

LESLIE PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**DATE & TIME: MAY 30, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM****LOCATION: ST JOHN THE APOSTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY****1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

- Margo Nelson welcomed the group to the 2023 Annual General Meeting and acknowledged that Leslie Park is located on the unceded, unsundered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial.
- This AGM was the first in-person one held since before COVID. Community members presented themselves in roundtable introductions. The new City Councillor for College Ward, Laine Johnson, attended the meeting and was introduced as a special guest at this year's AGM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- The AGM Meeting Agenda was motioned by Bill and seconded by Peter.

3. Discussion with Ward 8 Councilor Laine Johnson

- Laine made some remarks regarding her role on the City Council and provided an update on some of the current issues from the Planning & Housing Committee. Currently Bill 109 is under discussion, which is a Bill designed to examine the Municipal Act and give direction to municipalities regarding development and land use planning. At the present time, the issue of how quickly housing applications are processed is being targeted. There is a desire to build more homes faster and to create efficiencies in the approvals process. The Act will look differently after July 1st. Current proposals look at 90 days for a zoning by-law amendment, and 60 days for a site plan. The pre-consultation phase process would be front loaded.
- Laine has worked to ensure that community engagement still is integral in the process. She acknowledged that homes are needed, but in the right places, affordable, with proper drainage, and allow for green spaces. It's important to be careful with the details.
- *Discussion:* Margo thanked Laine for her informative presentation with insights into the work of the Planning & Housing Committee. She indicated that some general comments that have been raised by LPCA residents include community road conditions, traffic (speed, volume of cars), new development hopes for a local grocery store, and community walk-ability.
- *Densification*
 - Anne-Marie asked about a letter sent from other community associations about densification and indicated that if there was a response to that letter, that it would be helpful to have it posted on the LPCA website.

Note: the letter sent on January 22, 2022 to Minister Clark and the response received on February 10, 2022 can be view via the [Leslie Park Community Association webpage](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yhPnLWsZODK13Pd2YkZjVH94G5N9Zbf4) at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yhPnLWsZODK13Pd2YkZjVH94G5N9Zbf4>

- Laine indicated that a comprehensive zoning bylaw review will be happening with new best practices, etc. and there will be public engagement opportunities through her office. R1 means one house, one lot. Transit oriented development. She also reported

about an upcoming traffic study on Monterey and that Chelsea from her team is the contact from her office re: traffic reporting.

- *Local Traffic*
 - Chelsea indicated that residents can reach out with their comments/ concerns to the following email address: collegeward@ottawa.ca and these will be forwarded onto traffic services staff. They ask for data over a 48 hour period re: speed and volumes of cars. Asked for another study; they know there's speeding issues. Staff will ask if there's vulnerable communities and road users, schools, etc; take the environment into account and introduce traffic calming measures. Have \$50K but the demand always exceeds available funding to ensure all parts of Ward is seeing benefits. There's a need to be fair and target those communities with greatest issues.
- *Local Grocery*
 - Laine indicated that there was a struggle to find an appropriate grocery store given the size and floor plan at the existing building. When other towers go up (perhaps with luxury apartments), there may be a greater likelihood that a higher-end grocery store might go in, as it creates a different economic incentive for investment.
- *Continuing the Conversation:*
 - Margo asked how LP residents can continue the conversation with Laine.
 - Laine and Chelsea indicated that Sunday night once a month, there is a Zoom call for 1 hour. People can sign up online and then log in for the chat. There're also pop-ups for 2 hours once per month. Each person gets 15 mins to raise an issue.
 - Social media platforms are also available, but FB is not the best way to reach Laine; but still very accessible.

4. Approval of the Minutes from 2022 AGM

- Peter moved to approve the minutes from the 2022 AGM and then Wendy seconded it.

5. Community Highlights with Margo Nelson

- Park Restoration – During the restoration process, the Community remained engaged and vocal about community needs (i.e., no trees on toboggan hill and support for a rink, etc). The City was very responsive. At this point, the project is near completion. Mary-ellen recently met with the City Project Manager; stumps will be removed; light post will be fixed; sod growing roots so we can gather soon. Thanks to Frank and the volunteers for a great rink this past winter despite some challenges relating to the restoration project.
- Picnic in Park event will happen in July and provides the community with an opportunity to celebrate the new park.
- Key Events of 2022 – LP had many successful events this past year that Margo highlighted including, the Holiday Sing-along and Food Drive (December 2022); Winter Fun Day in January 2023; Francis Mercer's Easter/ Spring Celebration (family photos and egg hunt); the neighborhood clean-up on Earth Day (April 2023); the Trash to Treasure Event (May 2023). Special thanks to all the community volunteers who participated and helped make these events a great success!
- Second Annual Bike Tune-up with Frank and 7 other bike volunteers to help with community tune-ups was held at the end of May. This was a great partnership with Ecole Mamawi in the

schoolyard and the City Bike Safety Crew. So many people came and helped out which created great community connections. The weather was fabulous and lots of bikes were fixed that morning.

- List Serve – Too many emails and became cumbersome to operate. Many thanks to Lynn Hamilton for many years of sending out email updates. We are now with Mail Chimp; first e-newsletter went out on Sunday. There are 85 people signed up and it will go out monthly. Use the QR code being circulated to sign up if you haven't already or via the webpage. A hard copy newsletter will still come twice per year.
- LP Community Garden – This year there are 72 plots and 60+ gardeners. Lots of green thumbs in our community!
- August Band & Open Mike Event – this is a new music event in the community to be located at the park. The date is Saturday, August 19.
- A big thank you to volunteers Frank, Diane, Anthony Thompson, Peter, Nicole (LP Circular), Ellen, Medhi, Chris!
- Donation Drive (new name; it's no longer a Membership Drive because everyone who is 18+ living in Leslie Park are members of the community). Many thanks go to Juan Carlos, Lorna, Wendy, Jane, Margo!
 - \$2700 raised from 140 contributions and important inter-personal connections have been made in the community. E-transfers now an important part of donations (40%).
- Special thanks to the following volunteers: Community Garden Coordinator – Mark Howard; VP – Anthony Taza; Chris Bijorndstaad; Rachel Tweedy past president; Bill Watson Treasurer and Ellen and Wendy – Directors at Large

6. Officer elections (Secretary Position)

- Current LPCA Secretary (Diane Sullivan) has been in this position for 2 years and is now stepping down making the position available to another community member. Jane acted as Election Officer to conduct election for the Secretary position. Community member Sophie Laghi-Ford was nominated and elected by acclamation, as per LPCA bylaws.

7. Presentation of LPCAs financial statements for the year ending Dec 31 (Bill Watson, Treasurer)

- Bill reported that the LPCA Financial position is good and that we have recovered and are back to pre-pandemic status of the account. Donations went down during the pandemic but we are now back to our traditional financial position. The amount of \$2200 was added to the account last year. Funds should be set aside to replace snow blowers. LPCA owns 2 snow blowers and they need to be replaced once every 10 years. A little over 10K in the account, but we had to replace snowblower in January. Frank found another one.
- People seem to like the use of e-transfer. One item that costs is web server and URL – feels that payment for those services are a little high. Hoping in next year, that we can reduce these costs.
- Marina has helped out to review the status of the account and Excel equations.

8. Other questions or comments

- There was a question about turning LPCA into a non-profit? This has not been looked at / considered seriously. Perhaps at a future time.

- On the path beside the stream, one resident noticed that there are 3 nice cast iron animals and wondered who made them? A resident may have installed them. A resident indicated that statues should be moved away from the water so as not to pose a safety risk.
- One resident noted that the LPCA park is currently not a dog park and would like to change it to a dog area, and wondered about the process to do this. Others thought that it is best to leave the issue alone, as long as dogs are on a leash, most people won't complain.
- Parking on Monterey Drive: There's a 3-hour limit; residents don't have visitors parking. This was an issue some time ago; what happened? That conversation has been ongoing. On weekends, it's 6 hours limit. Changes to parking is based on a petition basis. Laine's office could look into and explore options.
- Jane thanked Margo for her work and dedication as an extraordinary community leader with time and energy on our LPCA. This will be her last year and Margo noted that it has been a lot of work but very rewarding to be involved in a LP community. She is starting to think about succession planning. If anyone is interested to know more about the role as President, she is happy to have a conversation.

9. Meeting Close

- Cherith moved to close the meeting and Ellen seconded the motion. AGM 2023 was adjourned.