

**Strathcona Community Council
Executive Meeting
Queen 75
75 Queen St. N.
February 26, 2024**

Minutes

Present:

Brian Hovsepian (President and Chair), Michael-Allan Marion (Secretary), Denise Minardi (Treasurer), Barb Williams, Jason Morse, Dominic Sorbara.

Regrets:

Rosemary Baptista (Vice-President), Terry MacDougall.

Guests: Hamilton Councillor Maureen Wilson, Hamilton Police Acting Sgt. Kevin Jones.

1. Greeting and Land Acknowledgement:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and read the following land acknowledgement:

We take this time to recognize that Strathcona is situated on the traditional territory of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee. This land is shared between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinaabe nations as acknowledged in the Dish With One Spoon Wampum belt. That wampum uses the symbolism of a dish to represent the territory, and the one spoon to represent that the people are to share the resources of the land and take only what they need.

2. Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Jason M., seconded by Michael-Allan M. that the agenda of the February 26, 2024 meeting of the SCC Executive be approved.

Carried.

3. Updates from Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson:

Councillor Wilson gave updates on the following matters:

A) She delivered a report of the highlights of the city budget process just completed by City Council.

B) Splash Pad – Work can finally start this year on the new facility and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2024.

C) Mural on Victoria Park Fieldhouse – Work will be done in the summer with a mural on all sides, and repairs will be done on the inside so the building will be usable again.

D) Under-funding of City Infrastructure – She decried the city’s poor record since amalgamation, including a shortfall of funding earmarked in the 2024 budget for infrastructure-related projects.

E) Safe Streets – The construction of an active map is still ongoing. City officials will be meeting with a consultant in the next few weeks. More information will be coming and reported to the Executive when available.

F) Vacant Unit Tax – The bylaw was recently presented again and has passed this time. The tax will be implemented in 2025.

4. **Crime Manager’s Report:**

Acting Sgt. Kevin Jones presented an oral report on year-to-date crime statistics in Strathcona. He also fielded questions from Executive members about assaults and murders at or near various establishments in the neighbourhood.

5. President’s Report:

Brian H. Reported on measures the newly constituted Executive has begun since the annual general meeting in January.

He also used his report to encourage a discussion with Executive members and Councillor Wilson on the latest move by Vrancor to change radically the design of its tower near Queen and King streets by increasing the number of storeys to beyond 40, and using a ploy in the regulations to appeal directly to the Ontario Land Tribunal, to circumvent any public consultation and city council scrutiny. The councillor made clear her vehement opposition to the move.

Motion: Moved by Jason M., seconded by Barb W., that the President’s Report be approved.

Carried.

6. Treasurer’s Report:

Denise M. reported that there has been no change from the report given at the Annual General Meeting.

7. Committee Reports:

Executive members signed up to be on Standing Committees.

So far, membership is as follows:

Events – Dominic S., Michael-Allan M., Brian H., Denise M., Rosemary B.

Policy and Advocacy – Michael-Allan M., Brian H.

Communications – Barb W., Dominic S., Barb W., Jen Dawson, Jason M., Brian H.

Governance -- Dormant

8. Business:

A) New Website

Barb W. reported that the new website is up and running. The Front Page has been set up, along with the Events Page. She said submissions are requested for other pages, including Minutes. Some said they will help.

B) Head-Dundurn Houses Petition

Michael-Allan M. reported that a petition calling for action by three corporate owners associated with eight boarded-up houses on Dundurn and Head streets has gained 178 signatures. The petition, supported by a covering letter from the SCC president will be delivered to the head offices of the corporations, and a copy of all will be presented to the City of Hamilton Clerk for presentation to council for its attention.

Councillor Wilson said she will follow its progress through council.

9. Time of next Meeting: The next meeting will be on March 18, 2024 at 7 pm.

10. Adjournment:

Motion: Moved by Jason M., seconded by Barb W., that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.