

OLRA January 19th

Present : Anya Dunning , Boyd Waites, Bob Laughlin, Amanda Holden, Tom Pugsley, Simon Palmer, Marcia Todd, George Niblock

Regrets :

Trudy Murray, Clemens van Zeyl, Chris Coderre

Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

There were no amendments, Tom moved they be accepted, Marcia seconded, motion carried

Treasurer's Report

Trudy is away. We have received \$700 in new membership since November. Tom asked to consider enabling electronic payment for convenience of members, and we have had some requests. There is some complexity associated with it, and we need to check whether we have electronic banking set up which would enable email payments. Paypal may also be an alternative. Marcia asked how payments may be audited if received electronically.

Anya volunteered to investigate Paypal. We will ask Trudy to check with the bank whether we have electronic banking.

Amanda has a \$99 expense for the new web site management that she would like to submit. Amanda will send the invoice to George for payment.

AGM

Boyd asked we consider the theme for the AGM. Last two years have been about planning and downtown, perhaps we need a change. George asked what prior themes were, and Boyd mentioned heritage, planning, updates from the board. Marcia mentioned that there have been a number of petty break-ins around the downtown core. We have had Police representation at previous meetings. A couple of different themes may be a possibility. Bob suggested an update on Liveable Oakville.

We will pick from this list:

- Planning and CoA issues
- Heritage, First and Second St districts, have heritage present delegated permits (what doesn't have to go to the committee)
- Current situation and timelines for the downtown plans
- Local break-ins, maybe ask the Police for an update on local statistics.
- Changes to Halton conservation regulations around ravines, lakeshore etc.

Some of these can also be an update in the next newsletter, such as the Halton Conservation regulation changes that will have an impact on building on flood

plains, and an update on the washrooms. We will need to find credible content and speakers for whichever of these are chosen. George will do some investigation on Halton.

Simon will connect with The Oakville Club and secure a date in May, we were targeting the 31st. Once we have a date we can invite the Mayor and local councilors and members.

Membership, Newsletter, Web Site

14 new and renewals in Dec, 6 in January

Newsletter:

Thinking about the schedule for one in time of May, need to work back from a date which will give time to release before the AGM.

Communications:

Not a lot of progress on the web site, it needs some tweaks. It is responsive by design in PageCloud, which will give us a mobile friendly web site, also URL needs to be redirected. Last month talked about needs for communications, but we Amanda has been unable to make progress.

Boyd suggests we get the web site across the line rather than try to be too ambitious with additional channels of digital communication. E-mail database is up to date and in place.

Greenspace

Saw Whet hearings are adjourned until June. They have still not heard from residents groups.

On the private tree bylaw Bob heard that the town is supposed to be coming back with a recommendation. There is a member of the Chartwell RA who has been advocating strongly for the bylaw at the town. She may provide the momentum needed to get it moving.

Planning & Heritage

Boyd, George, Bob and the other RA's attended a town meeting regarding CoA saying it is supporting many variances. The town doesn't seem to be supporting the new bylaws, that were published in 2014, which were the subject of much consultation a few years ago.

The town explained it away as being about mechanicals and utilities on the exterior of the buildings. This missed the point of the space between the buildings being part of the character of the neighbourhoods.

Each RA brought examples where the towns ruling did not support the bylaws. The meeting was with the new Director of Planning and a liaison between Planning and CoA who received applications for variances, who is also relatively new.

The impression was that they were defensive rather than listening, although the Director acknowledged there might be a gap between the RA's position.

We asked for statistics on application numbers, those that the town supported, those that were approved and not approved, etc. It is difficult to get the numbers and hard to know how to interpret and use them. Boyd and Bob will go through the next steps with the town.

Hospital will not come down for (a minimum of) 18 months until an environmental assessment has been completed. Schools seem to suffer from a similar delay in demolition.

The development proposals for midtown are likely to affect us quite a lot. 20,000 people are expected to live in that space. There is a deficiency in traffic infrastructure in that area that may cause issues. Go Transit (as of a year ago) had plans to move their offices to the area where Gears is currently situated. We should pay attention to the proposals here.

Cultural Hub & Streetscape:

Parking options (underground, higher capacity, no consumption of ground level space, above ground parking just below the post office, fewer spaces, more expensive, less revenue to town). BIAs didn't like either option (down for engineering and time, up for commercial space on ground floor) but didn't propose an alternative. Currently Boyd's impression is that the town's preferred option is underground, but it's tied together with the cultural hub, which is currently in a holding pattern following further consultation and narrowing down of ideas and whose timeline is much longer anyway.

474 Lakeshore:

The variance was turned down following Body and Bob's presentations, but it has gone on appeal to OMB, against the town's decision. However, the town staff supported it so we are not optimistic about the outcome. Bob is going to speak to our councilor to see whether they are going to support the committee's decision. It was felt appropriate that OLRA makes it clear that we expect the town to support us.

There is a disturbing trend emerging from the interaction is that yard spaces are being referred to as "under-utilised lots". This seems to be an attempt to resonate with guidelines on intensification.

Meeting Schedule

February 9th – George to host (274 King Street)

March 8th – Simon to host

Those being all the issues, the meeting was closed. Thanks go to Tom for his generous hospitality.