

**West Lansing Homeowners Association
Minutes
19 April 2011**

In attendance: Mike Capotosto, Cathy Cronin, James Beeksma, Kevin Beattie, Wendy Wright, Dimos Zarkadas, Lando Sisti, Kathy Leeder
Recorder: Kathy Leeder

Future Agenda Topics/Bring Forwards

1. Membership List – Cathy will provide Wendy with an updated membership list.
2. Crime Prevention – Lando to approach a neighbour about taking on the role of crime prevention liaison.
3. FoNTRA – Kevin will follow up with issues relating to CofA reform, OMB reform and ward size.
4. Boundary and Associate membership changes should be voted on at the AGM in September – Kevin
5. Website
6. Updating – All Board members assigned a section of the website should ensure that they update their material within the next 2 weeks.
7. Promotion – Kevin will draft an email to the membership promoting the website. Using Kevin's email as a template, Wendy will share this information with the MINOE groups.
8. Ravine Clean Up – Mike
9. Letter to Mayor regarding the other West Lansing group - Kevin

Administration

1. Minutes were approved.
2. Welcome Lando and Wendy to the WLHA Board.
3. Membership & Financials
Karen has resigned and we thank her for her commitment and contribution to the Association.

We are looking for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of Treasurer and Membership Administration. Those roles can stay together or could be split up. Anyone interested should speak with Kevin.

Wendy expressed interest in the Membership Administration role. Cathy will contact Karen for the updated membership list and forward it to Wendy.

Paypal is up and running.

Updates

1. The Association is now registered with the City of Toronto. This will allow the Association (WHLA) to be apprised of development within the area.
2. Councillor Filion requested that Kevin send a letter to the Mayor's office clarifying that the West Lansing Homeowners Association is not the same as the development group using a similar name.

Development

258 Sheppard W (formerly Lansing Retirement residence)

This is the first significant development project in the Sheppard West corridor. Materials were previously circulated to the group. Kevin was informed that there will be a community consultation regarding this

building in roughly 3- 4 weeks. It is hoped that the WHLA, Councilor Filion's Office, the head of NY Planning and the Lansing Community Association (LCA) can meet prior to this consultation.

Speeding Study

The results of the speeding study have been somewhat inconclusive. There is a bit of an increase in the speeds on the streets closer to Yonge. Dimos contacted the police who suggested a speeding awareness sign with an educational campaign to make people aware. A 40km/hr limit was just implemented throughout the neighbourhood about a year ago.

Residents are encouraged to contact the City at 311 to report concerns of shrubbery or sign blockage.

Education

Mari Rutka is the Public School Board Trustee. In her newsletters, she has highlighted 2 meetings for community consultation on the budget. Kevin will bring these meeting to the attention of the membership.

Crime Prevention

A group of teens were involved in an altercation on Florence Avenue on Friday night after having previously gathered at the Gwendolen Park. Residents are encouraged to contact the Police at the non-emergency number 416-808-2222 or 9-1-1 when concerns are warranted.

We are still looking for a WLHA liaison for crime prevention. It does not have to be a Board member. Lando noted that he knew of a neighbour with an interest in working with police. He will approach this person about taking on this role.

Beautification

West Lansing Homeowners Association made suggestions to the City to improve the neighbourhood using the Beautification grant program. Kevin has requested a meeting with Councillor Filion to get updates on these various new requests and grants previously awarded for community entrance signage. We understand design work on the ravine entrance in Gwendolen Park was recently finished and noticed gas line markers in the area.

Tree Planting

Wendy discussed the tree planting incentive with Cathy Pask of the Beautification Committee. They want to promote this program again this season and plan to distribute request forms through Cameron Public School. Kevin included tree planting in a recent news letter and added it on the front page of the website.

Ravine Study

Kevin was in conversation with a Natural Environmental Specialist with the City Parks department. His job is to figure out what to do with the ravine areas that are not parks but are natural settings. They have been mapping the informal and formal trails within the city. He and Kevin walked through the area and had a discussion about the way the trails in our neighbourhood are and should be used as well as the protection of the environment. A barrier will be placed at the cliff edge located at the end of Walker Road. This barrier will address the safety concern as well as protect the trees.

It appears that Earl Bales may be an area of focus for the city going forward similar to work done in Crothers Forest, north of the Evergreen Brickworks.

FoNTRA

FoNTRA's general meeting is being held tonight and Kevin will follow up with any outcomes concerning the C of A reform, OMB reform and ward size.

City Issues

The federal government needs to step up and help cities with the upkeep and maintenance. Infrastructure should be a key issue in this election and several groups are attempting to make this happen.

City Council is voting tomorrow on the elimination of 21 civic committees. There have been a number of letters put in by various groups in fear of City Hall closing down civic engagement. Kevin sent an email to Councilor Filion's Office expressing his personal concern over reduced civic engagement.

Lansing Community Association (LCA)

Kevin informed LCA that it is probably not the right time for us to amalgamate. LCA was advised and it was agreed that we would continue to work together, especially on the Sheppard West Secondary Plan. Kevin advised them of the development plans for 258 Sheppard Avenue West.

WLHA Board Membership

Kevin accepted Karen Brown's April 19th resignation and recognized her considerable contributions with thanks. The Board then confirmed Wendy Wright's appointment to replace Karen Brown and welcomed Lando Sisti who will serve as a non-voting Director until the AGM.

Membership Classes

Cathy had sent out information in advance of the meeting for consideration and discussion. It was recommended and accepted that the definition of membership be clarified and exclusive to home owners, therefore eliminating Associate memberships. It was further recommended and accepted that the Association boundaries be redefined to exclude the North York Urban Growth Centre (Yonge corridor) and commercial properties in the Sheppard West Secondary Plan.

Recommended changes to the boundary and a reference to Associate membership in the constitution will be voted on at the AGM in October.

The website does not have the ability to capture only those that live within the neighbourhood. During the registration process, we can address those that are not resident within the association boundaries.

2011 Plans and Priorities

Cathy noted that the Board is making fantastic progress on all plans and projects.

Boundaries and membership classes will be removed as we have completed our discussion.

Incorporation - We will continue to pursue this.

Website

Kevin and Dimos noted that the Development section should be updated.

PayPal is functional.

We have to promote the site. Directors will be given 2 weeks to update their assigned sections of the website. We should have an email that specifically announces our website and that highlights our content. Kevin will take the lead on promoting the website through an email. Wendy will send out the email to the MINOE group.

As a follow up from a previous meeting, Cathy addressed the concern around permissions for posting pictures on our website. Cathy pointed out that from another volunteer experience, they had decided to post

pictures and remove them should people make the request to do so. Kevin will forward Cathy the wording from the Gwendolen Park Tennis Club membership form concerning the posting of pictures for consideration.

Board members who have not yet done so, are asked to forward their profiles on to Kevin for posting.

Community Board

Hoggs Hollow has a community board to advertise community events. The group considered a community board to communicate West Lansing events. It was concluded that email was an effective tool for communication within our neighbourhood as it is difficult to pin point location as well as deal with maintenance.

Ravine Clean Up

Mike may be meeting with the property management from the Bogert Apartments this week to examine the garbage and hopefully get them to clean up the mess.

Clean Up from Last Week

Future weekday clean up events may be rescheduled in a 4pm time slot so that we can capture the kids after school. This should increase turnout.