024: Potluck and Around the World in 80 minutes
- **Seniors Survey** closed on December 8, 2023, online, BANAR, paper copies at OPL and Metro. We received 74 responses (50 online and 24 on paper). Results will be discussed with the Seniors Action Committee and will be presented to the Board at our February meeting.

12. Discovery Café (Barbara Whittaker)

- Fourth Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM, Blackburn Community Centre
 - November session – Robin Grosset (CTO Mindbridge) – Detecting Fraud: A behind-the-scenes look (34 in attendance)
 - January 25, 2024 – Jim Davies: Education, Society and Generative AI
 - February 22, 2024 – Jean Van Loon: Nuclear Family: Growing up in Ottawa at the beginning of the nuclear age
 - March 28, 2024 – Carolyn Hébert: Tap Dance, Rhythm and Flow
 - April 25, 2024 – Dick Brown: YOW – A Primer on its Operations
 - May 23, 2024 – Paul Villeneuve: Topic to come

13. Youth (Maureen Forsythe)

- A total of 13 submissions for the BCA Midwinter Poetry Prize for Youth 2023/2024 were received: 8 submissions for the age category 9-12 and 5 submissions for those aged 13-17; special thanks to Miriam Hampson for agreeing to review the submissions; the winners will be announced in the February BANAR and the cash prizes will be distributed afterwards.

14. Volunteer Appreciation (Don Kelly)

- Don is working with Brent Lawrie to plan an event at Just Food on May 25, 2024. Weather permitting, it will be held at the outdoor pavilion. In the case of poor weather, it will be moved into Barn event space.

15. Volunteer Management (Mark Lister)

- Monthly reminder of the volunteer list that is available for upcoming events. Additional names have been added to the list over the past month – mainly from recent membership renewals.

16. Rinks (Mark Lister)

- Ice creation was delayed due to the weather. Flooding started last weekend and they are hoping to have at least one rink open by the end of the weekend.
- Some of the Rink attendants will be volunteering in order to complete their mandatory volunteer hours, which will reduce our costs.
- A new team has taken over support of the Bearbrook Rink and 2 new team members are helping at Norman Johnston.
- A Hockey Day event will be held on Family Day, February 19 as long as ice conditions are good.

17. Community Partnership Insurance Program update (Mark Lister)

- Two consultations were held over the past week. The first was a discussion with Councillor Dudas and City employees and the second one was a call that included City employees and all Community groups. Another evening consultation will be scheduled in the coming weeks.
- Three options were shared and the feedback from all groups was the City provided insurance option is the best as most community groups do not have the capacity to seek out their own coverage or apply for grants to help cover the costs.
- The results will be brought to committee in mid-February for approval.

18. President Updates (Mark Lister)

- Thanks to Maureen Forsythe and Lisa Margeson, the BCA annual report has been completed and will be submitted to the City next week.

- With Sarah Morgan-White, Heather McCuaig Edge and Maureen Forsythe leaving the board in March we are hopeful we can find board members to replace them. Shashank Iyer has already stepped up to help process memberships until the March AGM.
- Kendra Brett will be stepping down from the BANAR Editor position. A call for a new editor will be sent out soon.
- The Community Closet event is still looking for someone to lead it (tentative date is in April). An alternative would be smaller clothing swap pop-ups for specific groups. A call for an event leader will be sent out in February
- The Front doors of the Hall were replaced this week.

19. Adjournment at 9:30pm (Next Board meeting is February 15, 2024).

Attendees

Mark Lister
Brent Lawrie
Lynn Lefevre
Barbara Whittaker
Don Kelly
Jenny Lawrence
Maureen Forsythe
Robert Bellizzi
Sarah Morgan-White
Satinder Sahota
Pamela Barton
Steve Vesely
Chelsey Wynne (Councillor Dudas)
Marion Hall
Moe Garahan (Just Food)
Sharon Kes
Shashank Iyer
Sarah Loomis (Councillor Dudas)

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		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