

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
Minutes - Meeting of the Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, January 12th, 2022

Present: Art Hamilton, Sandra Jackman, Bob June, Dave Clarke, Patricia Kidd, Carollyn Yardley, Asal Poinen, Susan Evans, Chantal Meagher, Dave McWalter, Charlayne Thornton-Joe (council liaison), Gary Pemberton (neighbourhood liaison)

Absent: Brittany Calder, Dave McWalter

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

December 8th minutes

Accepted as presented, Motioned by Art

Councillor's Report (Charlayne)

Charlayne has asked neighbours to put out decorations for Chinese New year. City staff is currently working from home and meeting via zoom where possible. Budget meetings are in progress and the city is hoping to accomplish its goals without raising taxes. The police budget, including increased officers, and increased bylaw officers will be discussed on Friday. The city has received additional income through increased parking revenues, and reduced expenditures on staffing (attrition).

A report on the rapid deployment of affordable housing is coming tomorrow. It is proposed that city staff be delegated to make decisions on housing projects that don't go past the OCP, and don't have a lot of variances, resulting in these items no longer going before council or the public. A public hearing will be held regarding any changes that are proposed to this process. Charlayne to advise the RNA if these developments will be included on the development tracker. Council is trying to align the definition of affordable housing with the Provincial Govt's definition. The board members expressed concern about having staff approve variances, and discussion ensued about creating guidelines to this process.

Neighbourhood Update (Gary)

The My Great Neighbourhood Report was handed out prior to the meeting.

Neighbourhood boundaries public hearing is on Thursday, January 27th. Rockland is not impacted, as the Rockland/Gonzales potential merger is off the list. The city's draft financial plan is available on the city's website.

The February community virtual is called Neighbourhood Led Action Plan - targeted at any resident that wants to make an improvement to their neighbourhood.

There is a virtual community discussion on tomorrow night on traffic calming on Warren Gardens. Gary will send out a notice so Carolyn can post it to Facebook.

Neighbourhood Grants for 2022 open in April, but you can contact Gary at any time prior to that if you have an idea. Information about these grants will be posted to Facebook and our webpage.

Calendar Review

AGM planning is in unfinished business, below.

VCAN Update (Chantal Meagher)

No update

Committees Reports:

Land Use (Bob)

522 St Charles - heritage home on slope, proposed subdivision to build second house. Community meeting was held last week and the proponents indicated that neighbours were generally receptive of the proposal. The plan includes a requested a variance to lot width. Later feedback was received from two neighbours that were dissatisfied with the plan.

1475 Fort St - Going to council on Feb 24th. Four story apartment with setbacks that are less than half of what is called for. Neighbours are concerned about loss of privacy.

1535/37 Despard - No recent activity.

1737 Rockland - Went to Committee of the Whole in November - was sent back to work on key issues including trees and setbacks. Awaiting response.

852 Pemberton - Meeting with proponent - very minor changes were made to the proposal. This will move forward to a community meeting. LUC requested the proponent meet with the impacted neighbours.

Large rooming house on corner of Joan Crescent - owner has approached the LUC enquiring about development potential.

Social

No update

Membership (Art and Brittany)

We currently have 162 members.

MOTION: Art moved that membership in the RNA in 2022 be extended to individuals on our mailing list. Rockland-based members can receive complimentary Craigdarroch passes and/or discount membership in the AGGV, as they desire. Seconded by Dave Clarke. Discussion ensued and the motion passed unanimously. This could bring our numbers up to approximately 400. Art suggested zoom meetings on different topics to keep people engaged. Discussion ensued about how to reach out to renters and gardening.

Environment and Woodland Garden (Dave C)

The plan for the 2022 volunteer coordinator is due at the end of the month. Janet is working on her report for 2021. Land use contract for Woodland Garden has been signed. Dave to look into insurance to make sure we have enough coverage. Dave is working on an article for the newsletter for the Craigmyle oak tree that came down in December.

Communications (Patricia)

Work is underway on the newsletter planned to go out next week.

Treasurer (Art)

RNA currently has \$39,800 in the bank, of which \$10k is funding for the Garden

Traffic (Carolyn)

Carolyn is attending the meeting tomorrow on the Warren Gardens traffic issue. The city is reviewing additional traffic calming measures, including reducing speed limit to 30k. There are many other proposed traffic calming measures for the neighbourhood. Discussion ensued about the impact of Richardson St traffic diverted to surrounding streets.

Unfinished Business:

AGM planning: Chantal advised that the theatre has not responded to our request to host the meeting, and now they are closed due to Covid. We discussed timing of the AGM and zoom versus in person. The board reached consensus on planning for a June 8th meeting. It will be initially planned as in person meeting, which will be re-evaluated in April. Another option is to move it to an outdoor meeting on Saturday, June 11th.

Little Libraries: Chantal is working on this. So far, three people have requested these.

New Business:

None.

8:44 meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: February 9th, 7 PM by Zoom. Please advise Sandra if unable to attend.