

RPCA AMM Meeting Notes Oct 7, 7:00PM Zoom

Attendees (32)

Quick recap

This was the annual members meeting of the Riverside Park Community Association, where the board reviewed financial reports, discussed trustee candidates, and heard updates from municipal representatives. Kevin presented the financial report showing the association lost \$1,100 more than budgeted in 2026, primarily due to higher rink maintenance costs and soil program expenses, but noted improved revenue from garden plot rentals and soil sales. Three trustee candidates - Jason Glover, Alan, and Isabelle - presented their platforms, with Jason focusing on school pathways and community cohesiveness, Alan emphasizing budget management and board accountability, and Isabelle discussing French Catholic education and safety concerns. Riley provided a comprehensive municipal update covering development projects including Brazil development, St. Pat's Home construction, and the Confederation Heights master plan, while also addressing traffic calming initiatives, park renewals, and flooding concerns in the community. The conversation ended with discussions about the NCC's appeal of the McCarthy Woods Nature Corridor zoning decision and plans for upcoming community events including Pumpkin Fest and BioBlitz activities.

Next steps

Kevin

- Investigate alternative banking options or payment methods (e.g., cash instead of eTransfer) to reduce bank fees for future events like the soil program.

Marianne

- Promote and organize the events for October 17th (music and poetry) and October 18th (BioBlitz) for the McCarthy Woods Nature Corridor, and continue to promote the petition.
- Organize Pumpkin Fest on November 8th, including securing firefighters or alternative for the pumpkin drop, and coordinating volunteers.

Riley

- Arrange a briefing for the Riverside Park Community Association executive with planning staff regarding the Confederation Heights master plan proposal.
- Connect with Marianne offline to inform city staff about available experts (e.g., Carleton professors) for the Ontario Land Tribunal hearing regarding the McCarthy Woods corridor.
- Reach out to all community association presidents to discuss the vision for the next term of office.
- Push for the city to quantify the cost of fully staffing neighborhood resource police teams in the 2027 budget.
- Advocate for the installation of additional signage at Mooney's Bay Park to address cyclist and pedestrian safety issues.
- Work with Abby to meet with the ownership group of 770 Brookfield Road regarding the final phases of the development.
- Follow up with the city's special events team regarding the Afro Festival's noise bylaw exemption for next year.
- Promote and organize the upcoming events: e-waste day (November 7th), Christmas Trivia Night (December 4th), and holiday dinner (two seatings).

Rob

- Recruit new rink operators for Arnett Park and Paget Park, including printing and posting advertisements, and placing information on the website.

Summary

Annual Members Meeting Preparation Meeting

The meeting began with technical difficulties as participants joined and tested audio/video functionality. Dave welcomed attendees and confirmed quorum was achieved with several delegates present including Jason, Isabel, Alan, Sarah, Rob, and Kevin. The meeting focused on preparing for an annual members meeting (AMM) where paid members would have voting rights, with the agenda including community delegate updates, financial reports, and updates from MP and council representatives. Dave outlined the format for delegate presentations, allowing 2 minutes for speaking and 3 minutes for questions per delegate, and noted that the meeting would run for approximately one hour.

2026 Financial Overview Presentation

Kevin presented the financial overview for 2026, highlighting that revenue increased significantly due to the successful soil program and garden plot rentals, while expenses were higher than budgeted primarily due to rink maintenance and snowblower repairs. The organization ended the year with a loss of \$1,100, reducing their total assets to \$29,772 from \$30,871 the previous year. Kevin noted that while they exceeded the budget, this was approved by the board, and emphasized their goal to maintain break-even operations while being mindful of declining assets over time.

2027 Budget and Financial Planning

The board discussed financial matters including bank fees of approximately \$100 and approved the 2027 budget. Kevin presented the budget which maintains revenue levels from the previous year with flat projections, including reduced expenses for supervisors and rink maintenance. The board also voted to waive the annual audit requirement for 2026 and 2027, and Kevin highlighted the urgent need to find rink managers for two locations that remain unfilled, noting this would create a serious financial situation.

Insurance Costs and Board Updates

Kevin explained that insurance costs decreased significantly this year due to switching providers through the city, with the new coverage maintaining the same terms and comprehensive benefits as before. The board discussed nominations, with Dave noting no current nominations received and the existing board serving for one more year, while encouraging interested parties to submit nominations. The conversation ended with plans for a community update featuring Ward 16 trustees and candidates, with Jason, Isabella, and Alan scheduled to speak for 15 minutes total (5 minutes each) on platform and questions.

OCDSP Trustee Candidate Discussion

Jason Glover, a candidate for OCDSP Trustee, discussed his focus on protecting neighborhood school pathways, investing in established schools and community spaces, and strengthening classroom fundamentals if elected. Alan Riddella, another candidate, emphasized his experience as a consensus builder and advocate for parents, promising to work towards lifting the suspension of the board and making it more accountable to local communities. The meeting also addressed technical issues with Isabelle's audio and Rob's update on finding new rink operators for Arnett and Paget parks.

Community Updates and Initiatives

RVH discussed the need for rink operators for Arnott Park and Paget Park, with Bill continuing as operator for one rink, and announced plans for advertising the roles. Marianne presented updates on community gardening initiatives, upcoming events to protect the McCarthy Woods Nature Corridor, and the Pumpkins for the Planet event. Isabelle shared her experience as a candidate for the French Catholic School Board, highlighting challenges with school board sector boundaries and emphasizing the importance of promoting French-language post-secondary education.

Riverside Park Ward Annual Report

Riley provided a comprehensive annual report covering development projects, traffic improvements, and community initiatives in Riverside Park ward. Key updates included progress on Brazil development, St. Pat's Home construction, and the Reveille project, along with ongoing traffic calming efforts and the Walkley Roundabout project. The community discussed concerns about the Confederation Heights development and the Southern Corridor, with Riley offering to arrange a briefing for the association before the planning committee review. Marianne raised a question about expert testimony for the Ontario Land Tribunal, which Riley agreed to follow up on offline.