

SWANSEA AREA RATEPAYER'S ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING, February 17, 2009

Present: Nick Singh, Bill Roberts, David Fleming, Kate Lawson, Ian McIsaac, John Meijer, Ed Gaigalas
Regrets: George Dubauskas, Louis Gris, Sybil Wilkinson

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Nick Singh called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

2. AGENDA AMENDMENTS & APPROVAL:

Upon motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by David Fleming, and carried, the Agenda for February 17, 2009 was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by Kate Lawson, the minutes for January 20, 2009 was approved.

4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a) Membership: John Meijer verbally presented the report. The report was accepted upon a motion by John Meijer, seconded by Ian McIsaac and carried.

b) Fundraising: No report.

c) Treasurer's: Kate Lawson read the report. The report was accepted upon a motion by Kate Lawson, seconded by Bill Roberts and carried.

d) Expenses: None.

5. CURRENT MATTERS

a) New Members and Guests: Christopher Papadakis, Deborah, and Steve from 6 Durie Street attended to seek advice and support for his CoA application: side setbacks, 0.61 GFA in 0.60, below grade garage. The executive heard the applicant, suggested that solid or opaque walls be installed on the second story deck to protect side neighbours privacy. The applicant had no issues with the request. It was also discovered that the garage, although technically below lot grade, is above street level, and does not infringe on the mutual drive. After their departure, the executive had an in camera discussion. Ed Gaigalas motioned that David Fleming write a letter to the CoA with the following details: SARA does not oppose the application providing that the applicant consents to solid or opaque sides to the balcony at least 52 inches in height, and that the property is built substantially and in accordance to the plans. The motion was seconded by Ian McIsaac and carried.

b) Property Encroachment at 55 Mayfield Ave - Willard Gardens Parkette: Nick Singh reported that he heard back from Councillor Saundercook's office. They have forwarded our concerns to the appropriate City departments, and will get back to Nick with the responses.

c) Flyer to promote SARA to new Swansea Residents: Ed Gaigalas reported that he and Sybil Wilkinson had discussed their past meetings. Ed will reorganize and discuss options with Sybil.

- d) Humbergate Initiative: No news from Councillor Saundercook's office.
- e) Waterfront Master Plan and Western Beaches: Nick Singh reported the next meeting is Thursday February 19. Nick, Ian McIsaac, and Bill Roberts all may attend. They will bring up the issue of closing Colbourn Lodge Drive as well as the lack of appropriate notification time for meetings.
- f) 21 Old Mill Road: No news.
- g) South Kingsway Ramps: Work continues.
- h) 2500 Bloor Street West – Tridel Development: Nick Singh reported that he has not yet received minutes from the last meeting. Tridel has indicated that there will be a public meeting preceded by a working group meeting.
- i) Municipal Finance Reforms: No news.
- j) Sign By Law: Ian McIsaac reported he attended the recent public hearing at City Hall. They are targeting permanent signs for consistency after amalgamation. Major issues are facia size and consistency, lack of enforcement, poor CoA for signage, digital technologies, environmental friendliness (birds, electrical consumption, light pollution), what looks OK, and bringing online a new department to enforce by laws and take care of administration. Details are on the City website. Ian McIssac motioned that he write a letter to the City to be kept advised of issues, and to inform them that SARA is especially concerned with natural bird areas, brightness, and light pollution. The motion was seconded by Bill Roberts and carried.
- k) AGM - 2009: The 2009 AGM will take place in late May or early June. Ed Gaigalas will research dates available and pencil in appropriate openings. A speaker is needed. Topics could be the economy, waterfront, Humber river, or the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority. David Cromby could be a possible speaker.
- l) RARG Donation: Ross Braun, representing the Ripley Avenue Ratepayers Group, presented SARA a \$15,000 donation in consideration of past and present community work.

6. LAND USE ITEMS

- a) Past Items:
- 169 South Kingsway: No news.
- 72 Beresford: David Fleming reported the neighbours chose not to appeal to the OMB.
- b) New CoA Matters – 22 Mayfield Ave, 3 Harcourt Rd: No news, Louis Gris to report at next meeting.

7. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- a) High Park Community Advisory Council: No news. No SARA representative
- b) Community Police Liaison Committee: No news. No SARA representative.
- c) Swansea Community Recreation Centre & Rennie Park: No news.

- d) Swansea Memorial Library and Friends of the Library: Bill Roberts reported that usage continues to increase, with significant increase over the last month.
- e) Swansea Public School: No news.
- f) Swansea Town Hall Board of Management: Bill Roberts reported that the AGM is February 24, 2009. There is a proposal to amend the constitution's objects in relationship to the Town Hall Association and it's relationship to the Town Hall. The Association Chair will be renamed to President. Bill emphasised that BoM members must attend to make quorum.
- g) J.T. Bonham Residences: EdcGaigalas reported the AGM will be Thursday February 26, 2009.
- h) CORRA: Bill Robert reported that there is no recent news, but will keep the executive informed via regular emails.

8. ITEMS BEING MONITORED

- a) Windermere by the Lake: No news.
- b) Southport Plaza: No news.
- c) Former Joyco Station: No news.
- d) Humber Bay Treatment Plant: No news. Nick Singh will contact Ron Braun about the possibility of investigating the plants environmental record.
- e) Proactive Measures to Preserve the Character of Swansea: No news..
- f) Storm Water Management Plan – Ellis Ave/Colbourne Lodge Dr: No news.
- g) Bloor West Urban Design Study: No news.
- h) Humber Odeon Developments: No news.
- i) Development Charges: Developers have been given a two year holiday from increases in development charges.
- j) Adopt-A-Block Program and Display Poster: No news.
- k) 21 Old Mill – Section 37 Monies: No news.
- l) Booking of Swansea Town Hall Rooms for SARA Meetings: Ed Gaigalas will book meetings until the end of the year. The December 2009 meeting will be held December 15, 2009, the third Tuesday.
- m) Sky view maps of Swansea: Nick Singh reported he contacted Councillor Saundercook about obtaining the maps. No news yet.

n) Earth Hour – March 28, 2009:

Nick Singh reported that he has talked with Green 13 about sponsoring a meeting with a debate between the pros and cons of nuclear power. Ed Gaigalas motioned that SARA sponsor the meeting with Green 13, in honour of Earth Hour. Nick and Green 13 will set the agenda and questions. Nick will time, and an impartial monitor will be determined later. The motion was seconded by Ian McIsaac and carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

10. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday March 17, 2009

11. ADJOURNED: 9:37 PM