

Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

The Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association's (LHPCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was from 2 to 4 pm on October 25, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM was held virtually and hosted via Zoom this year.

ATTENDANCE

In total, approximately 20 residents of the LHPCA were in attendance at the virtual AGM, including the following members of the current Executive Committee:

Annie Boucher (President until August 2020, now Past President)
JR Fortin (Acting President since August 2020; former Vice President)
Julie Buick (Secretary)
Pierre Chevrier (Treasurer)
Jane Kielly (Director-at-Large)
Maria Rogers (Director-at-Large)
Vesna Lukic (Membership Coordinator)

1. WELCOMING WORDS

Annie Boucher welcomed residents to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in our community issues. She introduced the members of the Executive Committee and announced that MP Anita Vandenberg and City Councillor Theresa Kavanagh would be in attendance at the meeting to address issues specific to their federal riding and ward, respectively. Annie remarked that it was unfortunate that many community events, such as the community dinner at Biagio's, the Summer Follies street party, and the community clean up were cancelled due to restrictions in place to reduce the number of Covid-19 cases in Ottawa. Annie encouraged residents to continue to find creative ways to support each other and stay connected while following Public Health guidelines during the global pandemic, especially as we move into the colder months of the year.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Annie reviewed the Draft Agenda for the meeting. A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Pierre Chevrier and seconded by Maria Rogers.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF 2019 AGM MINUTES

The minutes from our last AGM on October 26, 2019 were sent to residents via email for review prior to the meeting. The 2019 AGM minutes were accepted as presented. The minutes were approved by Pierre Chevrier and seconded by Julie Buick.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Pierre Chevrier, the LHPCA Treasurer, provided meeting attendees with an overview of the LHPCA financial situation for 2020 and the proposed budget for 2021. Pierre thanked Julie Matthews, the former LHPCA Treasurer, for her support as he transitioned into his new role on the LHPCA Executive Committee. Highlights are as follows:

- The financial carryover from 2019 was \$2,990 with a small deficit of \$110.
- There has been less financial activity this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as the community dinner, spring clean up and the summer follies street party were all cancelled in 2020.
- We still had expenses relating to banking and the LHPCA website.
- Memberships were lower this year, which meant less revenue for the LHPCA
 - *LHPCA membership dues are crucial to our association's finances - please pay your membership fees!! - \$5/adult/household*
- We spent more money on the Holiday Hampers last year (\$142 vs. the proposed \$125), as we provided for two families.
- We also reimbursed Walter and Nina for the building expenses of the community library at 72 Richlin Crescent as per the 2020 budget.
- The ice rink grant from the City is our biggest expense and this will be moving forward again this year.
- The LHPCA will be donating \$100 to the Britannia Winter Trail.
- The financial carryover to 2021 will be \$2,690.
- There is currently a lot of uncertainty as to whether any LHPCA events can proceed in 2021 due to the global pandemic; however, expenses are being projected in case that some of these community events can proceed.

The 2021 budget was approved by Julia Goodman and seconded by Maria Rogers.

5. UPDATES ON COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ISSUES

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Attendees were provided with an update on community events held over the past year, as follows:

Holiday Hamper - Update by Maria Rogers:

- The LHPCA has been very generous in the past with respect to donations for the Holiday Hamper.
- This year will be the third time that the association will partner with Regina Street Alternative School and the Principal will identify a family (or two) to support.
- There will be a call out to the community this year with an emphasis on gift cards and monetary donations due safety protocols in place as a result of the global pandemic.
- A clothing drive will also be done again this year to provide winter clothing to students in need at the school.

Community Dinner - Update by Maria Rogers:

- Unfortunately, our 2020 Community Dinner was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- We hope to be able to proceed with our Community Dinner in the winter of 2021, but this will depend on how the global pandemic affects our city this winter and on local Public Health guidance.

Summer Follies - Update by Jane Kielly:

- This event was also cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19.
- Although 2021 is still very uncertain due to the pandemic, we hope to be able to proceed with an outdoor event following Public Health guidelines should the situation improve in Ottawa next year.

Spring Cleanup - Update by Annie Boucher:

- This community event was also cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Aside from the dog situation in late winter/early spring, our community tends to be relatively clean.
- We hope to be able to proceed with our spring cleanup in 2021, but will need to wait for directives from Ottawa Public Health next spring in response to the global pandemic before proceeding.

Membership Drive - Update by Vesna Lukic:

- We had 48 LHPCA members in 2019-20. Welcome to all our new LHPCA members!
- Membership fees are \$5 per adult per household; they are a main source of revenue for the LHPCA.
- It is a good means to stay connected and informed of issues in our community.
- This year membership dues will be collected via e-transfer to the LHPCA email address (lhPCA.info@gmail.com).
- An email will follow with details on how to pay the LHPCA annual membership fee. If a resident is not comfortable paying via e-transfer, please reach out to Pierre Chevrier, or another member of the LHPCA Executive, to arrange for a mailbox drop off or pick up of membership dues.

COMMUNITY UPDATES & ISSUES

Parham Momtahan, a resident on Lincoln Heights Road, provided updates on the following:

Britannia Winter Trail:

- In the winter of 2019-20, the Britannia Winter Trail (BWT), a multi-use winter trail, ran as a pilot project for about 5 weeks with the full support of our City Councillor, Theresa Kavanagh.
- It was a successful pilot program in that the BWT was used regularly by people of all ages for walking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and fat biking.
- The City of Ottawa and the NCC provided basic financial support for the pilot project and will provide limited funding again for the 2020-21 winter season to support operating costs.
- Given the situation with the global pandemic, it will be more important than ever for people to get outside for fresh air and exercise this year.
- There is a father and son groomer team with an old snowmobile in Britannia Village who plan to help out again this year.
- Organizers would like to extend the length of the trail and length of time that it will be open for use this year.
- The challenge is that the BWT needs enough operational funds through the City, the NCC, and community donations.
- LHPCA members who use the BWT are asked to donate what they can to support this great initiative in our community.

- Please donate via e-transfer at: britanniawintertrail@gmail.com
- Volunteers are also needed to make the BWT a success again this year.
- If you are interested in volunteering on the operational side (i.e., grooming and signage) or on the marketing/fundraising side, please email Parham for more information at the following email address:
parham@momtahan.com

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BRITANNIA WINTER TRAIL:

1. From Suzanne: Is it possible to groom the BWT to be more narrow along the pathway by Mud Lake for people who like to cut their own trail while cross-country skiing?
 - Parham will speak to the groomers about this concern again this year; however, due to Covid-19 social distancing requirements, other winter trails in the city may be made wider this year for public health safety precautions.
2. From Marion: How do community members donate to the BWT?
 - E-transfer to britanniawintertrail@gmail.com
 - A BWT GoFundMe page is also being set up.
 - Residents of the Britannia Community Association are also being encouraged to donate.
3. From Annie: What is the timeline for the BWT this year? Are there enough funds?
 - The intent is to get the BWT up and running as soon as sufficient snow has fallen in Ottawa.
 - They have enough funds to get started with grooming at the first big snowfall.
 - The BWT Association would like to raise enough money to keep the BWT open and groomed longer than it was during the pilot project last year.
 - They would also like to groom the trail all the way to Andrew Haydon Park this year and possibly into the southern part of Britannia Park.
 - Keeping the BWT open for a longer period of time and with a longer groomed track will mean that:
 - Sufficient funds must be raised through marketing and fundraising efforts.
 - Sufficient volunteers come forward to help out with the BWT.

Richmond Square HVAC Update

- This is a noise issue affecting some residents on the east side of our community.
- In mid-June of this year, fairly severe noise (e.g., like a plane idling on the runway) was noted from the HVAC system at Richmond Square.
- This issue was brought to the attention of the Richmond Square management and LHPCA representatives, including Parham, Marion and David, worked cooperatively with the VP of Operations and the manager to reduce the noise from the HVAC system.
- The noise in the neighbourhood was being logged every day for tracking purposes.
- By late August, the noise had been significantly reduced following a motor replacement.
- It is hoped that the issue has now been resolved; however, it remains to be seen if this is the case as summer is a period of heavy use for the HVAC system.
- The issue will be monitored closely in the summer of 2021.
- Annie thanked Parham, Marion, and David for their leadership and tactful management in resolving this issue.

6. CITY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – THERESA KAVANAGH

Our City Councillor, Theresa Kavanagh, provided the LHPCA with updates of issues relevant to Bay Ward and our community.

Britannia Winter Trail

- Theresa thanked Parham for being a part of the Britannia Winter Trail (BWT), in addition to the father/son team who are mechanics with an old snowmobile for an excellent job grooming the trails last winter and making the BWT a big success!
- With the global pandemic, physically distanced outdoor activities will be more important than ever this year.
- Theresa is putting forth a Motion for the City next week to support the BWT again this year.
- There is an alliance of winter trails across the City of Ottawa, which will be a great resource as we move into winter under Public Health restrictions.
- Parham of the LHPCA and Judy Dudley of Belltown are excellent volunteers, but we need more volunteers to expand the length of time the BWT is open this year, in addition to extending the length of the trail (to Andrew Haydon Park and in the southern half of Britannia Park).
- We will have core funding from the City and the NCC again this year, but it won't be enough.
- In order to have a long trail system and a long season, we need more volunteers and more funding. Please donate your time or money if you use the BWT and are able to!!

Lincoln Heights - Pumping Station Upgrades

- Generators need to be installed at four locations in our ward to upgrade sewage pumping stations in case of power outages.
- One of the pumps will be installed on the easement between two houses on Lincoln Heights Road.
- The generator will be housed in the park behind these houses.

Parkway House

- Parkway House, a facility at the east end of Regina Street for severely disabled residents, is in financial hardship and is trying to reach a deal with a developer which would allow the facility to run out of the new residential development.
- The City cannot afford the land costs, but has the first right of refusal.
- Windmill Developments will make an offer, but has not released any other development details.
- Theresa has met with Windmill, but was not given any details regarding their plans, only a commitment to help with Parkway House.
- This land will need to be re-zoned for development of this nature and will have to go before the Planning Committee.

Lincoln Fields Mall Redevelopment

- The east half of the mall has been demolished and a new building that will house the Rexall is now being built along Carling Avenue.
- A stand-alone Metro will be built next, prior to the demolition of the west side of the mall.
- Rexall and Metro will remain open until they move into their new commercial spaces in 2021.
- No further details have been released on the residential plans for the site.

Halloween 2020:

- As Ottawa remains a Covid-19 hotspot in Ontario, both Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health for Ottawa Public Health, and Dr. David Williams, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario, have asked that Ottawa residents do not take part in door-to-door track-or-treating or attend indoor social gatherings outside of your household in an attempt to lower our Covid-19 case count.
- Please be mindful of Public Health advice with respect to Halloween this year.

Stage 2 LRT Progress:

- Stage 2 of the LRT project is well underway and is moving along on schedule.
- There will be several more years of construction until this phase is completed.
- Theresa meets with the Stage 2 team weekly, including General Manager Manconi, for updates.
- A new cross-walk has been installed east of Richardson Road for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety during the construction.
- There are 7 stations in Bay Ward and connectivity is a big issue for Lincoln Heights residents; Theresa is dedicated to making this happen.

365 Forest Street Development:

- An 11-story tower and a 12-story tower are being proposed for this property.
- It has not gone to the Planning Committee yet, although comments have been received.
- The buildings are set to have commercial spaces on the main floor (e.g., coffee shop) which will lead to a more complete street feel to improve Richmond Road in this area.

Complaints Received by Theresa's Office:

- During the pandemic, more people have been working from home and far fewer people have been using OC Transpo.
- As a result, Theresa's office has seen a significant decline in complaints around OC Transpo, but an increase in noise complaints from residents.
- LRT construction is a priority, meaning long construction hours seven days a week in people's backyards.

Questions for our City Councillor, Theresa Kavanagh:

1. Regarding Stage 2 LRT construction, are they trying to get the construction close to Richmond Road completed first? (J.R. Fortin)
 - There will be a flyover that splits the line between Algonquin College and Moodie Drive near Lincoln Fields; the Byron linear part of the LRT will feed into Lincoln Fields.
 - There has been a lot of activity behind Connaught Avenue as well with many trees having been removed, utilities relocated and cut-and-cover digging happening.
 - For weekly updates, please refer to Theresa's Weekly [Bay Ward Bulletin](#).
2. Regarding Parkway House and Windmill Developments, is there going to be transparency with the community? (Marion)
 - Although it has to go through the City's Planning Committee, Theresa feels that this is not good enough, so she has insisted that there be a Public Meeting to discuss the redevelopment of this land.
3. Regarding the redevelopment of the Parkway House land, what will the scale of

development be? How will the scale of this redevelopment affect our community? (Parham Momtahan)

- There is currently no indication of the scale of development for this property.
 - The City is encouraging intensification near LRT stations; City planners will be involved to some extent in reviewing the Draft Proposal for the official plan (proposed for November 2020).
4. How will Windmill Developments address the traffic concerns with new high-density residential buildings at the end of Regina Street? (Suzanne)
- This was a huge concern the last time a proposal was made to redevelop this land.
 - There is only one entrance/exit for that property onto Regina Street, which is a residential street not intended to have a high volume of traffic.
 - A developer-paid traffic study is biased and will not be good for our community.
 - Transit-Oriented Development could mean limited parking spaces available; this is where the City will have some control.
 - The Public Health problem that Parkway House is facing due to financial hardship should not drive the height of the new towers.
- ★ For weekly updates, please refer to Theresa's Weekly Bay Ward Bulletin, or contact Councillor Theresa Kavanagh at: bayward@ottawa.ca

Annie thanked our Councillor, Theresa Kavanagh, on behalf of the community for attending.

7. MP REPORT FOR OTTAWA-WEST NEPEAN – ANITA VANDENBELD

MP Vandenberg began her presentation by thanking the community for the invitation to attend the LHPCA AGM. She said that her office has been dealing with many Covid-related issues since mid-March 2020 and has extra staff in place to deal with these concerns. She provided an overview of the many areas where the federal government provides funding to the City of Ottawa, including the following:

Office Hours

- Anita's office is open, but not open to the public for safety reasons during the pandemic.
- Anita's coffee hour is now via Zoom every Friday evening at 5:30pm.
- You can also schedule a 10 min appointment by phone with Anita every Friday.

The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)

- The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.
- For more detailed information, please refer to the following resources:
 - https://www.anitamp.ca/updates_on_covid_19
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html>
- Those eligible for EI will now be moved over to EI benefits.

Small Businesses in Ottawa-West Nepean Riding

- A full-time staff member has been dedicated to communicating with small businesses in our federal riding.
- Rural Economic Development (RED) subsidies, wage subsidies, business loans have been important topics of discussion.
- It is a priority to keep small businesses afloat during these tough economic times due to the global pandemic.
- There has been 72% job recovery in our riding.

Covid-19 Updates from the Federal Government

- Two billion dollars was given to the province for schools to upgrade HVAC systems, for PPE for staff and students and to help reduce class sizes.
- Rapid testing, contact tracing, vaccine development are key to combatting the pandemic.
- Please download the COVID ALERT App at the following link to be alerted if you have been within 2m of someone who tested positive for Covid-19 (privacy is maintained):
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html>

Long-Term Care Homes

- This is a provincial issue that needs federal support through the military to deal with Covid-19 outbreaks in these institutions.
- \$100 million has been allocated to the Red Cross from the federal government to help out as well.
- National Standards for Long Term Care are being reviewed and updated; in addition, amendments are being made to the Criminal Code to hold managers of long term care homes accountable for the comfort and safety of its residents.

Halloween 2020 in Ottawa

- Anita reiterated Theresa's message; we have to listen to senior public health authorities for the City and the Province.
- As Ottawa is a Covid-19 hotspot and has officially been declared a red zone, there is to be no door-to-door trick-or-treating this year, or indoor social gatherings outside your household for Halloween.

Questions for our Ottawa West-Nepean MP, Anita Vandenberg:

1. Why is the Red Cross not being used to their full potential in long term care homes (i.e., in many cases they are being brought in as day labourers)? (Mike)
 - We need to fix the systemic management issues in long term care homes and criminalize these acts to enforce accountability.
 - Under Section 29 of Ontario's Long Term Care Act, Vera Etches can take over the management of a home. She is currently in charge of 3 in our City.
 - Systemic change is needed; federal public servants can be redirected to help and are on offer to the province to help management in long term care homes.
 - Revera, who operates Carlingview, is a profitable company that is part of the

- federal pension plan. These are independent pension funds who have invested in bricks and mortar investments.
- Should the rules around pension funds be looked at? Can we separate medical issues from housing issues?
 - Above all, these things need to happen in an ethical manner.
2. Can your office provide support for the BWT? And, please come out and use it this winter too! (Parham Momtahan)
- Catherine McKenna, the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, may be able to provide infrastructure funding for a storage facility for the snowmobile and grooming equipment for the BWT.

Annie thanked MP Vandenberg on behalf of the community for attending.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following points were noted regarding the current members of the Executive Committee:

- Annie Boucher has now finished her term as President of the LHPCA, but will be staying on the Executive Committee as Past President.
- Julie Buick has reached the end of her term as LHPCA Secretary and will not be seeking re-election.
- JR Fortin has been Acting LHPCA President since August 2020, when Annie resigned from her position, leaving his position of Vice-President vacant.
- Maria Rogers, Jane Kielly and Pierre Chevrier each have one year left in their two-year terms.
- Vesna Lukic is staying on as Membership Coordinator for another 2-year term.

Annie provided attendees with the nominees for open positions on the Executive Committee:

President - J.R. Fortin as only nominee (approved by Pierre, seconded by Julia Goodman)

Vice-President - Open; no nominees put forth (will be assigned from Executive Committee)

Secretary - Open; no nominees put forth (will be assigned from Executive Committee)

Director-at-Large - Sarah Nikkel (approved by J.R Fortin, seconded by Vesna Lukic)

9. OTHER COMMUNITY MATTERS/ISSUES

- Suzanne and Mike brought up the volunteer list that was compiled to help people in need during the pandemic.
 - At this time, there has been no interest in accessing the help of the volunteers.
 - This may change as we enter our first winter of the pandemic.
- How can we improve morale/community connection during the pandemic during the colder months?
 - Residents were asked to start thinking about ways to do this as the pandemic continues with no end in sight at the moment.

- J.R. brought up an issue that has been raised involving neighbourhood cats that are spraying, preying on bird feeders and affecting local wildlife.
 - Cat owners in the area are reminded to be vigilant with their pets.

There were no other matters raised for discussion during the meeting.

10. CLOSING REMARKS

The community thanked Annie for her hard work and dedication as the LHPCA President. Julie Buick's efforts on the LHPCA Executive were also acknowledged. Members of the community were thanked for attending the AGM and encouraged to continue to seek out the help and support of the LHPCA.

The LHPCA AGM adjourned at 3:43 pm.