

Minutes of the 2014 Rita Park Cottagers' Association Annual General Meeting **Saturday, September 6, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Sally Landon called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

Roll Call

Cathy Hamilton, Kevin Holly, Sally Landon, Cary Lee and Liz Richmond-Lee, Glen Wallace and Karen Wallace, Everill Muir, Carrie Sinkowski. We have two new residents, who have purchased the Archibald's place at 2015 Maple Boulevard: Harriet MacMillan and Tom Lindsay. Welcome!

Reading of Last Year's Minutes

A copy of last year's minutes was passed around and reviewed by the attendees.

MOTION to accept last year's minutes was made by Kevin Holly and seconded by Glen Wallace: Carried.

Treasurer's Report (Kevin Holly)

Excel charts explaining the 2014-2015 operating budget, funding and a summary, along with a 2013-2014 detail table and a 2014-2015 projections table were passed around for review.

- We ran out of money during the 2013-2014 year due to a lack of membership dues;
- Last year we only received \$1,275. We need \$1,725 to keep even. With dues staying at \$75 that means we need dues from 23 households and that won't cover any extras, such as tree maintenance that may need to be done;
- Result is that all financial commitments for 2013-2014 were made, i.e. insurance, taxes, maintenance by using some of the 2014-2015 membership dues that were paid early;
- Therefore, as of this month, being the end of the Association's fiscal year, we have a negative bank balance going forward, and that means that if there are no more memberships, we will run out of money by December;
- We will do some canvassing for dues and keep this year's dues at \$75.00 until we know what the bank balance ends up being;

Highlights from a general discussion about our funding problems:

- The Association is comprised of the two blocks from Elm Avenue to Kiwanis Avenue which is approximately 35 households.
- As old members leave, many new residents move in but do not pay their dues.
- Many new residents express initial enthusiasm over the Association but we have not done a good job of communicating consistently and effectively in order to foster relationships and keep the membership active.
- Since we have evolved from a community of cottagers who spent summer vacations together in the neighbourhood to a community of mostly full time residents who live and work here all year round, the park itself has stopped serving as the focal point for vacationing families that it once was. Right now, the park is most valued by those whose properties abut it.
- How do we promote the value of the park, especially to those homeowners whose proximity is not within view of the park? Creating a stronger social presence could work.

- One problem, currently, is that people think that if they don't use the park then they don't need to be a member. What they don't realize is that the Association maintains the beach accesses. Without the Association, there would be no access to the beach.

MOTION to accept the financial report was made by Carey Lee and seconded by Glen Wallace: Carried.

Social Activity Report (Sally Landon)

Sally spoke about the four meetings of the directors that took place over the past year:

- We don't have any bylaws to provide structure for the operation of the Association. It was proposed that drafting bylaws would formalize the Association too much. It was suggested that what we should have is a list of questions to be used as a guideline (Terms of Reference) as opposed to bylaws.
- Historically, the emphasis has been less on business and more on socializing and community involvement.
- Since we are no longer a neighbourhood of families on summer vacation, people are actually too busy during the summer to participate in a lot of social events and that social activities would likely be more successful once everyone is back into school/work routines. The events we held during this summer (movie & game night, Friday night bonfires) were not well attended.
- The idea of an event, such as a yard sale, that sponsors a charity might be a good idea to bring people together.
- It was also suggested that we make horse shoe and badminton equipment available in the park for anyone interested in playing.
- The website was discussed. It takes a lot of time and effort if kept up to date properly. It could be very useful for Association documentation such as photos and old correspondence. Currently, Kevin pays for it as a donation. Facebook was suggested as a viable alternative because it is free.

Report on park maintenance (Sally Landon)

- The plaques to honour the long-standing contributions made by the Campbell and the Motts families have still not been done; They were suggested a few years back.
- There is a cherry tree in the park that needs to come down. It will cost about \$200. The willow tree in the ravine beside the east beach access dropped a huge limb across the access. Stu Hazen cleared the pathway. Later, the County came and examined the tree but refuse to take it down.
- The grass cutting will have to be on a voluntary basis again this year as we have no funding to cover it. Thank you to Chris Devlin, Chris Johnson, Griffin and Sawyer Daulby, John Putnickovich, and Sally Landon for cutting grass.
- The park climbing equipment hasn't been inspected this year, but it is probably OK; the swings need to be painted; the picnic tables need to be repaired or disposed of. The benches need repairing.
- The west-end beach access stairs haven't been maintained or inspected this past year. It was proposed that this wait until the frost has hit and the growth dies back before it gets dealt with;

Election of 2014 – 2015 Executive and Directors

- President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary: There were no nominations for any of the positions. What do you do when there are no nominations?

- Glenn suggested there be a motion to reinstate last year's executive and directors. Carey agreed.
- Sally said she will stay on for another year as President;
- Carrie volunteered to assume the Vice-President role. Nominated by Sally Landon, seconded by Cathy Hamilton. Carried.
- Kevin said he would gladly give up the VP role and agreed to stay on for another year as Treasurer;
- Cathy said she would stay on for another year as Secretary;

Your 2014-2015 Executive:

President: Sally Landon
Vice-President: Carrie Sinkowski
Treasurer: Kevin Holly
Secretary: Cathy Hamilton

- Board of Directors: Thanks to Kim Putnickovich, Chris Johnson, and Doug Archibald for their service as Directors. They have stepped down.

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Your 2014-2015 Directors:

Tom Lindsay
Stan Mott
Liz Richmond-Lee
Carey Lee
Glenn Wallace.

As there were no further items of business presented for discussion:

MOTION, by Kevin Holly that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Glen Wallace.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.