

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 5 October, 2022

Location: Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Travis called the meeting to order at 7:04PM and introduced the board members.

Travis Croken, Vice-President Dave Coyle, Director Christina Copelli, Director Gabriel Gonzalez, Secretary	Roisin West, Director Kevin Wolfe, Director Terry Wood, Director Katarina Descher, Director
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2. Land Acknowledgement and Introductory Statement

Travis acknowledged the unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe on which the meeting took place.

Travis also encouraged the attendees to renew their membership. The links are available on the [website](#).

Travis also reviewed meeting procedures and encouraged collaborative and harassment-free participation.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Christina moved to adopt the agenda as amended and was seconded by Ro.

Motion carried.

4. Receipt of Minutes of the September 7th, 2022 Board Meeting

Ro moved to accept the minutes of the September 7th, 2022 Board Meeting and was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

5. Councilor's report and Q&A

5.1. With the upcoming elections, the Councilor was not allowed to provide a written report. He nevertheless reported orally on relevant news:

5.1.1. On development:

5.1.1.1. Canoe Bay, while he had not seen the offers, he said a number of them came in to take over the project. He stressed that if the new plans deviate from what was previously approved, they would have to go through Council again.

5.1.1.2. On the Revalie, he said phase 2 would start this fall. Even though they don't have an approved site plan yet, they can begin some foundation work.

5.1.1.3. The Councilor did not have information on the Norberry residence as the file has stalled. YSB family homes expansion also paused while they focus on other projects. St Pat's is continuing preliminary work ahead of phase 2.

5.1.2. He welcomed the repaving of Riverside Drive and informed that some sidewalk work is still expected on Ridgewood avenue during the fall.

5.1.3. He then informed the meeting that he would host a town hall meeting on the airport parkway / Walkley Road project in November. The meeting will focus mainly on Walkley Road and the feedback from the pilot project. The City and consultant will have a presentation on the vision for Walkley Road and concerns will be incorporated in the final design.

5.1.4. Mooney's Bay festivals - many went on without a hitch but the Councilor wanted to create a better approval process with the City departments engaged in this process (park allocations, Ottawa By-Law, the event central staff, the Councilor's office). He noted that currently there is not much discussion amongst the parties.

5.1.5. He finally announced that the City Council approved his motion to create a coyote strategy. A wildlife specialist has been present in the area, reviewing data on coyote/human interactions and walking around the neighbourhood to try to figure out why some coyotes have been more active. The city will announce next steps, including trapping and relocating the coyotes. The specialist did note that not all coyotes present in the McCarthy woods need to be relocated.

5.2. Q&A:

5.2.1. On Canoe Bay, Craig asked whether there is a new timeline to hear about what is going on? He also asked about the Mooney's Bay pavilion. The Councilor did not think there is a new timeline (speculated that there were multiple bids that need to be assessed) and agreed that there were some concerns over the state of the property. By-law has been on side and trying to work out with some of the mess. There were also concerns over unauthorised access and dumping happening on site, which explains why the barriers were put on Riverside Drive. The Councilor did not have more information on the final design of the Mooney's Bay pavilion. He anticipated having more details within four to six weeks.

5.2.2. Following the WWR pilot project, Terry asked whether the city's report would be released before the Town Hall meeting. The Councilor wanted to see it released as soon as possible although he asked the city to keep the report to the point. He added that it has been difficult to get all the parties together to talk about the town hall and expectations for that presentation. Terry responded that the second meeting of the Community working group is scheduled for 1st November and asked that this be well coordinated with the town hall meeting, he also asked anybody with concerns or questions on the project to reach out to him.

5.2.3. Ro asked whether there is an update on sledding at Mooney's Bay and whether the Councilor is aware of any outreach available to neighbours if they have difficulties making ends meet. The Councilor responded that such services were available during the pandemic, but that he continues to reach out to the same team when he is made aware of any such situation. People can contact the Councilor in confidence and he can connect them to the right folks. On Mooney's, the family has taken legal action against the City of Ottawa and both parties have been working amicably. The independent assessment of the hill indicated that there are risks to tobogganers and that unless the city took action to physically alter the hill and direct sledders towards the north west part of the hill, there would continue to be dangers on the hill. The city is concerned and the Councilor said he wants the hill to be safe but not closed. Some money will need to be spent to modify and Council will need to move a motion in that direction. Still on Mooney's, Carolyn asked about paint lines around the Mooney's Bay park, but those were probably for the track and field meetup.

5.2.4. Cathy asked about the white lines in the General Vanier area. The Councillor had already stepped out but Andrew agreed to take it to the Councillor.

6. Floor discussion

6.1. Travis opened the discussion in this new segment of the meeting that aims at hearing from the community on issues that the association should keep track of. He also wanted to talk about the value and reasons to volunteer for the board. He also reminded the audience that anybody can step out from the floor.

6.1.1. Carolyn asked about feedback on the fall festival. Travis responded that the festival went differently than usual this year and the RPCA did not participate. The RPCA was contacted in December but after that the association was not involved further. Terry attended the festival at the Huntclub Riverside Park community centre. It was fairly well attended.

6.1.2. Teresa remembered early discussions on lessons and follow up to the May storm. She put it out there for a topic of discussion and work going forward. Travis noted that the emergency plan was posted on the website and added that further discussions are needed on these situations which are likely to happen more frequently in the future.

6.1.3. Carolyn noted the low attendance at the annual meeting (only 19). She called for a membership drive or communication campaign to increase participation. Travis responded that the RPCA is working on communication and expanding its reach. He added that some in person meetings were well attended, but that Zoom meetings initially saw an uptick in participation and that generally the topic discussed has an influence on the participation. Building on that, Ro agreed with the low turnout and noted that it could be due to the municipal elections, but added it should not be a good reason to not seek further participation. Travis noted comments in the chat, including Sarah suggesting not having fees required to vote. Terry noted that membership has gone up dramatically, as well as membership in general. These have been positive trends which don't reflect on tonight's participation. Travis did agree it needs to be looked at and communication needs to be strengthened.

6.2. Travis then invited board members to talk about their experience as board members.

6.2.1. Travis said his own experience on the board was very rewarding and he stressed there are a variety of ways people can get involved, either by being a board director or director at large or volunteering on committees. He encouraged anyone considering running to do so.

6.2.2. Kevin said he loves the neighbourhood and stressed the importance of getting involved. It is important to have different perspectives on the board. It is also a useful way to get information about the neighbourhood.

6.2.3. Terry agreed with how fortunate we are to live in Riverside Park. We've been able to preserve a suburban lifestyle in an increasingly urban context. It is up to us to make the community better - we have next to no services, it's a food desert, some neighbours need support. We can only do so much but the RPCA is a great vehicle to bring those interests and address those challenges and desires.

6.3. Travis made a last call for nominations - nobody came forward.

7. Director's Elections

7.1. Travis recalled that the nominations committee was composed of Terry, Gabriel and himself, and worked over the past month to try to drum up interest. The board of directors has 5 openings - 2 in General Vanier, 1 in Mooney's Bay and 2 in Riverside Park East. With nominations closed, two people have come forward (Terry in Riverside Park East and Tony in General Vanier) and another might be interested to join the board in the coming months.

7.1.1. Tony had a prior commitment and was unable to attend the meeting. Travis read Tony's statement of interest.

7.2. Travis reminded that there are 3 vacancies to be filled for the board going forwards. Given the lack of candidates, Travis questioned the need for a vote. Terry reminded Travis of the need for a motion approving the slate of candidates by acclamation. He added that there was some outreach across the community, with posts on mailboxes, the website, and direct engagement. There are five openings with only 2 volunteers, but at the end of the day, the board will continue to have at least one rep from each part of the neighbourhood, ensuring comprehensive coverage. Terry stressed that the board should continue its outreach efforts, as other members can be appointed on an interim basis (with elections at the next AGM).

7.3. Travis put forward a motion to the slate of candidates by acclamation. It was moved by Kevin and seconded by Gabriel. The board voted all in favour to accept the candidates.

7.4. Craig reminded Travis that the membership also has a vote in the board election. Travis asked for the vote of the floor. Motion passed without dissent from the floor.

8. Board Reports

8.1. RPCA Board report

8.1.1. Travis gave a brief overview of the past year. He highlighted some of the great activities organised by the RPCA, including for halloween (treat distribution, spooky tale, etc) Christmas (visit of Santa, the virtual holiday card for seniors, story, Santa's elves, etc), community rinks (all rinks operating this year), successful year at the community gardens and beautiful flower boxes. Travis also noted the work of committees, including the Transportation Traffic Safety and Transit Committee, on Southmore Drive East and West Walkley Road traffic calming initiatives, response to City-led consultations, review of the long-term transportation master plan with comments submitted to the City.

8.1.2. Travis highlighted the new mural on the front of the old Country Grocer, a combined effort with MASC, Claudia Salguero, George Brown, Brigil, and community volunteers.

8.1.3. Travis recognized this was another difficult year, with the continuation of COVID19, the convoy, the Derecho which damaged homes and trees and left many without power, on-going construction and the resurgence of

coyotes. Travis thanked all who stepped up to help neighbours and members of the community in difficult times.

8.1.4. Travis then recalled a few of the ways the RPCA strives to keep the community informed, with public information sessions on issues impacting the area, inviting City representatives, issuing a newsletter and posting on social media and through its website.

8.1.5. He then thanked board members for their efforts. He highlighted the work of members who have stepped down, Kate Cathrae, Andrew Wintonic, Ro West, Christina Copelli and himself. He also listed the current members of the board. He also thanked community members for their support.

8.1.6 On behalf of the out-going board, Terry thanked Kate and Travis and wished Travis best of luck for his upcoming surgeries.

8.1.7. Kathy asked whether there is a list of committees. Travis explained that after the meeting, the board will decide on the roles and then have a director's retreat where they will work out the committees and groups. He encouraged everybody to join and participate.

8.2. Treasurer Report

8.2.1. Kevin gave the same report as the previous meeting with the only change being the provision for the community gardens being returned as it was not used. Besides that nothing changed.

8.2.2. Craig reiterated his previous question on the \$800 allocated for Claudia. He asked whether someone could reach out to her. Travis agreed to call her.

9. Halloween and Event Planning

9.1. Halloween

9.1.1. In opening the discussion, Travis offered to write another spooky story for Halloween and another one for Christmas. He then asked the board about their opinion on continuing activities such as candy distribution, pumpkin collection, etc.

9.1.2. Keving noted the importance of volunteers for these activities. Dave added that these kinds of events attract membership. The spooky story, the treats and the pumpkin collection were all phenomenal successes.

9.1.3. A number of members came out of the floor saying they could volunteer.

9.1.4. Terry pointed out the need for a decision on what to do for Halloween. Then comes the decision of what to do, when to do it and how to do it. Given the time crunch, someone needs to lead and coordinate follow up. Dave responded that the management of rinks, gardens and memberships are examples of good practice in managing volunteers.

9.1.5. Travis put forth a motion for the RPCA board to continue hosting Halloween events and to use its communication network to drive volunteers. It was moved by Kevin and seconded by Dave.

Motion carried

9.2. Christmas

9.2.1. Dave said Santa was good and pointed out that he came at a cost and could perhaps be crowdfunded.
People agreed in the chat.

10. Announcements and Other Business

10.1. One of the issues raised by Travis was the need for the board to discuss how the meetings will proceed (in person, remotely or hybrid).

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

12.1. Terry moved a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Gabriel.

Motion carried.

END.