

Wolesley Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Monday, August, 18th, 2020 7pm

Vimy Ridge Park

In Attendance: Marianne Cerilli, Melissa Bowman Wilson, Bert Siemens, Ray Hignell, Erna Buffie, Ken McKinnon, Alexandra Osopova, Larissa Skakum Boning, Peter Kelsey, Erin Keating, John Anderson, Micheal Bennett, Jim Palmquist, Natalie Smith, Jade Raisenue, Sonia Rochon, Denis Rochon, Carlos Sosa, Cindy Gilroy, Ingrid Bolbecher, Lisa Naylor, Scott Elenberger, Alexandre Brassard, Loya Osipova, Cynthia Neudoerhoffer, Barb Heliger, Ian Findlater, Chris Green, Harold Wilson

Call to Order 7:08 PM

Erna Buffie welcomes the panel and the community to the meeting asks for a motion to approve agenda.

Melissa Bowman Wilson moves approval seconded by Ian Findlater passed

Chair's Report:

Marianne Cerilli talks a bit about the history and the 40th Anniversary. Discusses the updating of the website, enewsletter, facebook, and registering the organization as a non-profit. There are several committees as part of the organization, Transportation, Housing, Safety and Green space. These committees meet separately and report back to the WRA board. There are 4-6 open meetings a year and Wolesley Residents are encouraged to come and share their concerns and questions. Some of the projects the WRA have been working on are advocacy for increasing urban forestry renewal in the area and the city of Winnipeg in general, also advocated for the Wolesley to Downtown Bike Corridor, did a cruise night study and advocated for further consultation regarding the planned elimination of the #10 bus route. Also looking into neighbourhood Safety grants. Have several Open forum meetings planned for this fall, including Home energy efficiency and a talk about plastics as examples.

Marianne Cerilli moves that the Chair's Report is accepted. Seconded by Erna Buffie passed

Treasurer's Report:

Bert Siemens reports the bank balance as of May 2019 \$362.00

Revenue:

\$1000.00 Grant from the City of Winnipeg

\$905.00 Green Space Concert

\$393.00 sold tshirts

\$2,298.00

Total Revenue: \$2,680.85

Expenses:

\$100.80 WRA Backdrop

\$165.00 Non-Profit Applications

\$66.07 Tshirt Material

\$108.64 Panemic Posters

\$588.50 Insurance

Total expenses: \$1,064.01

Account August 16, 2020: \$1616.84

WRA General Account: \$711.84

Greenspace sub account: \$905.00

Bert Siemens moves finances be accepted, Melissa Bowman Wilson seconds passed

Green Space Report:

Erna Buffie reports that the community Garden work is ongoing there was a door to door survey of almost 300 people responded with 93% support the effort. They have been working as a committee to secure funding. They have written several grant applications. Cindy Gilroy announces that the City will cover the cost of whatever the committee doesn't raise in order to proceed with Phase one of the plan. Phase one consists of 20 allotment style gardens (with a lottery to determine who gets plots) and 2 community beds. Phase two would likely be a selection of fruit bearing trees around the park. Other greenspace concerns are park safety especially when it comes to needles and vandalism. In the longterm the committee is hoping for some Green Team students to help maintain the greenspaces in Wolesley. The Community Garden will be built with volunteer labour.

Marianne Cerilli introduces Guest Speaker Dave Domke manager of Parks and Open Spaces with the City. Also asks that he address how community input is sought when it comes to situations like the Westminster tot lot update or the future Aubrey park plans.

Dave discusses several aspects of his job with 1000 parks within the City of Winnipeg to maintain. With respect to the community input question he says it depends on how things fit into the plan and budget for that year with all the parks and infrastructure within them that needs updating. With 15 different wards it varies but it usually works out to about \$200,000.00 per ward to work with. They identify needs in each ward as phase 1 and in phase 2 there is ideally an online survey and discussion with stakeholders and parks and rec plans together with them.

Shawna P. from the planning department spoke to the issue of the net climbing structure at Vimy ridge. It has become unsafe and is slated to be replaced in the fall. A number of people (most) were surprised by this. Shawna relays the information that we have to go on to the website (www.winnipeg.ca/newparks) to see what existing assets are set to be replaced. It is not unless there is a significant change that the community is further engaged in the decision making processes. All projects are submitted by budget and highest play value wins. Community has asked to be consulted from now on as both the tot lot and net climber were upgraded without consultation as to what the neighbourhood would like to see.

Natalie Geddes from the public engagement office talked to the WRA about their mandate. They wish to recognize diverse perspectives to reach better decision making. The plan is inform, consult and then plan. (www.winnipeg.ca/publicengagement) or www.engagewinnipeg.ca

We then heard from Ron Mazur of Ours Winnipeg a group who are working on advocating for a Greenspace master plan for Winnipeg. www.ours-winnipeg.com Discussed how trees and natural space need to be part of a livable city and how all the city owned golf courses can not be turned in multilevel housing or the like without having a masterplan. They advocate for keeping land in city possession and not selling to developers and planting and planning our urban forest to help make us more resilient. Trees are important in our fight against climate change and as we face more unpredictable weather they can help keep us cool and mitigate floods. Advocating for complete communities not just roads and sewers but urban forest planning and ecologically significant land strategies.

Some questions were discussed about how to set aside and buy property for Greenspace projects in Wolesley. Questions also about the availability of grants for this purpose. Greenspace is a priority for residents but not always so for those building new or infill housing in the area.

There was a spirited discussion about the former Dominion Green and how the community can navigate similar confusion in the future.

Marianne Cerilli Proposes Constitutional Amendment:

13.1 The executives offices shall be elected to a two year term.

13.2 Officers shall be limited to a maximum of three two year terms

Melissa Bowman Wilson seconds

Ray Hignell speaks against and is given the floor.

Ray reports that in the past there has been trouble finding 8 people to stay committed to the board and the operations of the Wolesley Residents Association. He is opposed to two year terms.

Ammendments are passed

Cynthia Neudoerhoffer runs the election

Marianne Cerilli leaves her name to stand for chair seconded Melissa Bowman Wilson.

Ray Hignell nominates himself seconded Harold Wilson

Both candidates are given a few minutes to speak to their nomination.

Vote for Chair is taken

Marianne Cerilli: 8 votes

Ray Hignell: 4 votes

one abstention (Alexandra Osipova)

Ray Hignell Nominates himself for co chair

Carol seconds

Melissa Bowman Wilson Nominates herself for co chair

Jim Palmquist seconds

Both candidates speak briefly.

Vote for co chair is taken:

Melissa Bowman Wilson: 6 votes

Ray Hignell: 4 votes

Bert Siemens stands for Treasurer and seeing no nominations from the floor is acclaimed.

Larissa Skakum Boning stands for Secretary and seeing no nominations from the floor is acclaimed.

Ian Findlater nominates Ray Hignell for Member at Large

Ray accepts and is acclaimed.

Jim Palquist moves meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Marianne Cerilli seconds

all in favour