

Present : Bob Laughlin, Amanda Holden, Tom Pugsley, Marcia Todd, Chris Coderre, Boyd Waites

Regrets : Clemens van Zeyl, Anya Dunning, Simon Palmer, George Niblock, Trudy Murray,

The meeting was called to order. Amanda acted as interim Secretary to take minutes.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting:

- No changes to prior minutes. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- No treasurer report but also no major changes since last meeting.

Membership, Newsletter, Web Site:

Membership

- 3 New Members since last report in November.
- Amanda still to send out reminder email to expired or un-paid members.

Newsletter:

- Published and distributed with good feedback.

Online Communications:

- New website in draft – Amanda to send link and is asking for feedback.
- Boyd asked if we could have a Board only repository of information – suggested Dropbox as an option.
- Discussed how we keep historical information; Boyd has a box of historical information (dropped off from prior OLRA Board members).
- Concerned that we are losing the history and information about our neighborhood. Can we regain, document and share that information? Discussed if we can leverage the Oakville Historical Society and partner with them.
- Can we use information about our neighborhood (stories, facts, history, etc.) to drive traffic to our website? Agreed that this would be good content for Wikipedia. Agreed that we review with Simon re: prior plans to build Wikipedia site. Agreed that we need someone to drive this. Also consider if we could have a university student support this as a “for credit” activity.

- Discussed what we want these electronic communication channels to do for us, including:
 - Community information (e.g. garbage pick up);
 - Local events;
 - Direct links and engagement with local businesses to advertise to OLRA members/residents; and
 - Special events, discounts, coupons for OLRA members/residents (start as a simple incentive to give value to our residents, encourage “shop local” and drive awareness of OLRA website/communications)
 - Boyd to action this with Charlene from BIA.

Greenspace:

- No updates.

Planning & Heritage:

- In the last update we noted that the Town deferred decisions to the November meeting.
- Since Newsletter, updates:
 - Lakeshore road construction targeted to start 2019 for 2 years construction duration.
 - Between now and 2019, city working on detailed design and engineering and we need to be involved as these decisions are important to the end result; Town has committed to this involvement opportunity.
 - Plans do include re-surfacing the road prior to 2019 work.
 - We reinforced the importance of committing to and meeting the plan (even with 2019 start).
 - Cultural hub plans deferred to next year (decision from October meeting) in order to allow more time for community engagement and input.
- Parking plans:
 - Continue to evolve and there is discussions on the option to 1) use the old Hospital parking lot (including shuttles) and 2) leveraging streets south of lakeshore for more parking (where there are no-parking signs now).
 - Boyd asked for feedback on the south of lakeshore option:
 - Suggested we need to know more practical information about how many spots this would open up.
 - Boyd took an action to look at the roads and understand where parking “could be possible”.
 - Agreed we need to message to Town that we need to ensure new parking doesn’t create additional safety risk.
 - In general we recommend that OLRA be supportive in principle but not create direct conflict with residents.
 - Discussed other parking options and possible viability.

Hospital Update:

- Hospital planned to close this Sunday 6am.
- Chris is part of a group that is building a plan to sell bricks (\$100 each) from the hospital to raise money for the new hospital foundation.
- Suggested that some amount of purchases be made to include these bricks (memories) in the new Lakeshore streetscape.
- Boyd has a meeting with the Major this Friday and will ask about prior discussions regarding using old hospital for Syrian refugees.

Meeting Schedule & Possible Agenda Items

- 12th January @ Tom's
 - Decide on who to delegate at next Town meeting and our key message
- 9th February @ Boyd's
 - Plan AGM
- 8th March @ tbd
- Reminder: Simon to book a room for AGM 6pm opening for 7pm start on May 31st

Those being all the issues, the meeting was closed. Happy Holidays to everyone.