

YORK MILLS GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes

On May 15, 2006, 7:30 p.m., at Harrison Public School, a public meeting was held to reactivate the York Mills Gardens Community Association (YMGCA). Diane Betts, an independent official and former President of the neighbouring St. Andrews Ratepayers' Association, called the meeting to order. The purpose was to reconstitute the residents' association which used to be headed by Irene Hart, now deceased.

Financial Report

Alice Nicholls, the Treasurer on the old Executive, gave a financial report, the first since the last meeting on November 7, 1995. To summarize, in 1995 there was \$9183.50 in the bank account and as at May 15, 2006 YMGCA has \$11,024.37.

Constitution

John Nicholls spoke and said a constitution was needed for YMGCA. He and a reorganizing group of individuals from across this area looked at other constitutions of neighbouring organizations in order to draft a constitution for YMGCA. The boundaries of York Mills Gardens were set by the former City of North York and the area now has a population of approximately 2500 people in 1200 households. A proposed constitution was provided to all in attendance to read and improve upon if necessary. A few questions arose, one being if a tenant and an owner of a residential property could both join the Association, to which the answer was Yes.

Diane Betts asked for a vote to accept this constitution in order to re-start YMGCA, and unanimous approval was received.

Election of Executive Committee

Rick Comisarow moved a motion to nominate a slate of officers for the 2006-7 year's Executive, and Alice Nicholls seconded. These were elected by unanimous consent :

President	John Nicholls
Vice President	Albert Saati
Treasurer	Ron Morgenthal
Membership Director	Steve Horvath
Director, Area & Issues	Sandra Comisarow
Director, Area & Issues	Duncan Finlayson
Director, Area & Issues	David Fleming
Director, Area & Issues	Andrew Lomaga
Director, Area & Issues	John Meggeson
Director, Area & Issues	Joe Reis

Note : There were no nominees for three positions. Subsequently, the Executive asked Marci Newton to be Secretary and Donna Buss to be a Director, Areas & Issues. This leaves one Director position vacant which the Executive Committee can appoint, or not.

City Council

John Nicholls introduced Cliff Jenkins, our City Councillor for Ward 25 and also an acquaintance for many years, describing him as a President for 12 years of the nearby York Mills Ratepayers' Association, our City Councillor who is careful with finances and looking after our interests in Ward 25. Cliff thanked Alice for keeping the money and the Executive for starting up again. He is delighted to work with ratepayers' associations to bring up and hopefully resolve issues. He stated that the keys to success are: #1- communication (newsletters with issues, feedback, etc.) and #2- watch your money. He then answered questions and reported on local municipal concerns :

Happenings- Truman and Northdale Roads are to be resurfaced, with sidewalks. There will be an open house June 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Harrison Public School, to check out design plans. Old Colony Road doesn't want a sidewalk, therefore no resurfacing there.

Crime- 33 Division of the Toronto Police provides information and needs a regular liaison with community associations. Break-ins are happening in clusters.

Development- A developer on the east side of Bayview north of Post Road wants 20 large townhomes on 2 lots, about 1 1/3 acres, 50,000 square feet : problematic for traffic onto Bayview Ave., loss of privacy and blocking views for present homeowners nearby, and also may set a precedent for further developments in our area. A private junior school wants to use a property on the west side of Bayview near Bayview Ridge for a school of about 200 students and teachers : problems would arise with traffic congestion for drop-off and pick-up times at the 100 x 200' lot, but a school is permitted in the bylaws at present. Cliff said the amalgamated City wants to make zoning bylaws from the former municipalities uniform across all wards. Vigilance is needed. He also recommends that we support FONTRA (the Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations) in seeking Ontario Municipal Board reform, and lobby our local MPP Kathleen Wynne about this.

Finance- The City of Toronto is broke according to Cliff. The last budget was bad for the City. Our tax increase will average 3.4% on single family homes. One solution discussed was increasing the development charges for new construction. Cliff stated that \$20,000 per individual unit is the average expense to the City of Toronto for infrastructure costs and only \$4000 is actually charged by the City, resulting in a shortfall of more than \$200 million annually.

Adjournment

John Nicholls thanked everyone for coming. Approximately 67 people attended or showed interest. John said he would keep us informed and up-to-date and asked everyone to join the Association and mailing list. Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.