

Blackburn Community Association
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025 7:30 pm

1. Call to order at 7:35pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
 - Motion to approve the February 20, 2025 minutes by Robert Long. Seconded by Brent Lawrie. Carried.
4. Councillor's Update (Laura Dudas)
 - The second draft of the new Ottawa zoning by-law has been released. The focus is on increased density following Provincial guidelines and does not consider roads, infrastructure or transit. Blackburn Hamlet has now been classed as an outer urban neighbourhood instead of suburban, like Orleans. For example, a single-family home in Orleans would be zoned N1 (up to 4 units), while a similar property in Blackburn hamlet would be zoned N2 (up to 6 units). In addition, some properties in our neighbourhood are large enough to be subdivided, further increasing the potential density. If the BCA and the Residents of Blackburn Hamlet have concerns about the impact this upzoning could have on our neighbourhood over the next 30 years, they need to voice their concerns using the feedback options at <https://engage.ottawa.ca/zoning>, by emailing Councillor Dudas, by attending and speaking up at future engagement sessions and by delegating to any and all council and committee meetings where these changes are discussed. The City committee will start consultations in June 2025 and present the final proposal in early 2026.
 - The request to install Wifi in the Hall and the Arena is slowly moving forward. We do not have a firm installation date.
5. Financial Update (Lisa Margeson)
 - No areas of concern.
6. Storage Totes (Lynn Lefevre)
 - Motion by Jeff Miller to allocate \$250 to procure storage totes to maximize the storage in the new locker shelving unit. Seconded by Brent Lawrie. Carried.
7. Playground Accessibility (Kyle Humphrey)
 - We would like to know what can be done to install ramps and provide accessible options on the Blackburn Hamlet playgrounds. According to Councillor Dudas, the City adds accessible equipment and removed barriers to access as the existing equipment ages out only. Kyle Humphrey to contact Councillor Dudas to identify any playgrounds that are nearing end of lifecycle and see how we can accelerate their replacement or to improve access to existing playgrounds until they are due for replacement.

- The path in Michael Budd Park has been significantly damaged by tree roots. Residents are encouraged to email Councillor Dudas identifying any issues to our pathways that need to be addressed.

8. Community Bench (Don Kelly)

- Motion by Jeff Miller to increase the budget by \$500 for a new bench on the Aspira property adjacent to the intersection of Innes and Bearbrook. Seconded by Kyle Humphrey. Carried.

9. Event Updates (Don Kelly)

- The showcase committee is working on expanding the display to include other notable residents of Blackburn Hamlet.
- The sale of the old Hall tables raised \$630 for the Lifecentre Food Bank.
- The next First Aid course will be held at Aspira on June 21st.
- A crime prevention workshop will be held on June 18 with a focus in increasing participation in Neighbourhood Watch which now has 40 block captains and 200 members.
- David Purchase will be this year's Cancer Chase chair. This event is scheduled for September 6th.
- The Christmas Market will be held on November 8th. It will be held in the Hall and in the Arena meeting room.
- The Volunteer Appreciation event will be held on September 20 at Just Food.
- Santa's Breakfast will be held on December 6.
- The Community Christmas Tree lighting will be held on December 13.
- Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase has taken over Spring Cleanup organization.

10. Hall Improvements (Lynn Lefevre)

- Curtains for the windows to help with acoustics cannot cover areas beside or below the windows. While they may provide some help with acoustics, it would be limited. If needed, this will be revisited after we explore the options for acoustic panels and a permanent sound system.
- The Arena staff may have access to spare acoustic panels for the walls. If not, they would provide a quote to the BCA to decide if we can afford them. Lynn Lefevre to follow-up on this item.
- The BCA is allowed to procure and install a pull-down projector screen if we decide it is needed. The portable screen is sufficient for now. Another option is to mount a large whiteboard on the wall that would be more robust and can be used for other activities.
- The response regarding installing Bilingual Signs indicating that the Hall is managed by the BCA and maintained by the City and the funds raised help the BCA provide valuable services to our community was not clear. Lynn Lefevre to ask for clarification.
- The BCA is allowed to install a permanent sound system in the Hall. Kyle Humphrey and Brent Lawrie to explore options and costs.
- Don Kelly would like to see a bilingual sign at the Hall entrance indicating it is the Blackburn Community Hall. Don Kelly will follow-up with the Arena staff.

11. Seniors Update (Shirley Sheppard)

- The monthly breakfast at Halibut House took place April 2nd with 38 in attendance. Several donations were received for the Life Centre Food Bank including a cash donation totalling \$150.00. One of the seniors who volunteers at the Food Bank advised that Pastor Gabe expressed his sincere gratitude for our ongoing contributions to them and invited seniors to come for a tour of the premises. One of our amazing seniors who regularly attends and entertains the group singing happy birthday and a song appropriate for the month such as "Easter Parade" was congratulated for having been bestowed by the Governor General recently the King Charles III Coronation Medal for "Extraordinary Service to the Crown" (S. Garth Hampson, from Ottawa, Ontario, a retired RCMP Officer whose vocal talents have supported various community charities and brought joy to people across the country.)
- Seniors Walk and Talk outings have resumed.
- SAC will meet soon to further discuss seniors activities/events to take place during the next few months.
- We welcome our outgoing director, Barbara Whittaker, returning as a committee member of SAC and acknowledge her huge contribution not only as director but overall to seniors and the Blackburn community at large.
- We also acknowledge the ongoing support from BCA especially from Lynn and Nina for the excellent service they provide for our senior activities, etc.

12. New Business

- Jeff Miller will be procuring a new BBQ similar to the existing one that can be easily transported to different locations. He will look for one that has a cover but if none are available, the BCA could look at procuring a regular BBQ with lid to be used for Winter events.
- BANAR printing used to be sent on Monday but now needs to be sent on the Sunday. Deadlines remain the same but there is less flexibility for late submissions.
- Steve Vesely will be taking over delivery of the BANARs to local businesses.
- The updated transportation master plan has been released and has made changes to the Cumberland BRT and Bypass widening. It is not clear how this impacts other items that were part of the BRT Option 7, such as the MUP along Innes from Pepin Court to Blair Road.
- The construction date for the Bearbrook Rink pad and board replacement will be provided once the contract has been awarded. The BCA is still waiting for a cost estimate on the board replacement.

13. Adjournment at 9:15pm (Next Board meeting is May 15, 2025 at the Community Hall)

Attendees

Jeff Miller
Brent Lawrie
Lisa Margeson
Lynn Lefevre
Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase
David Purchase
Don Kelly
Kyle Humphrey
Robert Long
Shirley Sheppard
Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy
Kyle Humphrey
Steve Vesely
Chelsey Wynne
Laura Dudas
Sharon Kes

BCA Board 2025-2026

Executive

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

Director Portfolios

Accessibility and Transit	Kyle Humphrey	kyle@blackburnhamlet.ca
Beautification	Miriam Hampson	beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca
Communications	Nina Ryan	communications@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Relations	David Purchase	david@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Safety	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment	Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
E-Newsletter	Lynn Lefevre	newsletter@blackburnhamlet.ca
Facilities and Operations	Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership	Barbara Whittaker	membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Parks	Brent Lawrie	parks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Seniors	Shirley Sheppard	seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
Social Media	Satinder Sahota	satinder@blackburnhamlet.ca
Transportation	Robert Long	transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
Youth	Mélanie Mathieu	youth@blackburnhamlet.ca

Committee Chairs

BANAR	Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy	banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Hall	Tammy Bedard	hall@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks	Mark Lister	rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website	Steve Vesely Lynn Lefevre (Content)	webmaster@blackburnhamlet.ca webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

Events

Bike Rodeo	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Cancer Chase	David Purchase	cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
Christmas Market	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Closet	Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Discovery Café	Barbara Whittaker	barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca
Fun Fair	Steve Vesely	funfairchair@gmail.com
Garage Sale	Lynn Lefevre	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Garden Tour	Cynthia Hoisak	gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Hockey Day	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Santa's Pancake Breakfast	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup	Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase	cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca
Volunteer Appreciation	Don Kelly	president@blackburnhamlet.ca