

The West Bend Community Association

Minutes from October 17, 2012

Indian Road Crescent Public School

Chair: Tim Noronha Minutes: Des McComish

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

In Attendance: Tim, Des, Joel, Stuart, John Suline, Johanne, Maurice, Shannon, David Coffey, Adrienne, Sophie, Don, Mary Jo, Joey, Janice, Ed Guca.

Special Guests: Cheri DiNovo MPP, Councillor Gord Perks.

Update from Cheri DiNovo MPP

- Cheri noted that the Queen's Park legislature has been closed/prorogued for no clear reason and that Jonah Schein's private member's Bill/Motion to electrify the ARL has therefore died.
- Education: Bill 115 has passed. It imposes a contract on teachers and freezes wages for the majority of the union members while still letting younger teachers move up the salary grid. The other proposed public sector wage freezes died at prorogation although negotiations continue.
- It looks like there will be a provincial election in 2013.
- She has met recently with the heads of Metrolinx who claim to support electrification but that it is up to the Liberal government at Queen's Park – it's a matter of political will and money. The NDP and Conservatives both favour electrifying the rail lines.
- MPAC assessments (now updated every 5 years) will be mailed very soon and Cheri will be hosting a Town Hall meeting to answer home owners' questions; it seems that MPAC assessments can be error prone and/or subject to anomalies.
- Cheri encouraged us to share our concerns with her.

Update from Councillor Gord Perks

Gord also referenced the pending mailing of the latest MPAC assessments and his office will also be available to help resolve problems and answer questions. Gord also provided an update on local developments;

- **2803 Dundas St West:** the developer of the old McBride's Cycle site still wishes to make some changes and is in discussions with the City; if those matters are resolved then the City will issue a staff report, to be heard at the upcoming East York Community Council (EYCC) meeting in November. The applicant proposes to construct a 7-storey mixed-use building with commercial uses at grade. The proposed development would include a total of 107 residential units and 949 square meters of commercial uses at grade.
- **2376 Dundas St West** (to the north of the Crossways): the City and community are at odds with the developer's plans for 8 and 23 condo towers; the City does not approve the proposal as it stands. The application will go to the EYCC in January 2013 so it looks like the developer will appeal to the OMB. The application, submitted by Urban Strategies, proposes to redevelop the site for a new mixed-use development containing a 8-storey mid-rise building on Dundas Street West and a 23-storey tower (down from 26-storey) on the eastern portion of the site adjacent the rail corridor.

The City Planning report states that the" application in its current form is not supportable. Of considerable concern to staff is the appropriateness of the proposed tall building". The City held a follow-up community meeting on June 4th with the developer to raise concerns and the Councillor and residents concluded that the revised application was still unacceptable. City staff reports are expected in November for both the 2376 Dundas St development and the proposal for the McBride site at 2803 Dundas St West.

- **City Budget Process** launches in mid November. The mayor floated cutting the City's land transfer tax; currently there are some fewer 1,800 city staff than Council approved; the Planning department's manpower is stretched – our local planner is now responsible for three Wards rather than one. Your input to the Budget process is welcomed.
- **Bike Lanes** Joey asked about the future of the Dupont bike lanes; there is to be a study and public meetings re the whole corridor, as far East as Dufferin. We noted the challenges raised by the oddly designed intersection of Dupont/Dundas/Annette.
- **Railpath Extension (to south of Dundas & Lansdowne)** Metrolinx claims it's a City responsibility while the City feels its Metrolinx's responsibility.
- **Railway properties** It seems that the Canadian railways, since their inception, are exempt from certain rules that would otherwise apply in municipal situations e.g. the obligation to clean graffiti from rail bridges, rail properties.

Bloor By The Park BIA

Ed Guca, president of our local BIA presented to the group and noted the improving retail outlook - there are now only 2 vacant stores, down from 7 a year ago. He asked that we publicize their Toast to Autumn event which runs from Oct 19-21. The BIA has sent out 5,000 flyers and placed ads in local papers. The BIA AGM takes place Wed October 24th at Romero House – all are welcome to attend, particularly TWBCA executive members. The BIA has offered to help TWBCA.

1. Approval of September Minutes

Johanne moved to approve, seconded by Joel.

2. AGM or Annual General Meeting/Election of Officers.

- Tim Noronha re-elected as Chair
- Joey Schwartz elected as Vice-Chair, and Developments Director
- Des McComish re-elected as Secretary
- Joel Citulski elected as Membership Director and Treasurer
- Janice elected as Gardens Director
- Shannon Christy elected as Communications Director

- **Discussion of Agenda items.**

1. Metrolinx Sound Mitigation measures - Follow-up Discussion

Community Advisory Committee Terms and Objectives (per Metrolinx)

Tim and Des provided an update on their meeting of October 16th with Metrolinx to discuss the Metrolinx plan to establish Community Advisory Committees or CAC's which will be tasked with providing input on the design of a potential sound mitigating wall. Tim and Des agreed at that meeting to establish a CAC in the West Bend area to gather area residents' input. Metrolinx is preparing the terms of reference of the CAC's and related timelines. (For more information refer to the West Bend and Metrolinx websites).

2. Membership

- Our goal is to increase membership. Joel has created a Facebook site to help raise awareness of TWBCA and create a forum to discuss local issues such as electrification, the sound wall etc. There are two dozen members already and lots of good timely content.
- We have now placed a link to the school on our TWBCA website and requested that the school do likewise.
- The membership year follows the academic year, September to August and \$10 membership renewals are now due for the 2012/2013 period.

3. Treasurer's Report

Deferred to next meeting in November as we ran out of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.00 pm: Moved: Des Seconded: Tim