

# YORK MILLS GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Minutes

On May 25, 2015, at 7:30 pm in the North Hall of Trinity Presbyterian Church, the York Mills Gardens Community Association (YMGCA) **Annual General Meeting** was called to order.

### **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved, as moved by Rick Comisarow and seconded by Albert Saati..

### **Report from the President**

John Nicholls referred to the Association Constitution's objectives to promote, advance and protect the interests of residents in our neighbourhood, to gather information concerning development proposals and zoning by-laws in our area, to research and review problems, and to take necessary actions by the Association. However, we also want to be more active promoting a sense of community for residents and to encourage beautification, appropriate maintenance and tidy appearance of the neighbourhood.

We advise residents on matters involving City services and responsibilities, and monitor the City's Committee of Adjustment agendas for proposed by-law variances that may be inappropriate so we can consult and assist neighbours. In 2014, we twice appeared with residents successfully at Committee of Adjustment, and went to Ontario Municipal Board twice - once unsuccessfully and once successfully.

We are very concerned about the growing trend to intensified residential developments along Bayview Avenue which we discuss with our City Councillor as well as Planning Department staff, and have participated in the City's Bayview Townhouse Design Guidelines Working Group along with other community representatives. On July 27, Ontario Municipal Board is holding a Preliminary Hearing on Urban Corp's plan for 40 townhouses on the site at 2425-27 Bayview just north of Post Road, and on August 27-29 will be the OMB hearing about the larger property in our own area where 10 townhouses on Bayview and 2 new detached "transition" houses on Old Colony are proposed.

Regarding local roadwork, Old Colony is scheduled to be rebuilt and repaved in 2016, and water mains under Berkindale Drive will be replaced this year between July and November. Our Association will continue to be in regular contact with City staff responsible for each project.

The President's report was accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ron Morgenthal, presented the financial report. In 2006 when the Association was reactivated, it had approximately \$11,000 in assets. At the most recent fiscal year-end December 31, 2014, we had \$16,524 in assets consisting of a large term deposit and a bank account. During 2014, we received \$2290 in membership fees, \$15 in donations and interest income of \$170, and had \$1078 of expenses for the year. Our 2014 revenues increased due to an increase in annual membership fee to \$20 from \$10 previously.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was moved by Sandra Comisarow and seconded by Albert Saati, and approved by the members.

*Continued.....*

## **Membership Report**

Alex Greco, acting for the Membership Director, reported that to date in 2015 we have 102 paid-up members, in comparison to 117 for the full year in 2014. (An additional nine membership fees were paid during this Meeting, for a cumulative total of 111 members so far in 2015). He explained that Steve Horvath is currently away on Government business and stepping down as Membership Director, and thanked Steve for his nine years of service in this position.

Alex then outlined our efforts to broaden our memberships via a recent solicitation letter sent to all homes in York Mills Gardens, followed by a door-to-door campaign currently underway by volunteers using the Association's colourful new promotional card, and encouraged members present to speak to their neighbours about the Association.

The Membership report was accepted.

## **Election of the Executive Committee**

Rick Wolfe chaired the election of officers. A proposed slate of officers was introduced, the nomination process followed with Alex Greco as Membership Director and Steve Horvath as a Director, and a new nominee for Director presented, Shelly Candel. A motion to elect the officers was then moved by Marianne Varkony and seconded by Andy Lomaga, and approved unanimously by the members present. The Executive Committee members for the 2014-15 year are:

President	John Nicholls
Vice President	Albert Saati
Recording Secretary	Marci Newton
Treasurer	Ron Morgenthal
Membership Director	Alex Greco
Director, Area & Issues	Moira Ashby
Director, Area & Issues	Donna Buss
Director, Area & Issues	Shelly Candel
Director, Area & Issues	Rick Comisarow
Director, Area & Issues	Sandra Comisarow
Director, Area & Issues	Steve Horvath
Director, Area & Issues	Ahmed Jibril
Director, Area & Issues	Tom Katirai

## **Other Business**

Rick Wolfe spoke, representing Fifeshire Road Area Community Association. He described his area of approximately 175 homes directly west of us across Bayview Avenue as having difficulties sustaining an effective organization with a small potential base, and suggested that we work together on our similar issues. He has participated in the Working Group for Bayview Townhouse Design Guidelines but is concerned that it might not be sufficiently effective against the escalating number of larger property assemblies occurring in the areas along our part of Bayview. He would prefer the City to declare a development moratorium for Bayview Avenue southwards from Highway 401 to Lawrence Avenue, and then use the time to devise a strong plan that would be less vulnerable to development appeals and decisions by the Ontario Municipal Board.

*Continued.....*

## **Old Colony Road Reconstruction**

Public Consultation Coordinator Kate Nelischer and Construction Services Engineer Amir Jafoor outlined the City's process to address poor road conditions and drainage problems by reconstructing Old Colony Road. Consultations, field survey work and analysis are beginning this Spring, followed by detailed planning and design this Summer and Fall. The City will host a public consultation meeting with residents of Old Colony Road in September. Reconstruction of the new road is expected to begin next Spring and be completed by the Fall, 2016.

Several residents at our Annual Meeting spoke against adding a sidewalk to the roadway, and also expressed concern about potential harm to the many large mature trees that are located close to the road. These concerns can be more fully aired at the City's public meeting in September.

### **Councillor Jaye Robinson, City of Toronto Ward 25 – remarks:**

Councillor Robinson outlined her role as Chair of City Council's Public Works & Infrastructure Committee which has responsibility for an annual budget over \$2 billion, including Transportation Services (Roads & Traffic), Toronto Water, Solid Waste Management, Engineering & Construction Services.

She is well aware of Old Colony Road's condition and related issues and was able to have the road improvement project advanced to 2016 from 2018.

She has advocated removing Toronto from the Ontario Municipal Board jurisdiction and she hopes before the end of this year the City will obtain Provincial Government approval for Toronto to set up a Local Appeal Board to hear any appeals from City Committee of Adjustment decisions.

The Bayview Townhouse Design Guidelines for Bayview south of 401 toward Lawrence Avenue are nearly complete and the Planning Department expects to present them to a public meeting early this autumn before seeking City Council approval. The Design Guidelines Working Group included several knowledgeable residents with experience of developments along Bayview.

Jaye reminded us all that the annual Ward 25 Environment Day will take place on Saturday, May 30 from 10 am to 2 pm in the large parking lot at York Mills Collegiate. It is a good opportunity to get rid of hazardous and non-recyclable waste such as batteries, light bulbs, oil and paint cans,

We thanked Councillor Jaye Robinson for attending our meeting and discussing important issues.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church** provided their North Hall room for this meeting again this year. We appreciate their generosity and will formally communicate our thanks to them.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was approved at 9:30 pm.