

Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

Reflecting the interests of the Swansea Community



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Swansea Area Ratepayers' Group

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 31, 2011

Call to Order: Nick Singh at 7:33pm
Present: Nick Singh, David Fleming, Kate Lawson, John Meijer, Ed Gaigalas, Bill Roberts, Sybil Wilkinson, Gared Daniel, Brian O'Rourke, Elizabeth Elson, Ian McIsaac
Regrets: Louis Gris
Guests: Staff Inspector Peter Lennox – 11 Division
Councillor Sarah Doucette
MP Peggy Nash

Approval of Agenda: David Fleming motioned approval, Councillor Sarah Doucette seconded and carried
Approval of Minutes from 2010: David Fleming motioned approval, Councillor Sarah Doucette seconded and carried
Membership Report: John Meijer motioned approval, Ed Gaigalas seconded and carried
Treasurers Report: Kate Lawson motioned approval, John Meijer seconded and carried

Presidents Report:

Scotia Bank Toronto Waterfront Marathon is a world class event drawing international competitors from the best and fastest the world has to offer. In 2010, the Ratepayers' once again partnered with three other community groups, the Legion, the Town Hall and the Recreation Centre, as a cheering section. We put on a very good show with many of the community present. Our efforts once again won us a \$1,000 award of merit for best cheering section. This year the marathon runs a little later in the day, so we expect a even better showing. In addition we had four champions running in the race. Nick thanked them for their fund raising efforts. Both John Meijer and Sybil Wilkinson will run as champions this years run.

It has been a busy year dealing primarily with development..

Southport Plaza: The area residents are trying to organize a retail study, and if possible, we would like to see more retail space.

South Kingsway Ramps : The transit stop was moved and the stairs from the South Kingsway bridge to the platform is now closed; we would like to see it restored. The intersection from the South Kingsway ramp to the eastbound Queensway is difficult and needs to be addressed. SARA will work with Councillor Doucette to help resolve both issues.

Fall Fundraiser: SARA will once again be putting on a fall fundraiser with the Village Players in November. Please come out and support SARA and the Village Players by buying tickets.

The City of Toronto Harmonized Zoning By-law was first proposed by city staff to standardize the zoning terminology that differed in each of the former pre-amalgamation cities of the GTA. The goal is to allow city staff to move from region to region without having to relearn terminology. SARA is concerned that not only will terminology be

standardized but so will the by-laws, imposing zoning on the community that is unsuitable to the Swansea area. SARA's position is to support terminology standardization but not a standardization of the building standards and use permissions set out in the draft by-law. Bill Roberts has been a key participant in crafting the HZB and helped with understanding the by-law and concerns for our community, especially surrounding "R" zoning and zoning designations of RS within Swansea. The by-law was amended, passed and eventually repealed. There has been a lot of work put in by many people, and SARA is committed to help work on it's eventual reconfiguration.

Nick Singh wrapped up his report by informing that the Ratepayers' newsletter contains more information and that you sign up to become a member you will automatically receive a copy. Please sign up!

Election of the Board of Directors for 2011-2012:

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
	Keith Dicks

Bill Roberts asked for further nominations for the Board of Directors. None. Councillor Sarah Doucette moved the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Kate Lawson the nominees were elected by acclamation. Sybil motioned that the Executive be allowed to fill vacancies as required over the year. The motion was seconded by Kate and carried.

Councillor Sarah Doucette briefly spoke about the last seven exciting months working in the ward with SARA, other the local Ratepayers' groups and BIA's that help build a great community. She noted that she attempted to have the repeal of the Harmonized Zoning By-law deferred until a replacement is ready. She asked everyone to participate in the City Services survey and that he goal is to try and keep them running.

Member of Parliament Peggy Nash briefly spoke, thanking the community for supporting her; now 40% of the caucus are women. She is honoured to be the Finance Critic with responsibility for budget matters. She will welcome community input and will keep the community informed on issues. She is organizing a Canada Day event in High Park. Her community office will be opening soon, just west of Dundas West Station.

Guest Speaker Introduction: Nick Singh introduced Staff Inspector Peter Lennox from 11 Division, Toronto's smallest.

Guest Speaker - Staff Inspector Peter Lennox: Staff Inspector Lennox introduced himself and Constable Russ Golding, the Crime Prevention and Community Relations Officer. He described his staff, both uniformed and investigative officers and the roles they play. He described the changes as 11 Division is moving to a new station at the Carlton Village Public School. They will be in a much better position to server the community as it is more affordable, welcoming with more community access, provides dignity for people who require private space, and helps with officer moral. It will be open for business on September 24, 2011. He described crime trends: thefts from cars, break and enters, traffic problems and offences, aggressive panhandling and identity theft. They are attempting to address things with a number of programs: Operation Broken Window, Neighbourhood One, Project Recess and Leopold and the Toronto Anti Violence Strategy. He described the job of Community Police Liaison, as direct link between the police nf the community that fosters as partnership against crime and disorder; an extremely valuable component of the Division's operation. He will be communicating with the community via many different mediums: newsletters, emails, Toronto Police Services Mailing Lists, Community Email Alerts, Town Halls and the Toronto Police Service web site. <<<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/>>>. Staff Inspector Lennox took questions from the floor about break and enters, gangs, reporting crimes, what are "persons known to Police" and integrating offenders into the community.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by Sarah Doucette, and carried, Nick Singh adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.