



## **GOODERHAM & WORTS**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION (GWNA) INC.**

Website: [www.gwna.ca](http://www.gwna.ca) Twitter: @GWNAtoronto

Facebook: Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association

## **GWNA MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

Held via Video Conference December 12,2022 at 6:30 pm

### **Attendees**

Diana Belshaw (Chair)

Neil Betteridge

Mick Brighton

Phylis Coles

Christopher Needles

Greg Papp

Catherine Schryer

Mark Wagner

### **Regrets**

Sheila Iseman

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement:** Diana Belshaw
2. **Approval of agenda:** moved by Phylis Coles; seconded by Mark Wagner
3. **Approval of minutes of October 11,2022:** moved by Greg Papp; seconded by Mark Wagner
4. **Discussions with Councillors' Staff – No-one was available from the Councillors' offices so the Board discussed the following in their absence**
  - a. The following were raised as concerns related to the City
    - i. New Housing Legislation and Omnibus Bills
    - ii. Park allocations
    - iii. Air quality – lack of air quality monitoring systems
    - iv. Local library—where will it be?
  - b. The following were raised as neighborhood concerns and priorities
    - i. Parliament traffic and congestion
    - ii. Traffic Plan needed to address traffic related construction issues
  - c. Action  
Councillors to be invited to future Board and Community meeting  
Diana agreed to set up a call to look for volunteers from the larger membership to deal with issues related to air pollution, parks and the library

## **5. Winter Village Check in**

The following issues were noted:

- a. The car and entrance passes were late being delivered to property managers
- b. Ongoing traffic congestion and noise on Mill St and Parliament
- c. Fire lane blocked in front of 39 Parliament
- d. Angry residents have contacted Distillery staff directly, and some have posted personal and inappropriate comments on the GWNA website.
- e. Action

Diana will talk to Distillery staff about current issues, and issues will be raised at next Round Table meeting with a view to improving the situation for next year

## **6. Development Report**

- a. A priority focus for next year is to establish a construction liaison committee for 31 Parliament
- b. Construction updates include: Construction is behind for blocks 3,4,7; no archeological reports have been delivered for the 31 Parliament site or the Metro Links site

## **7. Membership Report**

The November Social Event was deemed a success. Thanks were extended to Neil Betteridge for organizing the event. Phylis Cole reported that the organization now has 138 members. Possible recruitment events include a summer social and lobby information sessions

## **8. Financial report**

Report from Treasurer, Greg Papp, indicated that the organization's finances remain stable.

## **9. Communications**

- a. Facebook administration:

Discussion occurred with regards to the GWNA Facebook page. Residents and possibly non-residents have posted possibly inappropriate comments on the page. Also it is unclear as to who is the moderator of the site and how the organization's ethical guidelines are being applied. It was agreed that a Board member assume responsibility for moderating the site. Chris Needles agreed to assume the role of site administrator. He will also post a social media code of conduct as well as link to the organization's code of conduct in January. The board agreed to this decision.

- b. GWNA email changeover

Mark Wagner has completed the changeover so that all Board officers now have an email address related to the GWNA.

## **10. FOSTRA**

A detailed report was received from Mich Brighton regarding FOSTRA's park activities. See attached.

## **11. Meetings in the New Year**

January 9, 2023—Councillors or reps to be invited.

February 13 - Reps from new library services to be invited

March 13 – AGM

## **12. New Business**

A representative from the Canary District has asked whether the GWNA would be interested in extending its influence in the new neighborhood.

After much discussion, the Board agreed that Diana and Neil would have coffee with this representative and find out what they really wanted or needed and bring that information back to the Board for further discussion.

**13. Termination of Meeting :** moved by Neil Betteridge

Report to the GWNA November 2022, (FoSTRA) Parks Action Committee.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Create new greenspace in Toronto
- Properly maintain existing greenspace
- Ensure community consultations on use designations/redesignations
- Educate park users on etiquette/enforce rules

If any member of the GWNA has insights/experience on how to practically influence the maintenance of existing parkland or the budget cycle/timing then please come forward and join the committee. The GWNA communication with community/residents to include their specific green space and park priorities is important and that the creation of new green spaces with the increased in development/intensification in our wards (10 and 13) should be conveyed to the new councillors.

FoSTRA (PAC) and RA's (GWNA) need to follow the money, parks budgets are 100% funded by internal resources and no funding is provided federally or provincially as there are no legislation requirements or standards regarding allocation of parks/density etc. This does not preclude that some one-time money may come through from partnerships or "Found" money. Example, capital money for the Franklin Garden came from TD and the Westin family)

- Parks (and libraries) are funded through operating budgets and as there are no standards to meet, they are therefore most vulnerable if the city is seeking immediate cost savings, they are the easiest areas to target.
- For the larger parkland initiatives and downtown public realm master plan, these are longer term strategies and are managed via capital 10-year plan and specific projects are itemised for funding. 2022 capital budget was the same as 2021. The capital budgets are available to the public. <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/95be-2022-City-of-Toronto-Budget-Summary.pdf>
- New growth tools/bylaws recently implemented in August, such as the Alternative Park dedication rate, cash for parkland and increases to Development Charges will create more green space closer to new developments.
- Typically, there is no additional maintenance budget allocated for parks to modernize spaces and maintain appropriately – this is an ongoing institutional problem and the Parks Department are constantly juggling the gap by deferring the filling of vacant positions.

### **SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Collaboration with local park staff and community partners (BIA, Distillery, RAs etc.) to develop collaborative solutions should be explored
- Log Park gaps/concerns in 311 tool and track progress.

- With new Councillors and the Mayor's desire to build his legacy as a city builder/downtown driver of TO economy there is a need to focus messaging on;
  - o Continuous investment in downtown master plan
  - o Building quality spaces and modernize existing park spaces
- Councillors need to push motions for an enhanced parks strategy (given projected increases to residents, tourists, and attractions to the waterfront) to drive ongoing growth and incremental increases to operating budgets. Perhaps a group of Councillors could bring forward a motion that would require the City to demand incremental increases to the Parks operating budget over time as the issue of poorly maintained parks is now sometime a lot of Councillors would support. FoSTRA could try and get our 5 Councillors on board, could the GWNA support this move?
- Pathway to success may be the mayor's initiative and his endorsement to expand green spaces – monitor progress on the recently announced 3 priority parks and peripheral parkland opportunities' – airport lands and Ontario Place.
- We should get to know the 10-year capital budget and over time, we may by Ward be able to get things added and changed in terms of priority. This is a long-term strategy. RAs would need to better understand what is needed and desired by Ward and what is coming down the pipe to do this and to also take advantage of one-time opportunities. (For example, the City is receiving over \$3 million on lease payments for Enwave's right of way on City Land. This was not in the City's budget and the Councillor was able to get it directed to help implement the island Masterplan.

For your information.

A study in one of the cleanest countries in the world could help governments think about future ways to manage air pollution.

Abundant data from London's infamous 1952 smog onwards tells us that breathing high concentrations of air pollution harms our health. This feeds into the 20th-century idea of targets for the quality of our air. However, the new study looked at the health harm from air pollution from another angle.

Census records for more than 7 million Canadians from between 1981 and 2016 were combined with air pollution data to find out if small amounts of particle pollution were still harmful.

Despite the relatively clean air, the study found that nearly 8,000 Canadians were dying early each year from outdoor air pollution. Notably, even people in the cleanest areas were experiencing an impact on their health.

Air pollution harm was seen at concentrations that were at about one half of the latest World Health Organization guideline and at just quarter of the 2040 target proposed for England.

The Canadian study was one of three funded by the US Health Effects Institute. The other two looked at more than 60 million people in the US and 27 million people in Europe. They reached similar conclusions: there is no lower limit that can be used to define safe air quality. This means governments should not constrain their ambition around setting targets for the worst air that people should breathe.

Prof Michael Brauer from the University of British Columbia, who led the Canadian study, said: “These findings suggest important health benefits could be gained from continued reductions in air pollution and more stringent regulatory standards, including in countries such as Canada and the UK.

“Considering that we don’t identify a ‘safe’ level of air pollution, we should rethink our approach and focus on continued reductions year by year, rather than just setting fixed concentration standards that are only reviewed every five to 10 years. The health impacts are far too large.”

In 2022, a UK review warned that air pollution contributes to dementia and a US review highlighted how asthma can start from being exposed to air pollution from traffic. Although UK and European countries are committed to reducing average particle pollution and the total pollution produced by each country, the growing evidence underlines the need for action to improve air pollution everywhere and especially for young and vulnerable people.

Mick Brighton GWNA rep to FoSTRA and PAC. November 2022.