



# Bay Cloverhill Community Association

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

November 16, 2011

Held in the auditorium of the Metro Central YMCA, 20 Grosvenor St., Toronto

**WELCOME** – BCCA president, Norm Waite, welcomed all to the 5th Annual General meeting of the Bay Cloverhill Community Association. He introduced Mehdi Zobeiry, General Manager of the YMCA who spoke briefly about the extensive changes to the YMCA as it took on its new role of YMCA Headquarters for Toronto; he invited all to visit the YMCA and to become involved in the programs.

Norm welcomed visitors from the surrounding associations—GYRA, BENA, CWNA, and also, all BCCA residents. He described the role of the BCCA in relation to the public realm, public parks, the planting of/caring for public gardens, development in the community, safety in the community, and heritage preservation and protection. He welcomed St. Michael's University as the newest BCCA member.

**QUORUM & AGENDA**: Eight (8) voting member buildings were represented. Acceptance of the agenda as written was moved by N. Waite, seconded by L. Whelpdale, carried.

**MINUTES**: Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM had been reviewed by BCCA building representatives in September and posted on the BCCA website in early October, available for all residents to read. N. Waite moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by W. Dumas, carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**: (M. Gillman) The financial statement beginning on October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011 was reviewed. The Association remains in good financial condition. N. Waite moved adoption of the report, seconded by W. Dumas, carried.

**Toronto Centre M.P.P., Glen Murray** was introduced. He spoke briefly with his comments focussed on 2 topics:

- 1) 11 Wellesley Street West for which the litigation between a developer and the government of Ontario was progressing quickly. The community was advised to write many letters to Minister Bob Chiarelli, requesting that the land become a public park and to
- 2) the Ontario Municipal Board for which Minister Murray suggested that steps were in progress to allow Toronto the choice of opting out of the OMB.

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR BCCA COMMUNITY**

**BCCA WEBSITE** ([www.baycloverhill.ca](http://www.baycloverhill.ca)):

The BCCA webmaster, Alex Pryce, demonstrated the use and manipulation of the BCCA website by performing numerous functions as the audience watched it all on the large screen. He gave a brief description of how to register as a user on the site. Visitors to the website can access a full range of BCCA information, such as:

- the mission, vision, and history of the organization, a map of our BCCA community,
- how to access upcoming events information
- latest news page
- agendas and minutes of monthly BCCA meetings for the current year
- archived minutes for BCCA meetings from previous years
- letters written by the BCCA on specific issues
- descriptions of many BCCA initiatives
- links to websites of member buildings,

- links to neighbouring associations
- link to the website of Councillor Wong-Tam, Ward 27

A short description was given of the website statistics indicating how many users come to the site on a monthly basis.

**BIOSWALE ON BAY STREET:** (N. Waite)

The Bioswale plan has been a prime BCCA greening initiative since June, 2008. The innovative project, designed by Robert Mays, a landscape architect for the City of Toronto, will be constructed and planted along the east side of Bay Street from Grosvenor Street to Wellesley Street W. It is expected to provide enhanced growing conditions for trees, harvest run-off stormwater, and extend the life of trees in our downtown area. The contract has been awarded to Downsview Landscape Group; construction will take place in the spring of 2012.

Following N. Waite, Martina Rowley (animator for the City of Toronto) spoke on the topic of Civic Engagement. She commended the BCCA for their creativity in finding greening projects and their tenacity in funding the Bioswale and other greening projects in the neighbourhood. She said that a big action starts with one small voice. Civic responsibility must be shared by everyone.

**6 St. JOSEPH HOUSE:** (D. Desveaux-House Manager)

The ‘Seeds of Hope Foundation’ is the organization to which 6 St Joseph House belongs; this house, a charitable foundation, is located at 6 St. Joseph Street,. D. Desveaux commented on the collaboration and support between the House and the BCCA. Specific recognition was given to the BCCA ‘Clean and Beautiful City’ grant which was received in 2009 and which was used to paint 8 Bell Box murals in the community for which the mural work was done by artists from 6 St. Joseph House . The project has expanded since then through the co-operation of 6 St. Joseph House, Bell Canada, and Benjamin Moore Paints. To November, 2011, a total of 32 Bell Box murals have been painted.

She listed numerous services , that the house provides for the broader community. Other points were made in a video clip. 6 St. Joseph House provides meals and services to many who need help and hope.

**HERITAGE LANDMARKS IN THE BCCA:** (A. Hatch, K. Holden)

A. Hatch began by quoting Jane Beecroft, a local historian, who said, “The importance of preserving a property is determined by how much has already been lost.” K. Holden gave a brief history of 5 St Joseph Street, a building that has been lost except for its façade. Originally The Marmaduke and Rawlinson Delivery, Cartage and Storage Company was constructed in 1905 in a very strong heavy style to make customers feel that their stored goods were safe. After many successful years, the company moved to Mississauga where the company still exists. Over the years since then the building has been used for various alternate purposes. Recently the property was sold to a developer and is now the site of the construction of a 45 storey residential condominium. If this building had been proposed for an alternate use such as a Seniors’ Centre it is possible that 5 St. Joseph might have had a different future from the precedent setting tall tower within our community. Regret was expressed that such a beautiful old landmark had not been better protected.

What can be done to afford some protection for our remaining heritage buildings?

A photographic inventory of the buildings in the community is under way. Four volunteer photographers have commenced taking pictures and cataloguing the structures within the BCCA boundaries.

HCD Designation for Yonge Street from College/Carleton to Davenport: Yonge Street from College/Carleton to Charles Street West is perhaps one of the last existing examples of what Yonge Street looked like long ago. In order to provide some protection for that heritage style of two lines of small retail stores on both sides of the street, the BCCA is nominating this section of Yonge Street to be named a Heritage Conservation District. The process has been started. The nomination, strongly supported by Councillor Wong-Tam, will be submitted to the Toronto Heritage Department in January, 2012.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY:**(L.Whelpdale,C.Carnevali)

The BCCA regularly attends the 52 Division CPLC meetings (Community Police Liaison Committee), This is a way to communicate with the police and build strong relationships. Some of the activities have been addressing poor lighting problems, identifying safety problems in our back lanes, etc., and addressing these issues appropriately. Five of our local police officers were introduced to the gathering and their various assignments within our community were given. One officer spoke briefly re:the crimes within the larger community and made it very clear that when discussing assaults, thefts, and other frequent crimes, our neighbourhood is a very safe area compared to many.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** (L. Whelpdale)

L. Whelpdale explained the criteria of the Executive positions and election to an Executive position. She then chaired the proceedings for the election of 3 officers.

**President:** N. Waite was nominated for a second term of 2 years as president by K. Holden; seconded by M. Gillman; election by acclamation.

**Secretary:** C. Carnevali was nominated for a two year term as secretary by N. Waite; seconded by W. Dumas; election by acclamation.

**Vice-President - External:** R . Whitten-Stovall was nominated for a two year term as External Vice-President by N. Waite; seconded by K. Holden; election by acclamation.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** C. Carnevali introduced Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, our guest speaker for the evening. Councillor Wong-Tam began by giving recognition to several groups for their stellar community service:

- recognition of the police officers in attendance at the meeting
- recognition of the work done by community and residents' associations
- recognition of the BIA

She continued by reviewing the pledges made to Ward 27 residents during her election campaign which led into a review of the past 12 months, her first year of office. She reminded us that perhaps the busiest ward in Toronto and admitted that her job was a lot of hard work. She outlined a number of city issues that are important in the BCCA neighbourhood.

**Re-framing the Planning Process:** The Councillor commented on the need to achieve balance in the downtown. The threat of school closures indicates the need for all ages to be represented in the downtown population especially families in the downtown and the need for family size dwellings. It is all about a liveable city with good services provided by our tax dollars.

**Falling Glass Problem:** The problem was first noted in December, 2010. Much progress has been made and a recommendation is currently before the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing asking for emergency amendments to the provincial building code. Councillor Wong-Tam commented on the financial burden and the many impacts of the glass problems on the owners of the affected units. It is a very long time since changes to the provincial building code have been required. There is a likelihood that there will be public consultation as part of the process.

**9-21 Grenville Development:** The Councillor commented on the outcome of this development. The city was taken to the OMB despite a final planning report that gave a very generous 46 storeys to a mid-range secondary street building site. She commented on the impact of the OMB on the planning of the City of Toronto and referred to the need for the city to withdraw from the OMB so it could manage its own development issues as it is capable of doing. She requested that we (both the community organizations and individuals) write letters to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and city councillors requesting that the OMB be abolished or reformed. Such comments might inform city councillors when a vote re: the OMB comes before City Council.

**Heritage Preservation:** Councillor Wong-Tam suggested that the sort of condo tower building that has been prevalent on Bay Street is coming to Yonge Street. If we believe that Yonge Street is important as a heritage asset, we must move forward on making it an HCD as quickly as possible,

**Queen's Park North:** It was described as a heritage asset with oak trees older than 120-130 years of age. The park is under tremendous pressure for use for special events and festivals. Park renovations and improvements planned for next year including the monument will require that Queen's Park North be closed to all events for 2012.

**Bay Street Bioswale:** The Councillor talked about the value of trees on Bay Street both for increased property value, encouraging Bay Street as a pedestrian zone, and the positive gain of such greening.

**Compost:** The Councillor offered a load of compost to the community to be delivered in the spring of 2012 for the Mayor's Clean-Up Day to assist with our numerous gardening activities.

**Improvements to Local Subway Stations:** The Councillor addressed the need for improvements to the stations – the second exits, ways to resolve some of the platform crowding problems, safety issues. Private & public plans to make these improvements are needed. These discussions are ongoing.

In closing Councillor Wong-Tam told the crowd that Kevin Beaulieu, her Executive Assistant, had helped her adjust to her job at City Hall in many very helpful ways. She wished him well in his new work as of his departure on December 01, 2011. She reminded the audience of their good fortune in a committed group of volunteers for providing leadership within the community.

W. Dumas thanked Councillor Wong-Tam for her remarks and expressed the appreciation of the BCCA and the audience for being with us and expressing her thoughts on the welfare of the neighbourhood. The Councillor was presented with a cheque which was a donation to a special community charity in support of the elderly and the homeless.

After a few closing remarks, President N. Waite officially ended the AGM meeting at 8:45 p.m. so that attendees would have a little time to chat with one another before dispersing.

These 2011 Annual General Minutes were written by Kathryn Holden, Past Secretary of the BCCA.