

Minutes

Board of Directors

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

Date: April 21, 2020

Venue: zoom

Directors Present:

Russ Gibson -*President* (RG), Michele Collum Hayman-*Secretary* (MCH), Daniel Goldberg -*Vice President* (DG), John Butterfield -*Treasurer* (JB), Peter Lewis -*Past President* (PL), Susan d'Aquino (SD), Kay James (KJ), Jean-Guy Dumoulin (JD), Louise Malhotra (LM), Susan Taylor (ST), Mark Willcox (MW), Bea Hampson (BH), Jeff Bell (JeffB), Gouhar Shemdin (GS), Chris Barker (CB), Linda Dicaire (LD), Matthew Henderson (MH), Linda English (LE), Lisa Coogan (LC), Patrick Blonar (PB).

Directors Absent: - None

1: Opening Remarks Russ Gibson

1.1 Welcome

Russ opened the meeting at 1905 hrs. and discussed zoom meeting etiquette. Informed the board of his new address - russgibson@rockcliffe.ca.

RG mentioned that the Blue Sky thinking item carried over from an earlier meeting will be discussed. Mentioned that thanks to Patrick Blonar, we are able to post the agenda and minutes on the RPRA Website.

1.2 Quorum, attendance, minute taking

Quorum present. PL agreed to take minutes.

1.3) Consent agenda:

Commendation for Daniel, Louise and Sarah Baxter for April Newsletter

1.4) Correspondence – see Board “drop-box” :

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zmctrhow1tg76t7/AADySH4dbYiZau8ii3LdX4qPa?dl=0>

Insurance Questionnaire for completion by Committee Chairs ; (Not mentioned)
Director Information Sheet telephone numbers (optional);
Infrastructure Master Plan Update from the City of Ottawa, consultation;
Letter from Heritage Committee Members

Approval of Agenda: (RG) Call for Motion to approve agenda and adopt as consent motion Commendation for Daniel, Louise and Sarah Baxter for April Newsletter (moved by LD, seconded by MCH - Carried)

2. **Minutes:** Secretary

Discussion of draft minutes for March 17, 2021 meeting - *PL*
Amendments were suggested and will be sent

IT IS MOVED that the Minutes as corrected (marked Draft) March 17, 2021, identified in the Board Drop Box as "March 2021 Minutes" be accepted and approved.

RG/ CB - Carried

3. **Financial Reporting:** Treasurer

3.1) Bank statements received and forwarded to finance committee – *MCH*

JB mentioned that the bank statements had yet to arrive.

3.2) Treasurer's information report - *JB*.

JB noted that the RPRA was still sitting on a healthy cash balance in excess of 80k. JB expressed hope that some disbursements would be possible this year.

JB noted that the library fund contribution has not yet been disbursed and that we are also a bit lower on membership fees over last year. Members 146 this year vs 194 in 2020. There were no questions.

KJ mentioned that the lack of membership may be due to the lack of activities.

LE mentioned that she and Russ were in discussion on this matter and that she would correspond with KJ. KJ thought this was a good idea.

3.3) Brief Survey update (report and details to follow at next meeting) -JB

JB began to discuss the survey results. LE asked a question about the other surveys that were conducted. JB spoke of the 2011 and earlier surveys and PL clarified that the 2015 survey was specific to recreational activities. JB continued, sharing his screen to review the results. Noted that this would not be a full report but a summary, specifically mentioning that he would not go into the individual comments. These will be contained in the full report. ***(Note that what follows is itself a summary or highlights of JB's presentation)***

200 responses received - 150 on line and 50 on paper. Almost double the response over the 2011 survey. Estimates around a 30% response rate which is considered high. 200 Responses represented 540 individuals. Noted a very high representation from the 60+ age group that

may not be fully representative of the village demographics. Most respondents (50+%) have been living in RP over 20 years although there was a good overall spread. Noted amusingly that nearly 200 respondents thought they were members of the RPRA. The library, Caldwell Carver conservation area and the Pond were the most actively used facilities in the park. Large group indicated that they would use the Community center if it were open for general use. Very clear demand for more Community Gathering activities such as BBQs, yard sales and other social events. Almost all respondents were aware of the RLTC plan to install lighting. 58 % indicated that they were not in favour of the lighting plan versus 16% who were in favour, with the rest neutral or having no opinion.

Very high favorability for the speakers series and the all candidates debates as well as the Library book sale. Also a very high readership of the Newsletter. Most wanted to continue to receive the Newsletter in the printed form although that number was down since 2011.

Overwhelmingly positive response to the question of the importance of heritage in RP with the park like ambience, abundance of trees and parkland and rockeries being the most popular.

On the environment, maintenance of the tree canopy, the pond and the maintenance of the CC conservation area were the most popular responses.

On areas of concern, the Kettle Island bridge was important to roughly 50% of respondents. The use (misuse) of the pond was considered the most important issue to the respondents. Most respondents aware of the role of the RPRA (62%) JB wished it were higher - . On the effectiveness of the RPRA - the general response to the questions were "good".

JB noted that the RPRA had subscribed to Survey Monkey which is an annual subscription service that will allow us, if we wish, to do other surveys.

4. **Report on Poll Results, Committee assignments:** Secretary / President

4.1) Secretary brief report of the results to Board – *MCH*

MCH gave a brief report on the results of the directors poll noting the numbers concerning the two questions that were not carried. LE asked about the speed limit question and the poll results that indicated that it was not a popular idea in RP. PL indicated that this was a policy that was adopted in Quebec City and will likely be a matter of general city policy in the future.

4.2) Update on Outstanding committee vacancies– *RG*

IT IS MOVED that the committee of the Board of Directors shall be composed of the following new members -

After some discussion and confusion, This motion was postponed.

4.3) Responses to Secretary re “blue-sky” Objectives for year ahead, priorities – MCH, All directors round-table format of last “special meeting” invited to comment on responses

MCH lead the discussion on some of the "Blue Sky" initiatives mentioning that Rockcliffe will be having its 100 anniversary in 2026.

PB: mentioned that he previously lived in the Glebe and that the street lighting was very pleasant with buried cables and wondered if this was possible at some point in Rockcliffe.

CB: Mentioned the old rail line and the old tram that went through Rockcliffe. Thought that more could be done to educate the residents about specific historical facts relating to Rockcliffe.

JB: lots of talk about organizing events around something, but is there scope to have a once a month gathering - a social tea- drop-in in an informal but regular manner.

LC: Likes the idea of a village playground. Not sure where it could be but it would add a great deal to the community.

LD: Would like to work with Environment committee to encourage tree planning. Would also love to see the hydro and telephone wires buried. Hand railings aside common stairways need to be made more useful, attractive and less prone to giving splinters. Perhaps motion detected lighting could eventually be added to stairways (if their existing lighting upon review is in adequate or absent). Mentioned that exercise stations could be placed around the village. Mentioned Dark Sky and subdued lighting, and perhaps experiment with a special day of lights off.

JD: Is in favour of more plaques around the village and also supports the idea of the regular social evenings.

LE: Would be interested in having some form of recognition for the Indigenous/First Nations heritage in the area. Also felt the need for the community to be better at outreach to the less advantaged communities close to us.

SD: Noted that the large celebratory events held in the past were wonderful and that we should put our minds to having more such events every few years.. Noted that the benches around the village are falling apart and that there is a need to have them repaired/replaced. Also we should get some better looking wastebaskets.

KJ: Related to plaques. Would like to see a map of the village - outside, perhaps near the community center and perhaps a water drinking fountain in Jubilee gardens or along the dog park?

DG: Spoke on several themes: **Roads** - street furniture, benches - perhaps art commissions etc. Unique manhole covers. Opportunities to improve the Gateway entrances into the community. Need to be on a grander scale. **Street surfacing** - possible colouring of the tarmac. Flagpoles and banners for special occasions. **Play streets** - Cars are subordinate to pedestrians. No Through Traffic signs. **Places for families and Kids** - playground - running trails - XC skiing trails on NCC lands - forested lands for kids to play in. An outdoor gathering place - perhaps the stone circle. Swings in the trees. **Nature and History** - Boardwalk along CC Conservation area, Butterfly garden, Birdhouse building programs. Outdoor concert area near Pine Hill. **Homes** - Would be nice to see the Free Libraries that we are seeing in MP and other areas. **History** - People/places markers like the Blue Plaque Scheme in the UK. Maybe investigate the carbon footprint. **Events** - 100th year celebration is coming up. we could invite artists, photographers, writers etc to create / perform. **Diplomatic** - find other ways to involve the diplomatic community. **Police radio tower demolition** - needs to be reactivated. Change old police station to a museum.

BH: Tree planting on verges and municipal setbacks. Lighting can be made more constant. Suggests that the Rowley house become the Rockcliffe Museum

MH: Connect RP to Heritage East XC network. Rejuvenation of Centennial gardens for 100th anniversary. Survey of tree species in RP.

LM: Connecting the community through exercise and activity - appealing to a multigenerational group - Incorporate exercise stations of varying size and shape throughout the village so that it does not look like exercise equipment. The village green is an ideal place for this.

PL: Would love to see areas where cars are subordinate to pedestrians. (LD added that a high accident road in Vimy Ridge was changed by painting verges a different colour)

GS: Impressed by the idea of a museum in the Rowley House. Also liked the idea of "Children in the street". Wondered who looks after the landscaping on the public realm (Mariposa Circle) because it is in poor repair. How to manage in a better manner. Also likes the idea of the informal social event. Problem with over lighting of houses. Not enough awareness of the issue of over lighting houses. Important to spread the

awareness of the uniqueness of Rockcliffe Park to the residents and the need to conserve.

ST: Would like to be able to do more about Beechwood Avenue. Likes the idea of the Workout Circuit in the village. Likes the idea of tree planting but prefer evergreen to leaf shedding deciduous. Derelict homes are a problem that needs to be addressed. Noted that the Rockcliffe A to B is to be published shortly.

MW: Aging population/Heritage/ Young Families; Aging population - how to help folks age in place but also find ways to bring young families into the neighbourhood. Heritage: there are lot of tactile opportunities to engage younger people in heritage in RP

MCH: How to start in the time of Covid? Will make herself available on line for discussion. Re aging crowd - very important to have the young engage with the older generation and an exercise circuit can be helpful. Heritage: it is about the place where we are but also about who we are as people - so, Who are we? Where do we come from? What are our backgrounds? some kind of program to explore this would be interesting.

RG: His hope is that the board can commit themselves to pursuing the support of the three pillars - Community, Heritage and Environment, and that the board can be a meeting place to have discussions . Very much looking forward to meeting in person again and hoping that we will be able to have a grand celebration at some point soon.

5. **New Business:**

Russ would like the Board to instruct the Exec. to plan for “public delegations” by virtual attendance commencing at the next Board Meeting or carry discussion, if need be over to the next meeting and Chairs provide RG with their list of activities for the insurance application.

Re the above, PL commented that folks not on the board wishing to attend, should register to speak in advance if they wish to speak. LC asked for clarification on board policies and where they might be recorded. RG indicated that there was no such policy document. Some small discussion ensued and it was agreed to try and see how best to accommodate public interest over the zoom platform.

There being no other business the meeting was ended at 9:25
It was unanimously agreed (MCH/MH)

Next Board Meeting: May 19, 2021