

SCC Executive Meeting – Monday, Sept. 18, 2017

Location: Erskine Church, 19 Pearl st.

Minutes:

Attendance: Celeste, Dominic, Glen, Jason, Jessica, Jonathan, Ryan, Thomas.

Invited Guests: Councillor Aidan Johnson, Cindy Stranak, Sgt. Amandeep Gill, Rosemary Baptista

Regrets: Franco, Lee, Roy, Maureen Wilson (Mustard Seed).

Meeting commenced at 7:02 pm.

Additions:

- A. Thomas feels we need to approve the minutes for March, April, May, June 2017 today so that we can post on our website asap. Thomas puts through this motion, seconded by Jason. All agree, except Ryan who abstained since he only was able to attend one of the meetings due to his work schedule. So motion carried and approved.
- B. Item #3 on agenda (The Mustard seed) is cancelled since Maureen Wilson did not attend.
- C. Ryan comments re minutes approval: “you have two weeks after minutes have been emailed (or shared with) to the SCC executive council to recommend an amendment. Otherwise they are automatically approved”. Ryan adds this will have to be added to the SCC constitution. Ryan presents this motion, and seconded by Thomas. All present are in favour. So motion carried.

Agenda items:

- 1. Discussed item #6 on the agenda, Police Info Night. Thomas states he will chair the committee to organize this community info event, since he has been robbed several times this year and feels the hood’ needs to take action. He feels it will be a night for our neighbours to speak out re crimes and ask why happening? What can we do? Etc.

Sgt Gill arrives at 7:19 pm. There has been a recent wave of crime in Strathcona and some of which is not getting reported to the police. Jonathan proposes a few dates to Sgt. Gill for the event. Sgt. Gill says Tuesday to Thursday is best for her. Thomas states he will set a date after Thanks Giving weekend. All present feel this event is a good idea. **ACTION:** Thomas to liaise with Sgt. Gill and Cnlr. Aidan re a date, and let the SCC executive know once a date decided.

2. Sgt Gill presents Strathcona crime stats (item 2 on agenda): Commercial robberies in July there were 0 robberies, and 1 attempt. In August there were 0 commercial robberies. There were 7 Residential robberies (3 by family members, 1 by unlocked window, 3 unlocked doors), and 2 males were arrested. July/August saw 0 reports of graffiti. Stolen autos only 1 in two months. Theft from autos there were 3, via unlocked windows and doors. Sgt. Gill reminds us that this is only what has been reported to the police, there may be more crimes committed but they are not reported unfortunately.

Celeste asks if the police/City are still doing the “neighbourhood watch” program. Sgt. Gill states no. They are using the “auxiliary officers”. These officers are volunteers who go out into the community and assist the public with crime prevention and other strategies. Sgt. Gill also notes the police run a program called the “safeguard program”, where the police and or auxiliary officers will come out and audit your home. And they also come around to neighbourhoods and check cars for unlocked doors or opened windows, in which case they leave a note in your car.

Jonathan asks if there has been any theft in the alleyway behind Zion church lately? Sgt. Gill says none reported. Sgt. Gill states our hood’ is “lower than other hoods’ in the city”.

Thomas comments re the “police info night”, we will get questions from the public for Sgt. Gill ahead of time. Sgt. Gill will go up first in terms of speakers. Hopefully the event will be in the middle of October, perhaps week of Oct. 16th.

Councillor Aidan arrives with Cindy Stranak (approx. 7:30 pm), they just came from the Ainslie Wood neighbourhood AGM. Thomas notes his bike was stolen and he heard that there are homeless people living at the base of the Tom st. Park (near Jones st.), in the woods near a trail. Thomas went there and discovered many items such as bikes, lawnmowers, etc., but did not find his own bike. Cnlr. Aidan comments that he knows of this situation, and feels this is a serious problem. Do we get them out of there? Maybe better to leave them alone because it will make matters worse if we do. It is complicated.

Rosemary Baptista arrives (approx. 7:33 pm). Cindy states she will put the topic of reporting crimes to the police on Cnlr. Aidan’s Ward 1 email blast, and on his website. Thomas leaves the meeting (approx. 7:46 pm). Rosemary asks re situation with an 84 year old man practising Tai Chi at Victoria Park with a (fake) sword. She says someone called the police on this man and he was quickly surrounded by many officers. Rosemary felt it was not right. Sgt. Gill says this would have been a “weapons call” and is taken very seriously in a public place such as a park where there are children nearby. The police will respond quickly, just in case. And if a call involves something that is “in progress” like a robbery for example, the police respond right away. The police are just doing their job to protect society. If the man was in privacy of his home, then he can do what he likes. Sgt. Gill states that if you are in the privacy of your home it may have been ok, but in a public place such as a park it is not. Sgt. Gill exits meeting (approx. 7:53 pm).

3. Cnlr. Aidan presents his Ward 1 update (item 1 on the agenda). LRT is on track. City council voted in the summer 2017 to have the HSR to run (operate and maintain) the LRT in Hamilton. However, only Councillors Aidan and Robert Pasuta voted "No" to this. Cnlr. Aidan feels this will delay the LRT project and with the 2018 provincial election fast approaching, a new government (perhaps PC) may decide to cancel the project. So the City and HSR are currently in negotiations with Metrolinx to come to a new agreement or contract. One problem is the HSR union workers earn far more than the Metrolinx workers. The City is working on the corner of King and Dundurn re the LRT stop, so hopefully this will create some much needed pedestrian-friendly "traffic-calming" at this dangerous intersection. Cnlr. Aidan receives lots of complaints re this intersection (as did the former Cnlr. McHattie). Cnlr. Aidan successfully passed a motion to have Indigenous art at all the major LRT stops. King st. was once a native Indian trail back before the settlers came, and hence the route or street was maintained and used thereafter and obviously to this day.

Cindy states the new playground structure for Victoria Park is on order from Germany. Actual delivery is expected to take another 8 weeks. However, the City needs to wait for the archeology investigation to be completed. The investigation and the installation is weather dependant. The Parks dept. is hoping to have it all completed before winter, but with so many variables, the latest they expect the structure to be installed is by spring 2018.

Jonathan asks re the King/Dundurn intersection, on the Fortinos property it would be nice to beautify their corner somewhat (South west corner)? It is very "tired looking" and has one walkway in centre. Cnlr. Aidan states the City has "zero control" over the Loblaws/Fortinos property. They can basically do what they want and do not need a permit.

Rosemary comments on the very serious gas leak that occurred this past July 2017, at a residential building near the corner of King and Strathcona. A Greek resident of the Greek apartment on Head st. reported the leak to Rosemary at approx. 7 am in the morning and, according to the repair workers who were on site, saved the entire neighbourhood from a massive explosion and disaster. Rosemary asks if Cnlr. Aidan can attend the ceremony on Sun, Sept. 24th to thank this lady for her heroic efforts, but unfortunately Aidan cannot attend due to previously booked commitments. Cnlr. Aidan will provide a thank you letter though. Rosemary to liaise on this.

Aidan and Cindy leave meeting at approx. 8:05 pm.

4. Discussed item 5 on agenda, Screen on the Green. Celeste states we have \$997.65 in the bank. Our costs were: Fortinos \$42.06, Costco \$124.59, Fortinos (ice) \$8.97, so total of \$175.62. Our sales revenue was \$199.80. So we gained \$24.18, despite the bad rainy weather and poor turnout.

Ryan states that people in the hood' commented to him that they were surprised that someone at hotdog stand was saying the hotdogs were "free". So this is confusing. Technically this is not true because we should be asking for a donation at all times. Celeste says that the donation box was put at that station on the table. Rosemary acknowledges that she was telling people that the hot dog

was free, and she apologizes. Also, Ryan feels the prices are too low, we need to charge more, there was too much of a line up at the concessions stand table. So perhaps we need to simplify our pricing and definitely increase prices.

Ryan also created a list of things we need to buy for our future Movie nite (for ex. screen, barbecue, projector, etc.). The group feels this is a great starting point and we should try to raise more funds to begin buying some of the items. Jonathan states that when we are trying to raise funds via donations, we need to state a clear objective or purpose. For example, “we are raising money to buy a barbecue or a movie screen”. Dominic agrees that is a very good approach and idea. Jonathan puts forth a motion to create a committee and convene to a future date, say Jan./Feb. 2018, to go over all these ideas, and discuss further how we can proceed and improve. Jessica seconds the motion. And all present were in favour, so motion passes.

Ryan comments that some neighbours asked re changing the date to say August (only 1 week earlier), or to late June ? Jessica states she may be able to get us some used equipment through her husband’s work (for ex. a projector). Ryan also says that we forgot to put the picture of the movie on the flyer, as we did last year. Jason states that we did not know for sure the movie to be picked yet. Dominic adds he was worried re copyright problems even with putting a picture of the movie.

5. Regarding item 3 on the agenda, Dominic comments that Maureen (Mustard Seed) wants to connect with the SCC to be able to get involved more with Strathcona and to plan an autumn event. Rosemary states that in Toronto they do a very good Halloween festival in a neighbourhood she knows. Jessica states that since she lives near the Mustard Seed and shops there, she will try to connect with Maureen and relay info back to SCC. Jessica also states that it has been two years now since Strathcona residents started the “pumpkin walk”. Dominic feels it would be nice to do a “Halloween party” for the kids. Jessica feels it is too busy in October, and Ryan agrees.
6. Re our upcoming annual AGM (item 4 on the agenda), Thursday, November 23rd seems to be a date that all present agree upon. This was suggested by Jonathan. Jason states this is his birthday. Dominic states usually hold at Erskine. Jessica states if this is a problem then we go to Nov. 16th, and if still no good then we do Nov. 22nd. All present agree. Celeste asks if she can submit her receipts for the baking she does. She has done baking the past few years, but never has asked to be reimbursed. Everyone present agrees ok. **ACTION:** Dominic to approach Tim Hortons Dundurn for a small cambro of coffee, JC. Patissier for pastries and or coffee, and to advise Cnlr. Aidan and Sgt. Gill re date. Ryan suggests going to the “Hearty Hooligan” on Main st. Jessica says she will ask Maureen from Mustard Seed re a donation (perhaps coffee, tea).

Jonathan states we need a couple topics/organizations to present at the AGM re the hood’. One topic will a major focus and the second would be allotted a smaller amount of time. For example, the potential elementary school closures. Jonathan asks Glen to get a contact at the School Board to come and speak. Ryan states we could just get the Trustee. Ryan also says it is too soon re the

closure decision anyway. Ryan suggests Todd White could come and speak (current Board chair). Another SCC member suggests having SOBI/Environment Hamilton present. Dominic adds that Hamilton Health Sciences could do a presentation on their future development plans for Hamilton and area (ie. new hospitals to be built).

7. The topic of creating a volunteer group to help clean litter at Victoria Park, and keep the park clean (item 7 on agenda). Rosemary suggests using "Volunteer Hamilton" and Westdale High School students who need volunteer hours for their credits. Dominic asks group present if anyone wants to join this potential new group? Dominic states John Terpstra's (local Strathcona resident) email and that he is willing to join the new committee. Dominic comments that there was a dedicated Victoria Park summer student who was cleaning the grounds daily, but now this position is done for the year. The City only comes once every seven days to cut grass and they do some minor cleaning once on site. Jason comments that he has emailed the City in the past re garbage: no recycling bins, need a dog poop station for bags, need get enclosed units or bins, with lids. And he also asked the City re litter pickup but they told him no dedicated workers for this.

Ryan presents a motion that Dominic is to email a letter to Cnlr. Aidan, on behalf of the SCC and Strathcona, asking for improved garbage bins with proper lids, and recycling bins, throughout Victoria Park. Jessica seconds this motion, and everyone present approves as well. So motion successfully passes.

8. Dominic quickly mentions that the Texas Style BBQ fundraiser is on Wed, Sept. 20th, hosted by the Hamilton Christian Fellowship church on Strathcona and Tom st. If anyone can help volunteer it is appreciated, and or help offer donations. Dominic and Rosemary will be volunteering. Celeste comments why they are not doing a fundraiser for something here in Canada? Dominic states this is a very good point and that many residents have said this too.
9. The proposed development on George st. and Pearl st. Dominic and Jessica are not happy with this. It will be a six storey, 45 unit building and the current 100 year plus home on the property (formerly a chiropractor office) and the trees will be removed.
10. Dominic asks re the plaque to be presented to the Greek resident this coming Sunday, Sept. 24th, re the gas leak discovery she made, can the SCC pay for the cost (approx. \$60 plus tax)? Currently Rosemary Baptista is paying for this. Both Ryan and Jessica feel this is not a good idea, because it may set a precedent for future requests for money. The group agrees. **ACTION:** Dominic to ask Cnlr. Aidan to pay through City funds.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:22 pm.