



**GOODERHAM & WORTS
NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION (GWNA) INC.**
Website: www.gwna.ca Twitter: @GWNAtoronto
Facebook: Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association

GWNA MINUTES OF COMMUNITY MEETING held via Video Conference
Monday, June 08, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Directors Present

Phylis Coles, President
Mick Brighton, Vice President
Richard Gruchala, Treasurer, Rep for 390 Cherry St
Barbara Nelson, Secretary
Scott Brachmayer, Director at Large
Mary Chrisanthus, Director at Large
George Hume, Director at Large, Rep for 39 Parliament St
Jane Robinson, Director at Large

Regrets

Beryl Haines, Director at Large
Sheila Iseman, Director at Large, Rep for 70 Distillery Lane
Gillian Kerr, Director at Large, Rep for 70 Mill St
Doug Lay, Director at Large, Rep for 33 Mill St
Arella Sohn, Director at Large

Guests Speakers

Chris Glover, MPP – Spadina - Fort York
Kristyn Wong-Tam, City Councillor Ward 13

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Acknowledgment Statement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Agenda Items

1. Introduction of Guest Speakers

MPP Chris Glover provided an update on the following items:

COVID-19

The declaration of emergency has been extended to June 30, 2020 and will continue to be evaluated at a month by month basis. While some regions within the Province of Ontario have been approved to move into Stage 2 level of restrictions, the Toronto area remains at Stage 1. The Provincial government will continue to assess the situation and provide a weekly update on any additional regions ready to move into Stage 2.

Effective Friday, June 12, the Province will increase the limit on social gatherings from five to 10 people across the province, regardless of whether a region has moved to Stage 2.

Black Lives Matter Protests

There have been several protests within Toronto in support of the fight against systemic racism and police brutality. The government has committed \$1.5M to support Black Communities, however this equates to approximately \$2.40 per person. There is a lot more which needs to be done.

Legal Support for Seniors

The Ontario Bar Association has announced they will be offering free online legal information and consultation services for seniors as a community service.

Toronto Pride

Pride Toronto is presenting the first-ever Virtual Pride which provides an opportunity to use technology as a platform to showcase the many talents of the diverse LGBT2Q+ community members in new and exciting ways.

Ontario Long Term Care Facilities

The recent report completed by the military have brought many long standing issues to the forefront. Residents in private for profit facilities were four times more likely to contract the COVID-19 virus and two times more likely to die. This has led to discussions on the nationalization of care homes.

Commercial Eviction Ban

The Ontario government announced it intends to take action to protect commercial tenants from being evicted by their landlords due to the negative impacts of COVID-19. The proposed changes to the Commercial Tenancies Act would temporarily halt evictions that occurred on or after June 3, 2020 - too late for many local businesses.

While rent relief efforts were previously available, very few landlords participated. The potential loss of small businesses has a significant impact on the economy - 70% of jobs in Canada come from small business.

Addressing Homelessness

The shelters and other services within the city have been at capacity since April. With local businesses also shut due to COVID-19, those living in encampments do not have regular access to temperature regulated shelter and running water. The primary concern is to establish proper housing for individuals and then provide additional support needed, such as mental health support.

The Provincial Government needs to step up and provide the City of Toronto more funding to respond to the homelessness crisis. The Ontario's Ministry of Housing reduced spending on housing supports by \$161M in 2019-2020.

The Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association recently organized a press conference to ask the provincial government to live up to its funding obligations. Work will continue to call for more funding to be allocated to housing solutions for the City of Toronto.

Q&A

Will the Provincial NDP be advocating for a restructuring of Police Boards in the province?

The NDP has and continues to advocate for more community involvement in investigations regarding the police. There has not yet been the opportunity to address recent heightened concerns. The desire is to have a preventative approach in how the police respond to situations. While there are Community Police Liaisons, the role of these representatives is around disseminating communications from the police.

Is the announcement of the Toronto Police Chief's retirement a result of recent events?

Currently do not have insight into this, however more information should be available in the coming days.

What action is being taken regarding the call to defund the Toronto police and redirect those funds to public housing, food security, employment supports, youth etc.?

There is a need to address the inequity within the city and provide young people in at risk communities real and legitimate job prospects. Further work and attention is required for this. *(Further detail on this question is included within the update from City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam)*

City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam provided an update on the following items:

Addressing Homelessness

There are approximately 90 encampments across the city ranging in size and can have up to 70-80 individuals in one encampment. The City is working hard to both house these individuals following social distancing requirements and meet the specific requirements some individuals may have. Since COVID-19 started 31 new sites have opened, including shelters, community facilities new respite sites along with use of hotels. The City continues to search for additional buildings and is relying on Provincial assistance for support and additional access to healthcare professionals.

Active TO

This initiative has been welcomed by communities. The transmission rates of COVID-19 fall dramatically for activities in outdoor spaces, work is underway to determine how to expand the program.

The City is preparing to introduce other initiatives, such as Café TO - an extended patio program for bars, restaurants and pubs with street access. Patios will be pushed out onto the curb lane allowing for pedestrian pathways to remain clear.

Commercial Evictions

The City has been advocating and rallying for a halt to commercial evictions, which has just been approved by the Province. While there has been a Commercial Subsidy Program in place, rent in Toronto is extremely expensive and programs that may be successful elsewhere in the Province will not necessarily work in our City.

Defunding of Police Services

A motion has been put forward for the 2021 budget to defund Police Services by 10% (\$122M) and have those funds reallocated to other community programs.

Defunding, or redirecting police resources to other underfunded social services is about acknowledging that there are many things that police are called on to do that they are not properly trained, or inclined to do.

Many of the calls police respond to are non-criminal in nature and are composed of incidents such as disturbances, domestic disputes, sick or injured persons and mental health-related calls. Defunding is about re-allocating some of those responsibilities away from the police and funding others to support them - into services where health experts, social workers and those trained to deal with mental-health crises would respond instead. This would better align training and costs, and allow us to invest even more into preventive services.

Right now Toronto City Council does not have the authority to determine the level of policing in our communities, or the ability to direct how funding is allocated. Those powers are controlled at the Provincial level - we need Premier Ford and his government to amend the law for Toronto residents.

GWNA members can support this motion by emailing the Mayor and other members of Council to tell them you support this work. We will have more information and ways to get involved in the coming weeks, but having this first conversation at City Council is critical.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 11, 2020 GWNA Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion made by: Barbara Nelson

Seconded by: Mary Chrisanthus

Motion carried

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Richard Gruchala presented the GWNA Inc. Financial Report for the period of January 1 to May 31, 2020.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurers Report as presented.

Motion made by: Jane Robinson

Seconded by: George Hume

Motion carried

4. Communications Committee Update

The Communications Committee update was provided by Scott Brachmayer:

- All GWNA meetings will be conducted via Zoom for the foreseeable future
- The GWNA Facebook Business page will be used to post materials which previously would have been emailed out to members
- The GWNA Facebook Group page will continue to be used for individuals to share posts
- GWNA members are encouraged to be active on Twitter as well

The Committee can be contacted at Communications.GWNA@gmail.com.

5. Development Committee Update

The Development Committee update was provided by Jane Robinson:

- An email was circulated to GWNA members on May 26th with information from the West Don Lands Committee meeting
- The Development Committee will submit a letter to support the request from the Anishnawbe Health Centre to be classified as 5 buildings

6. GWNA Roundtable Update

The Roundtable update was provided by Jane Robinson:

- A Roundtable Meeting may be scheduled shortly
- The 2020 Christmas Market has not yet been confirmed - if it goes forward it may look quite different

7. Membership Committee Update

The Membership Committee update was provided by Barbara Nelson:

- Due to COVID 19 the use of e-transfers will be the preferred method of payment for any new memberships - Alternate payment methods are available if needed
- The GWNA Facebook pages planned to be used to communicate the benefits of membership
- The current 2020 membership is 107 members

The Committee can be contacted at Membership.GWNA@gmail.com.

8. Social Committee Update

The Social Committee update was provided by Mary Chrisanthus:

- The Soulpepper Theater is developing online programs, details will be shared once available
- Discounts will be available to GWNA members once the Theater reopens
- The planning of any social activities are on hold as a result of COVID-19

The Committee can be contacted at Social.GWNA@gmail.com.

9. GWNA Representatives for Community Organizations

GWNA President Phylis Coles initiated a discussion on establishing GWNA Representatives on other Community Organizations. Those interested in one of the roles should reach out to Phylis.

Community Organization Representatives:

- Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA)
 - *TBD*
- Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC)
 - Lori May Ash
- Old Town Development Group (OTDC)
 - No longer required
- St. Lawrence Community Centre Advisory Council (SLCCAC)
 - *TBD*
- St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA)
 - *TBD*
- West Don Lands Liaison Committee (WDLC)
 - Chair of the Development Committee

10. Zoom & Upcoming GWNA Meetings

The next meeting will take place on July 13, 2020 and will be planned as a Community Meeting held via video conference. A communication will be sent to all GWNA members in advance of the meeting providing access details for the Zoom meeting.

11. Prospective Speakers

GWNA President Phylis Coles initiated a discussion on prospective guest speakers for future GWNA Meetings. Requests have been made to have Joe Cressy, City Councillor Ward 10 and MPP Suze Morrison, Toronto Centre.

12. Other Business

Strengthening inclusive local economies through community benefits

Jane Robinson initiated a discussion on this initiative. There is a request for the GWNA to endorse the petition to the Federal Government to ensure community members have an equal opportunity to find valuable work on infrastructure projects.

Policies like the Community Employment Benefits (CEB) program are a valuable tool to create local workforce and business opportunities for Indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, youth and newcomers. Community Benefit Agreements (CBA) have been proven in many jurisdictions to increase much needed local labour supply and strengthen diversity within the industry, responding to key contractor concerns. Regent Park is a prime example of the benefits to their community.

Jane Robinson will submit the endorsement on behalf of the GWNA. Other members are encouraged to endorse the initiative individually as well.

13. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at **8:54 pm**.

The next Community meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 13, 2020 via Zoom**