

**Present :** Bob Laughlin, Marcia Todd, Trudy Murray, Simon Palmer, Tom Pugsley, Chris Coderre, George Niblock, Amanda Holden, Anya Dunning

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**Approval of Minutes from last meeting:**

Bob moved we adopt the minutes as presented, Chris seconded, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Signing authorities have been changed at the bank adding Tom and retiring Boyd

Cash Balance as at November 29<sup>th</sup> \$7,646.28

Banking forms have been updated and signed by the officers of the association.

**Membership, Newsletter, Web Site, etc.**

*Newsletter:*

Needs formatting and has had editorial oversight. Should be done this weekend, draft Monday, plan to print Dec 7/8<sup>th</sup>. Tom has delivery arrangements sorted out.

*Garden party:*

Note for next year – take some photos!

**Greenspace**

*Saw Whet*

The town and other bodies have capitulated to the requests of the developer to turn the site into 1181 homes. The town asked for them to increase density along Bronte Rd. The decision was made in camera and against the wishes of the ward councilor.

OMB now has to rule on it, so it is not a firm decision yet, but it is expected that they will carry it because the opposition has evaporated.

**Planning & Heritage**

*Community Centre / Hospital site:*

George and Anya attended the RA meeting on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, held you the town of Oakville (Michael Brennan). There are a few parts, recreation centre, health hub (possible), parking garage, which is in good order, and the North end that could be housing or a park. It is not necessary to sell land for housing in order to be funded.

The old High School is in good structural order, although has asbestos in it. There is no suggestion of playing fields for baseball etc.

The rec centre is funded in the budget (~\$30M depending on scope). The big question that will come up on Dec 1 is the size of the pool. The aquatic club are lobbying for a 50m pool. 25m is a minimum as a replacement for the centennial pool. It is possible to have pools which can be separated into zones of different usages, especially for training purposes. The more complex the more costly.

At Iroquois the aquatic club takes off-peak times (early etc.) for training. The aquatic club is also offering to pay part for the pool and rent it to contribute to running costs. An Olympic pool would attract traffic from other areas that may interfere with normal usage of the rest of the facility.

There were proposals for joint funding by different municipalities, but it proved complex to fund. The facility at 16 mile creek (Neyagawa) may make a better site for a 50m pool.

The rest of the facility would contain fitness, gym and other rooms to facilitate art and community activity, including youth oriented rooms that would be staffed by the town, outdoor garden, splashpad etc. Access would be similar to the YMCA, and paid for as such. River Oaks has been identified as an area that has the greater need for a youth centre. There was also mention of the possibility of daycare.

The feeling is that it would be a mistake to put a subdivision of homes on the site. Parkland would be better. Downtown is an important and central feature for many residents of Oakville and the hospital lands are part of that. Other places that have sold land have regretted the decision given the impact to the site compared to the revenue raised.

The board was asked for their views on having a 50m pool on that site, or housing. The consensus was that we do not support the idea and we should try our hardest to secure it as parkland.

George has initiated a meeting with the other RAs to try and gain consensus for the space being parkland rather than housing development.

The old OTHS building is heritage designated, but there is some question about its validity and how it would be used, perhaps preserving façade as frontage. There was some discussion about the merit of the building.

Amanda moved that we mobilize the other RAs to resist housing on the site and to protect the land for parkland and facilities for multiple interests and to include sufficient parking, George seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

*Cultural Hub:*

George attended the recent council meeting to support the downtown cultural hub. A survey result was presented although the findings did not seem consistent to what the survey results looked like, however the company who conducted the survey suggested it was more positive than the results immediately suggested.

All the local RAs spoke about the issues that were important. George raised:

- Support for cultural facilities spread across multiple locations
- Downtown location for galleries
- Support seeking public private partnerships
- Strongly support restaurants etc. at the waters edge, which is also supported by the town
- Removal of the old post office building, which has no architectural merit
- Underground connected parking
- Easing height limits on certain sites at the north side of downtown
- Getting office usage buildings
- Having a storefront location downtown to model the proposals and get public engagement

### **Meeting Schedule**

January 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM at Simon’s house, 74 Second Street

February 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM Anya’s house

Those being all the matters, the meeting was