



The Strathcona Community Council
Hamilton, ON
strathconacommunitycouncil@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/strathconacommunitycouncil
<http://strathconacommunity.org/>
www.twitter.com/hamiltonscc

SCC Annual General Meeting: Monday, November 25, 2019
Location: Erskine Presbyterian Church

Attendees:

52 in attendance. Please see separate attendance list

Meeting co-chaired by Jessica Aird and Jason Morse

Call to order: 7:06 PM

Welcome and introductions by Jessica Aird

Change to agenda: treasurer's report delayed as treasurer is running late.

- Thanks to:
 - Councillor Maureen Wilson's office
 - Tim Hortons Dundurn
 - Fortinos Dundurn
 - Stonewalls
 - HARRRP
 - Hamilton Christian Fellowship Church
 - SCC Executive
 - Erskine Presbyterian Church
- Review of year's activities:
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Team up to Clean up
 - Screen on the Green
 - Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with all the events.

Jessica encourages attendees to volunteer in the executive and for upcoming events.

Minutes Review

SCC Secretary Thomas Bernacki reviews previous year's minutes.

Chair Jessica Aird calls for motion to accept minutes.

Motion: Michael-Allan Marion

Second: Jason Morse

Vote: Unanimous in favour

Financial Review

Treasurer Chris White reviews financial statement:

Starting balance \$1366.28

Ending balance: \$1357.39

Net loss of \$8.86 over the year

Your Neighbourhood Association: serving the residents of Strathcona

Thanks for donations of web site hosting from anonymous donor and for hot dogs from owners of "Victoria's" restaurant soon to be opening in former Rolly Rockets location.
Donations to Erskine for allowing SCC the use of space and thanks to caretaker for being available.

Expense paid to City for Screen on the Green.

Call for questions.

Question: Is the building in the park part of the expense?

Answer from Treasurer: no, SCC pays only for the area of the Park we are in.

No further questions.

Chair calls for motion to accept the financial report.

Motion: Terry MacDougall

Second: Jessica Aird

Vote: Unanimous in favour

Elections of Executive members

Co-chair Jason Morse explains the responsibilities of Executive members: Monthly meetings are held at Erskine, thanks again for allowing us use of the space; arranging events, interacting with neighbours, foster communication and engagement with issues in the neighbourhood; events with guest speakers, etc.

In respect of guest speakers, reminds attendees of the guest tonight speaking about the Social Navigator program. On February 24, 2019 there will be another talk from Rob Mastroianni about housing, and the various aspects of the steps from homelessness into housing and the various agencies and issues around that.

Call to membership for those who wish to run for executive positions.

Jessica Aird stands for position of President.

Introduces herself.

No others stand for election to position of President.

Vote: Unanimous in favour

Jason Morse stands for position of Vice President.

Vote: Unanimous in favour

Thomas Bernacki is stepping down from the position of Secretary. He explains the responsibilities of the position. At a minimum they are recording and distributing minutes and agendas for executive meetings. It has also included updating the website, arranging meeting venues and guests, and maintaining the Facebook page. But this role could also be in the hands of a media coordinator position, which could be someone else.

Michael-Allan Marion stands for election as Secretary.

No others stand.

Vote: Unanimous in favour

Chris White stands for position of Treasurer.
No others stand.

Vote: Unanimous in favour

Jason Morse calls for members to stand for election as Members at Large to Executive.

Terry MacDougall
Dominic Sorbara
Chris Penner
Rachael Shay
Franco Corti
Chris Corsini
Glen Soldaat
Sandra Newell

Members at Large are elected unanimously.

This wraps up the business for the AGM.

Motion: Thomas Bernacki moves to adjourn

Second: Chris White

Vote: Unanimous in favour

AGM portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

BREAK

General interest portion of the meeting resumes at 7:50 PM.

Jessica Aird asks that questions be left until the end of the evening so that all guests can keep to the allotted schedule.

Councillor Maureen Wilson

Councillor Wilson says she is happy to take questions, will leave timing to the discretion of the chair.

She will focus on Strathcona issues in her prepared comments.

- Vrancor development at King and Queen
 - Conditional site plan conditions have been met. Final approval received on October 4.
 - Communicated with SCC executive regarding next steps. Meeting coming in January. In discussions are official plan amendment to get increased height.
 - Destruction of sidewalks along Market Street due to dump trucks. Councillor has communicated with Vrancor. They will build asphalt sidewalks temporarily, and then permanently fix them with concrete at the conclusion of construction.
 - Trucks have been using the side streets and this is not permitted. They cannot be using Ray Street. They have been instructed to use King and Queen to access the site.

- Development at 196 George St., at Pearl. Stacked townhouses are planned. The applicant is revising the proposal in response to staff concerns arising from community feedback. No public meeting is proposed at this time.
- Meetings were held in respect of the York Boulevard cycling changes. Design is in the final stages, tendering soon. Councillor believes that the meetings resulted in positive improvements to the originally proposed designs. Improvements include:
 - Pedestrian crossing being added at Strathcona has had its alignment changed. Now it will terminate at the entrance to Dundurn Park.
 - Pearl Street will have a pedestrian crossing. This will better support the “Bike Street” (greenway) which is planned for the length of Pearl St., to HAAA, and to Kent.
 - They are moving the bus stop back to Pearl St.
 - The presentations from the meetings are at the Councillor’s website: <https://www.maureenwilson.ca/>
- Speed cushions are being installed on Inchbry and Oxford.
- “Bike Streets” are being planned for:
 - Woodbine/Breadalbane
 - Pearl/Magill/Kent
 - Napier/Lamoreaux (and possibly Sunset, but not sure yet)
 - These are pedestrian/cycling priority streets. Cars are permitted, but the focus is on facilitating safe cycling and pedestrian travel as priority.
- Lighting being added to Victoria Park around south end.
- New Victoria Park pool is coming in the future. It is in the 10 year capital budget. Consultation will be held next year.
- Splash pad has had difficulties lately. Councillor’s plan is to address splash pad and pool together – this will achieve cost savings and get better improvements to both. Relocate the splash pad as it has problematic interactions with cyclist passing through park. This will be better in the long term. Plan is to do the required (but expensive) archaeological work for both the splash pad and pool at the same time for both projects and save considerable money.

Councillor Wilson concludes her comments at 8:00 PM.

Sandra Kurdziel – Social Navigator Program Coordinator

- Ms. Kurdziel explains the origins of the Social Navigator program:
 - Arose from Hamilton Police Services ACTION program. They were interacting with the same people every day, and recognized that different interventions were required. In July 2011 the program was implemented.
 - Officer (out of uniform) was couples with Mental Health worker for additional support.
 - Eventually grew to the following team:
 - Paramedic (for addressing health issues)
 - SNP Officer (for assisting with justice system issues)
 - Program Coordinator (for assistance with community and social services)
- Operate Monday to Friday, 8 to 4.
- Referrals occur when there are repeat police interactions, with the purpose of identifying and addressing the underlying cause (addiction, etc.)
- Focus on more than mental health. Even if the client refuses there may be involvement. Focus is case management rather than crisis intervention.

- Presented table of statistics, including roughly 1 new client/week, approximately 31 clients per week served on average.
- Many challenges for clients:
 - Can't make appointments
 - Trouble travelling
 - Hard to reach
- Eventually the program aims to have clients not rely on Social Navigator Program anymore.
- Overall seeing a 54% reduction in all calls – the program is working.
- Conclusion:
 - Holistic approach to social response
 - Successful – it is having a positive impact.

Q&A:

Q: How can the community help you?

A: Letters to council, mayor, Chief of Police, Police Boards, could let them know that the service is appreciated and additional resources could be provided.

Q: Where did the program start?

A: May 2010. Hamilton Police were finding that behaviours weren't changing after many police interactions. One officer had the idea, did lead work, then the program evolved. Police got grants to establish the program, then found positive outcomes were there and got more lasting support from the City.

Sgt. Murphy added: Came out of ACTION unit – they were seeing the same people, and police were finding that they couldn't do it themselves. Eventually the program was created and was able to access permanent funding.

Q: Under what circumstances would the program get involved without the individual's consent?

A: Some individuals have engaged in criminal activity. Courts may support the program's involvement. If there is no criminality then the program will not be forced.

Q: Question of a personal nature, details omitted.

A: Sgt. Murphy will discuss the matter offline.

Q: Can we call anyone other than police when we see a person who we think might need help?

A: If there is a conflict, then Police should be called. If not – "Street Outreach" is a good contact. For example, if there is no emergency, no crisis.

Sgt. Murphy adds: sometimes Police can make the necessary connections however. They may know the individual for instance, or may have heard that someone is looking for them, having heard over the radio. Police are always in touch with each other and the network can be important in helping.

Ms. Kurdziel concludes her comments at 8:30 PM

Sgt. Murphy – Hamilton Police Services

- Been with HPS for 23 years. Before that worked at Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, CMHA.
- In constant contact with Councillor Wilson's office.

- Kim Harvey is the new crime manager who will be replacing him in the new year.
- Communication is the focus in his involvement with the Councillor's office. He can either get directly involved or find resources as needed to address issues.
- Overall message to community: "You live in a good place!"
- Have had an increase in some issues. HPS sees them in their statistical analysis.
- There is no police magic wand.
- Re: ongoing investigation with shooting at pool hall. There is no risk to the public, event was targeted. Location is being monitored by the Vice and Drug Unit.
- Question always being asked about increased numbers is: is it better reporting or more crime? In any case gathered data is analyzed and allows them to see patterns and respond accordingly. Keep sending reports in.
- Recent increasing problem areas to report:
 - B&E: sheds, garages and houses. Most common B&E's are bicycles – they are easy to transport and therefore a common target.
 - Theft from auto is a City-wide problem. Lock vehicles, and do not leave anything visible.
 - Bicycles: 2 warrants led to recovery of 27 high-end bicycles. Not one single owner was identified, as no serial numbers had been recorded by owners.
 - There is an online form allowing you to register your bike with Police, so that if it is recovered they can positively identify. Many bike shops keep serial number records, but not all.
 - Recent arrests in Victoria Park – Nuisance and theft. They were arrested and now are on Police radar.
 - Traffic issues – Police are sent to watch trouble spots.

Q&A:

Q: Rules about appropriate use of security cameras

A: Shouldn't face street, although no one will enforce this. Privacy is the primary reason behind the bylaws – for instance don't point into a backyard at someone's hot tub. Doorbell cameras or cameras pointed at your driveway will obviously capture part of the street. Not an issue. Sgt. Murphy adds that you should remember about changing default router passwords – thieves can disable your whole security system if they get access to your router. Default passwords are common.

Q: What about package thieves?

A: A few reports have been received. Trouble is if a package goes missing it may be perceived as having been not delivered and Amazon just sends another. It may go unreported.

Q: Some cyclists obey laws, many don't. It seems that Hamilton Police aren't charging cyclists – is that true? What would constitute a charge for a cyclist?

A: Cyclists are bound by the Highway Traffic Act. Charge – predicated on risk. Officers aren't avoiding charging cyclists, but there is higher risk when cars disobey laws, so that is obviously a priority. Certain areas are a focus in respect of cyclists, for example along Sterling. But officers may do education only. Officers have discretion. This is true for cars and cyclists. If an officer stops anyone they must stop – cars or cyclists. Have to identify themselves. It may be a warning, or it may be a ticket, at officer's discretion. May depend on whether they perceive that the message will be received.

Number of warnings (versus tickets) are not tracked.

All tickets have a paper trail, but to extract the number of cyclist tickets versus car tickets would require someone to sift through every record and identify in the details who the subject was – not just something they can just quickly pull up from a computer.

Q: Given City revenue issues, is increased enforcement to collect revenue an option?

A: Sgt. Murphy: Parking enforcement is a City issue.

Councillor Wilson: everything is on the table for revenue.

Q: Complaint re: cyclist on sidewalk.

A: Cycling on the sidewalk is not permitted in Hamilton.

Q: Parking is problematic around the Korean Church on Sundays. You are telling us to call authorities. But bylaw doesn't work on Sundays.

A: Councillor Wilson: There is a historical context for no enforcement on Sunday. Report is in progress now looking for justification for adding enforcement on Sundays. Establishing a relationship is important and could work to address the problem.

Q: what about painted lines to ensure they park in the right places, like not on corners?

A: Councillor Wilson: Line may not be a deterrent. Councillor Wilson provides example: On one street near McMaster Hospital there were >900 tickets in 10 months. The cost of the ticket is not a deterrent.

Q: could I take a picture and send it to someone?

A: Councillor Wilson: Would be a question about whether that's admissible as evidence to produce a ticket.

Q: (following up on earlier cyclist question): what if cyclist doesn't have ID?

A: Sgt. Murphy: they don't need ID, just need to state their name.

Q: Garbage truck knocker over stop sign. Submitted, photo taken, written statement, etc. Nothing came of it.

A: Councillor Wilson: call me.

Q: What is happening in response to sewage spill, in terms of remediation?

A: The response is being deliberated now, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment. There are risks associated with interventions too. There is a motion from Councillors Wilson & Nann regarding changes to governance, sampling, delineating the roles of the City, Bay Area Restoration Council, the RBG, and other municipalities.

There is another motion in respect of hiring four on-the-ground operators to check CSO (combined sewage overflow) gates. Technology currently monitors the gates, but technology is not enough. Have to have a relationship with the water and see it. Boots on the ground matters. She states that the only currency politicians have is public trust.

She does not know what the remediation will be – still under study and deliberation.

A: Jessica Aird explains that her background is in environmental engineering and can speak to individual after the meeting.

Q: Northshore, branch of Antifa, publishing names on nomination forms for Paul Fromm – this has led to harassment.

A: Councillor Wilson: Forms are in public record. If you signed the forms for a white supremacist, that is now public information.

Q: He presented himself as opposing LRT, I supported him for that. I have been threatened.

A: Councillor Wilson and Sgt. Murphy: you should not be threatened, that is not acceptable.

Q: I have been asked by neighbours, what are limits in defending my private property?

A: Sgt. Murphy: only what's reasonable. Courts would ask what is "reasonable and necessary" to prevent it. But the issue is not black and white. For instance, you are allowed to have a dog for protection, but you can't sic your dog on someone, that's unreasonable. In your front yard, you would be expected to keep your dog under control.

Q: Neighbours are talking about resorting to vigilantism.

A: Sgt. Murphy: disagrees with anyone resorting to vigilantism. Police should be involved.

Chair Jason Morse addresses the time. Have run out of the allotted time.

Motion to adjourn: Thomas Bernacki

Seconded: Chris White

Vote: Unanimous

Final remarks from Jason Morse: thanks to all participants and attendees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.