

March 2005

Present:

Carolyn Gauthier,
Doug Beardshaw,
David Johnson,
Howard Keck,
Bill Smith

Other Attendees:

Erwin Dreesen,
Maria McRae,
Pat Murphy,
Riley Brockington,
Tom Collins (Correspondent for the Hunt Club Riverside News),
Representatives for the HOPE Volleyball Tournament -
Peter Abdallah : Event Coordinator,
Laura Andrews: Entertainment,
Heather Cucan,
Jolene Kosloski : Logistics Coordinator

1) Meeting called to order at 7:30.

2) Agenda

Moved by Bill, seconded by Howard that the Agenda be accepted. Approved unanimously.

3) Approval of February minutes.

Moved by Howard, seconded by Bill. Approved unanimously

4) Board Nomination

Mr. Hicham Farhat was nominated as an RPCRA Director (South). Moved by Howard, seconded by Dave. Approved unanimously.

5) OCDSB report from Trustee Riley Brockington

Riley gave a report on District school operations and future funding. In the immediate future J.S. Woodsworth and Laurentian High Schools are to be closed with 150 of their students being transferred to Brookfield. General Vanier was also at risk of closure in coming years due to declining enrollment. The trustees will seek input from stakeholders, including community associations such as the RPCRA for direction in these matters.

6) HOPE

The HOPE representatives gave a thorough briefing on planning for this year's event. For the most part they will be concentrating on optimizing the previous year's approaches to the issues of managing off-site parking, transportation and security which the RPCRA found satisfactory.

Councillor McRae noted some problems with on-site parking for emergency vehicles, which the HOPE representatives would investigate. Dave Johnson noted that the management of sound levels had improved in 2004 but there were still some problems, particularly with bass noise levels producing a "thumping" effect at some distance from the site. Laura Andrews was going to address this matter for the 2005 event.

Carolyn and Maria expressed concern over placement of portable toilets close to the wetlands area in the south. Upset if one of the facilities would drain into Mooney's Bay beach area and possibly close one of the two available public beaches in the City.

Finally Councillor McRae observed that the \$200 rental fee charged by the City seemed disproportionately low, given the event monopolized a major City recreational resource at high season, curtailing Mooney's Bay normal public recreational use.

7) Mail

Letter from RPCRA stating that development of a Walkley Road project by Zeiger Design Consultants has been abandoned.

Enrollment statistics at community primary/elementary schools provided by Riley Brockington.

Hicham volunteered to pick up RPCRA mail from the Hunt Club Community Centre.

8) Treasurer's Report

Howard reported that we had some \$25,000 in the bank. The 2nd installment of City funding for community rinks has been received and we are awaiting the final installment for the 2004/2005 season.

Discussion followed whether the Treasurer's report should be included in the website version of the minutes.

Moved by Doug, seconded by Bill that the website not include specific financial information. Approved.

Report from Councillor McRae

Maria gave an update on City affairs pertaining to our community including events celebrating Ottawa's 150th birthday. Councillor McRae wants community input to a time capsule to be dedicated in December 2005. This will consist of a number of scrapbook pages from each city ward.

She also noted that the proposed city budget includes support for the completion of the Sawmill Creek project. With respect to a city-wide ban on pesticides, Maria was still holding judgement.

An expansion of the Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre was recently given higher priority in City plans. Some RPCRA directors noted that while investment in the southerly part of the ward was good, there were requirements in Riverside Park to replace and update facilities such as the Vanier Park skating hut.

Committee Reports

9) Rinks

Fraser Thompson (Arnott Park) has suggested that rink volunteers should be provided with toques or vests marked RPCRA for general identification purposes. Most around the table seemed to agree with this idea.

Doug reported that the trailer at Bayview had been removed at the end of February. It was unfortunate that this date was not negotiable, since there was still skating into March. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a volunteer effort in the maintenance of the rinks. Funds should be made available to hire more students etc. The Board was in general agreement to this.

10) Communications

No report.

New Business

Victoria Day Fireworks

Doug suggested that the RPCRA should try to have a member on the organizing committee if RPCRA funds were used to support this event.

11) Winter Fun Day - no items

12) Insurance – no items

13) File Storage

Carolyn reported that Kaladar provided the cheapest storage at \$50 per month. It was confirmed that board members will get together in June to review RPCRA files for storage. There was discussion about use of the 7 year rule should apply to any items.

14) Roundtable

We are still awaiting information regarding the facilities at Vanier Park before the planned spring cleanup.

12) Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM