

# Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

*Reflecting the interests of the Swansea Community*



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## Swansea Area Ratepayers' Group

### Annual General Meeting Minutes

Monday June 18, 2012

- Call to Order:** Nick Singh at 7:33pm  
**Present:** Nick Singh, David Fleming, Kate Lawson, John Meijer, Bill Roberts, Gared Daniel, Brian O'Rourke, Elizabeth Elson, Ian McIsaac, Keith Dicks, Louis Gris  
**Regrets:** Sybil Wilkinson, Ed Gaigalas  
Councillor Sarah Doucette  
**Guests:** Karen Stintz – TTC Chair  
MP Peggy Nash

- Approval of Agenda: David Fleming motioned approval, Bill Roberts seconded and carried  
Approval of Minutes from 2011: David Fleming motioned approval, Elizabeth Elson seconded and carried  
Membership Report: John Meijer read the report and motioned approval, Bill Roberts seconded and carried  
Treasurers Report: Kate Lawson motioned approval, Louis Gris seconded and carried

#### **Presidents Report:**

Change is the hallmark of our times and development in and around Swansea has been non-stop over the last year and has taken up a large portion of our efforts this past year. Apart from the condominium developments we have several home redevelopments which have seen us at the Committee of Adjustment on a regular basis and I think we have managed to keep a check on how far over the bylaws development is allowed to go in Swansea. For example. A proposal to subdivide a property at Windermere and the roundabout into three separate lots with oversized buildings was opposed and turned down just last week at the Committee of adjustment.

Last year we had the Tridel developments at Jane and Bloor approved at 13 storeys and 10 storeys, they are now under construction. Currently we have several proposals for Bloor St opposite High Park at 9,11 and 14 stories. The 14 stories has ben approved by the City and the local residents are challenging it. we have offered our assistance. The 9 and 11 storey proposals are yet to be submitted to the city, but again we attended the public meetings and have offered our help to the local residents.

The development 34 Southport proposed at 29 and 26 stories. Our grand success there was in helping to form the South Kingsway Neighbourhood Committee and together meeting with the City and the Developer to get the retail space that was previously there partly restored.

Congratulations to the Committee for their enormous energy and hard work. But the work there is not over yet as the height and density have not been resolved. So that will be an ongoing issue. And we are told there are more condo proposals to come.

One of the chief complaints from the community is that greater density brings greater traffic. And we have been pursuing the City to do the proper studies so that these matters can be properly managed but there seems to be no money or will at the present time. We will continue to do our own review of available studies to help manage the issue.

Of course we have been doing a lot more than just development issues but we don't have time for all of it tonight. Just a few examples of issues and items that we look at.

Are you aware that a redeveloped house next to yours can cause your chimney to become in violation of the building code and it would be your expense to fix?. We have been trying to change this in partnership with CORRA so that it is the developer who is responsible for the expense of fixing this problem.

Please look at o newsletter and you will see some of the current issues we have been dealing with.

Nick thanked the current Board for their hard work and dedication to the community. He stated that it had been a pleasure to work with them and would look forward to another great year ahead.

Nick reminded people to come to our fundraiser play at the Village Playhouse in November; details in the newsletter, and we are looking for help immediately with planning the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, one of the fastest in the world, which will be held on October 14th this year.

### **Election of the Board of Directors for 2012-2013 presented by Glen Gogal:**

The candidates for election are:

President:	Nick Singh
Secretary:	David Fleming
Treasurer:	Kate Lawson
Past President:	Louis Gris
Directors:	Bill Roberts
	Sybil Wilkinson
	Ian McIsaac
	John Meijer (Membership Chair)
	Gared Daniel
	Ed Gaigalas
	Elizabeth Elson
	Brian O'Rourke
	Keith Dicks

Bill Roberts asked for further nominations for the Board of Directors. None. Ian McIsaac moved the nominations be closed. The motion was carried and the nominees were elected by acclamation. Bill Roberts motioned that the Executive be allowed to fill vacancies as required over the year. The motion was seconded by David Fleming and carried.

**Guest Speaker Introduction:** Nick Singh introduced TTC Chair Karen Stintz.

**Guest Speaker – TTC Chair Karen Stintz:** The system is outdated and the TTC is focusing on fares and good repair, reviving the system and service. This is challenging as the organization is 90 years old and the culture is risk adverse, the system is safe and in good order, but not very customer friendly. They need to get their fare system integrated with Presto, focus on customer service, deal with a new management approach, and reinvest in technology. They are not quite there, but are on the right path. Over the next three years, there will be many changes.

Ms. Stintz then took questions from the floor and discussed the following:

How will it be funded? – the TTC needs to receive 8.4 billion from the province and federal governments. Transit City is not fully funded and fare structure will be important.

Information boards? - they know they need them, especially on busy routes.

The Big Move (Metrolinx) and Transit City? - Big Move deals with the GTA and Golden Horseshoe, and Transit City is the Toronto centric part of Big Move. Needs fare integration, participation by multiple municipalities. Metrolinx needs to put together a viable, ironed out funding strategy. Problems they have: they are a citizen board that does not stand up well to elected officials, multiple municipalities are involved, municipalities may not buy in.

Accessibility? - the goal is to address all mobility concerns by 2025. Until then, WheelTrans.

Future developments? - they are looking at developments that could include surface rail. Her preferred choice would be a second commuter relief subway line for rush hour for Yonge St.

Payment? - The Presto system integrates all municipalities and is the best choice. TTC has started deploying it.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned after the question period.