

Jan 19, 2010
WLHA Board Meeting Minutes
Recorded By Kevin Beattie

Attendees Kevin Beattie, Andrew Cryne, Dimos Zarkadas, Fran Deitel and Cathy Cronin

Absent: Karen Brown and James Beeksma,

Meeting started at 7:40 pm

ADMIN

1. Minutes from the Dec/09 board meeting were approved.
2. Confirm the agenda - added director resignation as New Business
3. Membership #'s
 - no change from Dec.
 - Kevin to meet with Karen to hand off membership admin duties
4. Financials – Karen absent but no material change

UPDATES

1. Development
 1. 275 Sheppard W
 - revised elevation received in Dec. which showed a 4' 11" increase in height going from 4.5 storey to 5. Still waiting on landscape plan finalization (?) for complete plans to be emailed
 - Kevin spoke with Bogert resident early Jan – very unhappy with 4 story, let alone 5 story application. She understands with the City's draft midrise plans and OMB uncertainty why there's little recourse.
 - Kevin recently spoke with Filion- final report expected within a few weeks. He favours the revised application with landscape buffering for adjacent homes but support our wishes if we were against it.
 - met with Avenue Rd & Eglinton Community Assoc (ARECA) president & owner of 221 Shep W commercial property Patrick Smyth Jan 12/10. Patrick originally wanted the old secondary plan enforced but given City's move to intensify Avenues with Mid-Rise felt Filion was right to keep the 45 degree angular plane and negotiate landscaping concessions and avoid the OMB.
 - **MOTION – to support this application subject to review of final plans and staff report. Carried unanimously**
2. Traffic –
 1. Provincial Cabinet Shuffle Ramifications

- Brad Duguid (Scarborough Centre) named Energy & Infrastructure in Jan 18/10 shuffle (Gerry Phillips was interim minister following Smitherman's resignation to run for Toronto Mayor). Hopefully good news as he's from GTA.
 - Kathleen Wynne (Don Valley West) moved from Education to Transportation which should be good news
2. Fly-Over Ramp
 - Kevin to continue efforts to contact David Zimmer, who has not followed up since Smitherman resigned regarding Mr. Zimmer's commitment to raise the gridlock issue and suggest investigating the fly-over ramp to the Infrastructure Minister
 3. Education – no report
 4. Crime Prevention – no report
 5. Beautification Committee – no report
 6. City Issues (FoNTRA)
 1. City wide planning By-Law
 - WLHA joined the Ward 23 based appeal coalition as a non-incorporated association under Kevin Beattie's personal signature, given delays in incorporating
 - FoNTRA supports the Ward 23 initiate but recently launched it's own "Zoning ByLaw Coalition" to advocate changes before Council approval instead of an OMB appeal afterwards.
 - Although wanting in principal to support this endeavor, further clarification of the groups specific concerns and recommendations must precede a motion for WLHA to formally join this Coalition. Kevin will try to obtain same from FoNTRA
 2. planning reform
 - Jim Watson resigned as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (responsible for OMB) on dec 12/09 to run for Ottawa Mayor
 - Jan 18/10 cabinet shuffle named Jim Bradley as replacement
 - Repeated efforts since Oct following the AGM to get Mr. Zimmer's position on the FoNTRA Planning Reform ideas have been ignored. A phone message from his EA in December simply said he'd been busy. Kevin will use this change to follow up once again, failing which Mr. Zimmer's lack of cooperation will be shared with the membership.

On FoNTRA Jan 19/10 agenda for updates:

- Local Appeal Board (LAB)
- Private Tree By-Law
- Ratepayers Mayoralty Forum
 - Kevin will follow for post meeting updates

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. non-partisan issue (cont'd from last meeting)

- This issue was discussed over the course of 3 board meetings, getting considered input from all directors and the benefit of time to see if Councillor Filion would raise the issue again. He didn't, nor did we notice any deterioration in our very positive working relationship.
 - Although all agreed the Councillor has been extremely supportive of WLHA, only one directed wanted to address constitution issues to permit a formal endorsement, so no MOTION was made.
 - WLHA will continue to share news with it's membership that reflect the Councilors ongoing interest and support of our community as events happen. Members, including Directors are certainly free to personally endorse and support any candidate as they see fit.
2. mayoral all candidates meeting
- No deadline for topics nor confirmation of event yet from Filion.
 - Very sparse response from members following an email request for meeting topics & questions. Public transit and development planning & urban design standards were of interest. Only 1 reply from members for topic suggestions –
 - Other ideas discuss by the board included:
 - OMB/planning reform
 - local appeal board (LAB)
 - traffic remedies – fly-over ramp
 - election reform (term limits etc)
3. Lansing United Church Eco-Fair April 2010
- The Board briefly discussed whether or not it was OK to promote this despite a commercial element to the event. The consensus was the educational and environmental benefits are consistent with WLHA objectives.
4. WLHA – organizational review
- The board reviewed a draft list of who currently does what, with a view to sharing responsibilities and engaging new directors.
 - Fran volunteered to head crime prevention. Cathy volunteered to head membership marketing. Karen previously volunteered to head membership administration
 - Further discussion will explore alignment of WLHA task leaders with outside contacts to leverage & streamline these important relationships.
 - Discussion will also explore if there are new tasks that should be added or old ones discontinued, to align our limited resources with the association's priority interests.
5. incorporation update
- Kevin met with Patrick Smyth (Avenue Rd & Eglinton Community Assoc ARECA) Jan 12. He incorporated his group the not-for-profit distinctions were in place. We subsequently learned that the online firm he uses for corporate clients Cyberbahn is not able to assist.
 - Kevin is to pursue other options

NEW BUSINESS

1 Director Resignation

- Bill Rauenbusch respectfully resigned in late December following an invitation to serve on the Board of a significant non-profit organization that would conflict with WLHA's board activities. He will remain an interested and active WLHA member. We appreciate his offer to share his considerable experience running another GTA ratepayer group, and wish him well with this new volunteer commitment.
- Although not required to replace this Director, attendees were asked to consider and approach potential candidates. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Kevin Beattie to further discuss.

9:10 pm meeting terminated.