



## **BCCA AGM Minutes - November 18, 2024**

### **1) Welcome, Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement**

The meeting started at 7:07 pm with President C. Dingemans as Chair. Quorum was met with representation from 12 of the 14 member buildings; 2 by proxy.

All were welcomed, with a special acknowledgement to guest speakers. The Meeting Protocol and Land Acknowledgement was read.

### **2) AGM Minutes**

Last year's November 20, 2023 AGM minutes were ratified at our BCCA General Members' Meeting held on January 15, 2024. Minutes were posted on the BCCA website.

### **3) TREASURER'S REPORT (M. Tait McClellan)**

Membership fees remain at \$1.50 per unit. This year the major expenses were attributed to FoSTRA membership fees and donation, website costs, a donation made to the 52 Division CPLC that went to sponsor a children's program at Beverley School, maintenance and signage for community gardens. There is a surplus of approximately \$20,000 that will be used to develop signage for the Clock Tower Trail.

### **4) GUEST SPEAKERS**

Councillor Chris Moise, Toronto Centre

Councillor Moise presented the following updates:

- Dr. De Villa's last meeting as Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, where a progress report on 'Our Health Our City' outlined how safe consumption sites saved lives.
- The Mayor and Council have worked to increase housing stock to alleviate the housing crisis, but need help from the provincial and federal governments. 500 refugees arrive in Toronto monthly. The City's new encampment strategy is to move people only if there is a place to relocate them. 3 of 4 of the largest encampments are in Toronto Centre, with about 24 residents in Trinity Park, 23 in St. James Park and 20 in Moss Park. The City has few resources to deal with mental health issues. The province has turned down the city's request for 1% of the sales tax.
- There were 5 cyclist deaths in 2024, highlighting the need for bike lanes.
- He attended the Healthy Cities Conference in Copenhagen where there is a mindset to put people in the centre of everything. 90% of Copenhagen residents are cyclists. It will cost \$40M to remove bike lanes as proposed in Bill 212.

**A Strong Voice for A Strong Community**

- Bay Cloverhill projects underway include a parking amendment motion passed at the Toronto East York Community Council to accommodate the loading zones on St. Joseph Street, painting of traffic control boxes, bump outs on St. Joseph Street and street planters on Irwin Street and St. Nicholas Street.

MPP Kristyn Wong Tam, Toronto Centre

They live in the Bay Cloverhill neighbourhood and acknowledged and thanked the police for their efforts.

As the official opposition critic for the Ministry of the Attorney General (justice and court), small business and LGBTQ issues were presented:

- The provincial government claims to be tough on crime but are not dealing with public safety which only works when court cases are heard in a timely manner. 80% of people on bail are awaiting trial. Ontario has the worst record for the 'Jordan principle' where cases must be decided on within 18 months. As a result, justice is not achieved for many cases like human trafficking, rapes and car jackings.
- The Fall economic statement cut half a billion dollars from the provincial budget, a decrease of 9%. The province is meddling in local planning. MPP Wong Tam will be introducing a bill to address the 2 to 3 year backlog in the Landlord Tenant Court and 9,500 cases pending in the Human Rights Tribunal to create a special committee to address the outstanding cases, increase legal funding and stop unqualified and patronage appointments of adjudicators.
- There were 3 Toronto focused motions proposed by the opposition party that were voted down:
  - making mental health services part of health services
  - creating a public housing agency to create 250,000 units and clear the backlog
  - a new deal for municipalities to reflect the \$44m in services downloaded by the province

MPP Jessica Bell, University Rosedale

MPP Bell, gave updates on 3 key issues:

- Bill 212 to speed up construction of highways, makes it hard to build new bike lanes and remove bike lanes on Yonge Street, Bloor Street and University Avenue. She has worked with Families for Safe Streets to highlight the stories of cyclist deaths, how cyclists just want to be safe and have their fair share of the road. On streets where there are bike lanes, accidents are reduced and cyclist use increases. The focus should be on investing in transit and reducing traffic congestion caused by construction. Bill amendments will be introduced.
- There is new legislation to close safe consumption sites in March 2025, including one in Kensington Market. 2,000 people die from opioid addictions and health care workers say more people will die without safe consumption sites.
- Bill 214 removes power from the Ontario Energy Board and reassigns it to the provincial government. The result will be more nuclear power plants supplemented by gas power plants without any cost analysis and consideration of alternative energy.

All the above issues are a diversionary strategy by the Conservative government to prepare for a snap election in March. Important issues like the 2.2 million Ontarians without a family doctor, proper staffing for schools and affordable and supportive housing are not being addressed.

#### Guest Speaker Questions and Answers

The vacant buildings on the north side of St. Mary Street and Yonge Street are part of the 10 St. Mary Street redevelopment. The Church of Scientology building on the south side of the intersection has been vacant for many years and is in compliance with city bylaws. The owners are current with property taxes and are not interested in selling as they still plan to renovate the building.

When asked if affordable housing can be a requirement of all new developments, it was explained that the province has not approved the City's inclusionary zoning policy with the requirement that all developments include affordable housing.

The removal of bike lanes in Toronto should be a concern for all Ontario residents, but it is being ignored by the media outside Toronto. It is a wedge issue for the probable Spring election. Congestion in Toronto is caused by 100,000 Uber drivers, CafeTO installations and lane closures from construction, telecommunications work and Metrolinx. It was pointed out that congestion on the highways is not caused by bike lanes.

The provincial government is using federal healthcare funding for private healthcare instead of public healthcare, without any repercussions. The provincial government is blaming socialist mayors. MPP Bell encouraged residents to support the Ontario Health Coalition, who is against private healthcare, and to share their stories about long waitlists for necessary surgeries with the media. UHN has apparently cut surgeries by 30%.

The province has turned down the federal government's offer for \$250M for matching funds to end encampments.

Licensing and regulation for micromobility devices is lacking by the provincial government. The City is advised by a Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee that declined to participate in an scooter trial. Residents are encouraged to participate in this Committee to have their voice heard.

The recent changes to the brick walls around the 7-11 at Bay Street and St. Joseph Street prevent them from being used as seats. Scheduled street furniture installations will provide additional seating in the area.

The most effective way for the Bay Cloverhill Community Association and residents to influence changes for issues that are important is to join forces with other associations, like FoSTRA and FoNTRA, and to be involved in the election process.

**5) ASK ANTHONY, Anthony Lamanna -Community Relations Officer, 52  
Division Toronto Police**

Constable Anthony Lamanna believes the city is safe despite media coverage. He speaks to people living on the street with mental health issues and encourages us to show compassion. More police officers are being hired, but it doesn't make up for the police officers that are retiring or transferring to other jurisdictions outside the city. It is very challenging to retain new police officers. American tourists in town enjoy the ability to walk around the city and find it clean and safe. Be careful of nefarious individuals during holiday shopping. Pickpockets use distraction techniques. Avoid being distracted while using your cell phone. Organized crime is behind car thefts, where vehicles can be sold for \$200k overseas. Always be aware of your surroundings.

**6) FALL 2024 UPDATE**

The Fall 2024 Update highlighted activities, projects as well as accomplishments ranging from meetings, monitoring developments, public realm projects and cooperation with other resident associations. There has been involvement with, and letters of support for, Federation of South Toronto Resident's Association (FoSTRA), Avenue Road Safety Coalition, No More Noise Toronto, use of Section 37 development funds, sidewalk safety/micromobility and Bill 212 regarding removal of the Yonge/Bloor/University bike lanes.

Full details are posted online at <https://www.baycloverhill.com/notices>

**7) EXECUTIVE POSITIONS**

N. Jongkind made a motion, seconded by T. Gardiner to acclaim C. Carnevali as Secretary. There remain 2 vacant board positions.

**8) OTHER BUSINESS**

BCCA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Next year marks 30 years since Bay Corridor Community Association (original name) started in 1995. In 2025, there will be acknowledgement of the efforts of the many founding and contributing members as well as stakeholders, recognition of community accomplishments and perhaps promotional giveaways. Legacy highlights will be featured on the website [www.baycloverhill.com](http://www.baycloverhill.com) and will be the focus of the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

University of St. Michael's College Events

- Flu/COVID vaccine clinic operating this week
- Kelly Library will be holding a popup CD sale
- a virtual information session on the Loretto College redevelopment will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>
- the annual Christmas Market will be held in early December

**9) WRAP UP**

The meeting ended at 8:48 pm.