

Leaside Residents Association
'Virtual' Annual General Meeting
Wednesday January 27, 2021

Start time: 6:30pm

Zoom Host: John Hiddema

Chair: Brian Athey- past President LRA

Regrets: Alex Pino

Absent: Jonathan Colombo

Call to order: Brian Athey

Agenda:

1. Approval of 2019 AGM minutes
2. Financial Report
3. Membership Report
4. Election of 2021 Board members

1) Approval of November 4, 2019 AGM minutes:

Motion to approve by Geoff Kettel

Seconded by Andrea Villiers

No questions from members

Carried unanimously

2) Financial Report from LRA Treasurer Frank Schimpl

For the fiscal year October 1, 2019- September 30, 2020:

Starting balance: \$28,312.81

Revenue from all sources: \$14,416.12

Expenses: \$7,571.72

Closing balance: \$35,157.21

Motion to approve by Frank Schimpl

Seconded by Andrea Villiers

No questions from members

Carried unanimously

3) Membership Report from LRA Vice President and Membership Director Robin Rix

Membership has increased by 10% over the past year and represents a 35% increase over 2018 levels.

Almost 2,000 homeowners/residents are on the email list

Robin ended with an appeal to people attending the meeting who have not yet renewed their membership or have yet to become a member to please join/renew their membership.

4) Election of 2021 Board members:

All current LRA Board members are standing for election for the 2021 year with the exception of Lori Vaudry.

Board members standing are:

Geoff Kettel: Co-President

Carol Burtin-Fripp: Co-President

Robin Rix: Vice President

Frank Schimpl: Treasurer

Paul Green: Secretary

Agnes Vermes- Director

Andrea Villiers: Director

Doug Obright: Director

John Lea: Director

Jonathan Columbo: Director

Alex Pino: Director

Helen Koyama: Director

Motion to approve by Brian Athey

Seconded by Andrea Villiers

No questions from members

Carried unanimously

Brian added an invitation for interested members to apply to join the Board.

Motion to adjourn the AGM made by Brian Athey

Seconded by Andrea Villiers

Questions by some attendees regarding:

Whether there are any open Board positions needing to be filled? Answer- we welcome new members at all times

What skill sets are we looking for? Answer, people with special interest in traffic issues, planning and heritage issues and also with technical (I.T.) skills

How many members are renters versus homeowners? Robin replied between 2%-5% currently

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Town Hall Meeting

Start time 7:00pm

State of the Union remarks by Geoff and Carol:

Geoff: Challenges with Planning and development. The LRA supports new development but with an eye on protecting the unique character of Leaside in the face of a growing movement to intensify with high-rise and mid-rise developments in response to the Eglinton Crosstown construction.

Challenges with 'virtual' Committee of Adjustment meetings due to Covid restrictions and challenges with TLAB which leans toward a Developer friendly attitude though we have recently won some severance appeals

Carol: There are increasing Traffic & Transportation issues to contend with. Speeding drivers are ignoring signs and the Crosstown construction is diverting traffic onto the residential streets. Also large trucks and construction trucks are diverting into Leaside. The LRA submitted a traffic calming plan to the City and it has Jaye Robinson's support.

Another concern is a possible reduction in TTC bus service in Leaside once the Crosstown is functional and we are keeping a close eye on the TTC's plans especially for the 88A and 88B bus routes.

There were various questions from attendees regarding density issues with high and mid-rise developments and possible future pandemic exposures. Also regarding dangerous freight train cargos moving through Leaside. On-street parking as a snow removal hindrance (but also a traffic calming influence) and membership fees payment confirmation glitches.

Guest Speakers

Present: Rob Oliphant, MP, Jaye Robinson, Councillor Ward 15 and Rachel Chernos-Lin, TDSB Trustee.

Regrets: Kathleen Wynne, MPP.

Rob Oliphant: Spoke generally about the impact of Covid-19 on students and seniors in particular.

Jaye Robinson: Congratulated Leaside residents for a high level of engagement on various issues. She worked with the community to lower the speed limits and is also concerned about the development issues arising out of the Crosstown construction.

She is also concerned about the Developer friendly stance of LPAT and the problems with the 'virtual' Committee of Adjustment process.

Thornccliffe Park is a Covid 19 'hot-spot' due to density and high rise issues such as elevators and she asks for assistance from Leasiders to help with food donations or anything else that may be needed.

There were questions from attendees regarding traffic law enforcement, snow removal for pedestrians especially for better access into Sunnybrook Park and the aging tree canopy in Leaside with the Norway Maples nearing end of life. Also development issues with regard to aging infrastructure development issues regarding mid-rise plans along Laird and dangerous goods moving through Leaside by train.

Rachel Chernos-Lin: Advised that all Leaside schools are currently closed to classroom learning but hopefully will re-open sometime in February. All Leaside schools are over-capacity and getting worse and there are no short-term plans to alleviate this situation. At best the TDSB is 5 years away from considering Leaside issues. Yonge-Eglinton is the current TDSB priority.

Questions for Rachel included what plans are there for grade 12 graduation ceremonies this coming spring? Also whether there would be signs posted at the major high and mid-rise developments warning potential buyers of schools over capacity.

General Questions to all guest speakers:

There were enquiries about Long-Term Care overhaul plans for Ontario, snow removal issues, municipal building inspections not being done properly or on a timely basis, and the Covid 19 emergency measures causing more harm than good in some opinions and the impact on the economy and on mental health.

Brian Athey thanked the guest speakers, John Hiddema and the Board and made an additional call for membership.

Adjourned the Town Hall meeting at 8:40pm.