

WEST ROUGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
2020 Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 West Rouge Community Association Annual General Meeting was held virtually.

Attendees

WRCA Board Members:

Kathi Loughran, Greg Long, Larry Whatmore, Kevin Narraway, Sharon Stoute, Sonya Barclay, Reza Khoshdel, Ash Khan, Rose Morra, Gita Viswanathan, Deb Kravis, Anne Garland

Community Members:

Wayne Anaka	Amit Joneja	Helen Morton
Janet Ashberry	Carmen Kelly	Michael Mulgrew
Vida Barker	Mary Kelly	Lee Oattes
Fred Bennett	Carol Klupsch	Molly Paolozza
Pam Bennett	Neerija Kumar	Jan Pearce
Steve Bested	Hal Latif	Julie Purmalis
Jim Borland	Victoria Lecker	Dave Ramsay
Darlene Cross	Marlene Leslie	Kinga Rayment
Gary Dale	Elizabeth Lingenfelter	Celeste Richards
Jim Delsnyder	John Lingenfelter	Janice Rodrick
Jodi Do Couto	Jack Mann	Sohaib Shahid
Carolanne Duncan	Anne Mason	Judy Sheridan
Ian Evans	Lillian McMullin	Diane Sherlock
Christyne Gauthier	Chris Meier	Nathan Somasundaram
Carole Hardacres	Tiffany Meier	Shyamala Somasundaram
Scott Hardacres	Glenda Metrick	Mary Soye
Don Harvey	Ken Metrick	Bryan Stewart
Megan Hood	Ian Milne	Soraya Walker
Melissa Insanic	Paul Mora	
Jayne Johnson	Fred Morton	

Guest Speakers:

MP Gary Anandasangaree
MPP Vijay Thanigasalam
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

Call to Order

AGM was opened by Kathi Loughran at 7:05pm. The guest speakers were introduced. A change to the Agenda was announced with the Town Hall leading the AGM to accommodate a scheduling conflict for one of the guest speakers, followed by the WRCA business meeting.

Town Hall

The elected representatives each provided an overview of the activity for their respected level of government, followed by a Question & Answer period moderated by Greg Long.

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MP Gary Anandasangaree

Acknowledged the WRCA's work during the pandemic and provided an overview of the federal government's focus:

- ensure safety and support of people both financially, as well provide provincial and municipal support
- implemented a \$19B safe infrastructure program, of which \$7B came to Ontario
- the primary issue is long-term care where 80% of deaths occurred in the first Covid-19 wave, 53 deaths at Altamont including 1 staff. Now seeing effects in the 2nd wave which has propelled him to take the lead to ensure a national governance standard for LTC homes
- anticipates a difficult fall and a tough winter with respect to the virus, and continuing cancellation of sports and recreation events
- ongoing collaboration and dialogue with Vijay and Jennifer

MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Thanked the WRCA for its work and acknowledged that it is not easy to engage with residents during a lockdown but small business owners and the community have stepped up and found ways to stay connected such as drive-thru celebrations.

Overview of the provincial activity:

- all three levels of government are working together especially with respect to the funding stream
- provincial testing capacity increased to 40,000 per day
- local manufacturing plants for PPE for the 2nd Covid-19 wave compared to the 1st wave when Ontario had to purchase from outside the province
- highly recommends downloading the Covid alert app, it is free and private with an anonymous message sent if someone you met or encountered contracts the virus
- strongly encouraging everyone to heed the advice of medical experts to not go door-to-door for Hallowe'en to protect the community especially our senior residents
- small businesses especially the food industry most hard hit with respect to continuing fixed costs during the lockdown
- mental health issues are increasing in province, Minister of Mental Health is expected to announce budget for added staff and programs, and grants for hospital upgrades

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

Thanked the board for invitation to attend the AGM and the WRCA's work in engaging local residents and provided an overview of City initiatives:

- Scarborough Cares at UofT held a pop-up food drive, many West Rouge volunteers, collected 4000 pounds of food
- taking nominations for best Hallowe'en decorations and haunted houses in the neighbourhood. Mark's Pizza and 4 Sweet Cookies have offered a prize
- City website provides Covid updates at toronto.ca/covid19
- all City employees are required to download the Covid-19 app, encourages everyone to do so
- Bob Loptson park upgrade survey, comments and feedback are being reviewed. Indications are that the community wants the original design to accommodate more accessible features, along with a sandbox. Upgrade is scheduled for Spring 2021
- Automated Shuttle – partially funded by Transport Canada, TTC, City of Toronto and Metrolinx. May not launch with passengers due to Covid-19 physical distancing requirements. Testing continues, finalizing routes, expected launch in Spring 2021, added pressure from higher levels of government for the City to look at micro-transit technology
- Port Union Road widening – funding remains secure despite the City facing huge financial pressure. Project to expand the road to two lanes both ways to start in early 2021.
- Rogers and Toronto Hydro have completed their service locate work as part of the widening project, Bell is expected to begin next
- Port Union bridge is being upgraded and widened, residents were notified
- ToGoToronto.com city website launched to promote take-out with pickup or in-house delivery for included restaurants to reduce fees incurred when restaurants use delivery services.

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- Outdoor dining permissions to continue throughout the winter with heaters/patio

Question and Answer Period

MP Gary Anandasangaree

Q1. You had briefly mentioned in your presentation the Rent Relief for Small Businesses. In light of the recent changes to the Covid-19 restrictions within Toronto due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases, are there any specific updates or information that you could pass along to our residents who own small businesses and manage not-for-profit organizations within our community?

A1. The suite of support for small businesses will carry through next year, available also for not-for-profit organizations and charities. Efforts to ensure as many people are working as possible.

- Rent relief partnership with landlords with each party taking 25% although landlords are reluctant. New program being launched shortly where 25% of rent will be covered by the federal government on an as-needs basis
- Interest-free loans offered in March will be increased and extended to end of 2020, including forgiveness threshold if loan is not paid off within specified time
- wage subsidy extended to June 2021 with sliding scale as not all businesses are affected in the same way

Q2. There is planning currently underway to create a boardwalk trail that will connect Rouge Beach to the Glen Rouge Campground within the Rouge National Urban Park. There is a forecasted visitor number of over 300,000 visits per year which will result in an influx of vehicles parking on residential streets and potential for increased noise and littering. What considerations or initiatives are you working on to support our local community, which will be directly affected?

A2. Legislation passed in 2017, in the process of establishing a management committee which will be citizen-led with collaboration with the City of Toronto, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and Durham. Primary consideration is maintaining ecological integrity. Community will have ample input over time on its feasibility, WRCA is a stakeholder and will be consulted. Important to recognize the Rouge National Urban Park is in our backyard and a gem for our community, and as we transition to actual development, the challenges will be worth the long-term gain. Feel free to call his office with questions and to further discuss.

MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Q1. What is the province's strategy to retrofit long-term care homes to make them safer for residents and employees? Can you further comment on any funding and or initiatives specifically related to long term care homes located within your riding?

A1. Inspection completed of Altamont was the beginning of gathering information for all provincial long-term care homes. All resources to keep them protected are being tapped with federal investment in Covid prevention and containment measures, including necessary renovations, staffing, training, and safety equipment. Expert panel assigned to determine a solution. Lesson learned from the first wave of Covid-19 in the spring is to ensure that both public and private long-term care homes are using money to protect residents and staff, with regular inspections to maintain standards at all times and not just during a pandemic.

Q2. We understand that the province has been directly involved in planning for Covid-19 testing as you had stated in your presentation. The community wants information specifically related to testing in Pharmacies. Could you provide any updates with regards to future available Covid-19 pharmacy testing locations within your riding?

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A2. Centenary Hospital and Scarborough General Hospital are working on having more pop-up centres and increase in testing facilities. Covid testing locations will be updated as they come up. Appointments are needed due to colder season to avoid long line-ups outside, the goal is still 50,000 tests per day. The backlogs have now been cleared. Contact Vijay's Case Manager, Tas Borovilos for further information and updates after today.

Q3. When will flu shots be available in doctors' offices (question received in the Chat Room)?

A3. Vijay's office will provide a response once they have the timeline but for now the closest pharmacy giving flu shots is at 799 Milner Avenue. Additional pharmacies are expected to have the flu vaccine available, but locations have not been named just yet. With 700,000 flu shots coming to the province for the first time, there is complexity in the roll-out but expects announcements on news media shortly.

City Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

Q1. Due to the challenges over the course of this summer at Rouge Beach specifically related to parking, litter and behavioral situations that occurred, has there been any strategy or communication between the City of Toronto and Parks Canada to better define responsibilities and ownership within the beach area?

A1. Requests and concerns must be sent to Parks Canada. Parking lots were closed and paid duty officers were secured during the summer to patrol the parking lots. Much improvement seen now and over the summer, security has helped and transition is in process. Everyone is now communicating regularly to prevent hiccups in the future, the MP's office has been helping to connect with Parks Canada to get paid resources.

Gary added that since RNUP is a federal agency, there are growing pains as land was transferred from the City to Parks Canada, and the pandemic brought more people to enjoy outdoor spaces. The Superintendent of RNUP is encouraged that things are under control.

Q2. Along Lawrence Avenue East between Rouge Hill Go Station and the Starspray Bus loop there has been an increase in TTC busses parked in the bicycle lane on the south side and pavement concerns, specifically that the bicycle lanes are very bumpy and uneven. This makes the continuous throughway for vehicles and bicycles dangerous. Could you provide us with the timelines for this stretch of road to be resurfaced and upgraded and are there any strategies or upcoming renovations to the Starspray Bus loop area to eliminate the busses from parking on Lawrence Ave East?

A2. Jennifer was not aware of this issue, she will advise TTC that buses should not be parked on Lawrence Avenue and make them aware of the back-up problem this causes. Email the Councillor's office at councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca if the issue continues. She will also look into any upgrade plan for that stretch of road to fix the pavement.

Q3. As this is not directly a City of Toronto project, our residents are inquiring if Rogers will be doing the same system / infrastructure upgrades as Toronto Hydro and Bell have done within our community (question received in the Chat Room)?

A3. Rogers has not sent any communication but her office will reach out and find out if any plans. Hydro is working on restoration of property resulting from the upgrade (e.g. to replace sod). Trying to work together with Hydro, Bell, and Rogers so all come out at the same time but private companies are more difficult to coordinate; Bell and Hydro have both followed through.

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Introduction of WRCA Board Members

Kathi Loughran thanked the guest speakers and introduced the board members individually. Kathi recognized Anne Garland for her service and announced that Anne is retiring from the board after 5 years.

Review and Approval of 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes proposed by Kathi Loughran, seconded by Mary Kelly. None opposed, motion carried.

President's Report

Presented by Kathi Loughran, President

In spite of the pandemic, this past year has been a busy one for the WRCA.

W.R.C.A. Highlights

- Bio-Gas Plant - advocacy in collaboration with neighbouring community groups to oppose the waste transfer and bio-gas plant that has been proposed for 633 Coronation Drive. It would be the largest plant of its kind in the province. If this plant moves forward, several hundred large trucks would be travelling through local residential streets, it will emit toxic gases and there are concerns about noise levels.
Advocacy efforts have included lawn signs, a petition, a press release, letters to the Environmental Registry Office and joint letters to the Mayor, Premier, and Minister of the Environment
- Construction of Eglinton East LRT - letter to Executive Committee in support of construction of the Eglinton East LRT & meetings with Metrolinx regarding the closure of access to the waterfront trail at Chesterton Shores. Since the closure, waterfront trail users are being directed through the GO Station. We continue to advocate for a commitment to construct an alternative access point to the trail.
- Other Initiatives
 - Hosted two successful Community Clean Up Days along the waterfront in partnership with CCRA on Sept. 26 and Oct. 17
 - Correspondence with the Committee of Adjustment in response to applications for minor variances to the zoning bylaw, in cases where the requested variances for property modification or redevelopment requested are not minor in nature, in an effort to maintain the character of our neighbourhood
 - Continued support of local events and sports teams
 - Engagement with Rouge National Urban Park around Beach/Boardwalk Project, attended meetings to discuss the proposed options for a new trail between Rouge Beach and the Glen Rouge Campground
 - Communication with RNUP and city staff around operational concerns such as parking and litter at Rouge Beach

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The WRCA has continued our work throughout the pandemic

- Street captains were unable to canvas for memberships which has resulted in reduced revenue
- Increase in memberships purchased virtually through PayPal which lessened the impact of lack of canvassing and raised awareness of contactless payment options
- Many events were cancelled in accordance with Public Health Guidelines so donations were reduced
- Delivery of hard copies of the spring issue of the WRL magazine was delayed until June. A soft copy was posted on the WRCA website which allowed for a broader reach

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Financial Report

Financial Statements presented by Sharon Stoute, WRCA Treasurer

Income and Expenses Summary

- Overall revenues decreased by \$4.0K in F2020
 - Membership revenues decreased by \$3.9K
 - Advertising revenues for West Rouge Life were down slightly by \$1.0K
 - Cash was invested in GICs total earned (paid and accrued) interest of \$421
- Expenses decreased \$0.5K which includes the annual depreciation of \$2.5K per year for the electronic sign on Island Road.
 - Donations to events decreased by \$2.5K
 - Bank charges decreased by \$47 or 18%. PayPal charges increased 36% due to the increased number of transactions.
 - Operating costs increase was driven by communication; technology costs related to the communication with members, lawn signs, and the electronic sign on Island Rd.
- West Rouge Life Magazine production costs slightly exceeded revenues by \$0.6K
- Financial year ended with a \$0.7K net surplus

Balance Sheet and Investment Income Update

- As at Sep 30th the WRCA had a cash balance of \$18.2K and \$40.4K in GICs
- Accrued liability of \$6.3K is for the estimated cost of printing the 2020 Fall issue of West Rouge Life magazine

Membership Deposits

- Chart reflects the monthly flow of membership fees in F2020 back to F2018; April was the peak month in 2019 while June has been the peak month in 2020
- The Covid-19 limitations and guidelines meant a delay to the collection of membership fees as illustrated

Kathi Loughran proposed a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Larry Whatmore. No objections, motion passed.

Election of the W.R.C.A. President & Board of Directors

Larry Whatmore, Director of Membership, chaired the election and advised that the WRCA Constitution requires that the Board of Directors be retired before proceeding with the elections, and the President be elected first, followed by all other directors as a group.

Larry declared the 2019 Board of Directors to be retired.

Election of President

One nomination received and presented:

Kathi Loughran has just completed her first year as President and has been a WRCA board member since 2013 and one-year as President for the 2019-2020 term. The WRCA Constitution requires that nominees for President be a current member of the Board of Directors and have been a Director for at least one full term.

Having received no other nominations, Larry declared that Kathi Loughran is acclaimed as President.

Board of Directors

All current members of the board have indicated their willingness to serve another term.

The remaining members were presented for election as a group:

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Greg Long, Vice-President, Director of Crime and Safety, and Communications Lead
Kevin Narraway, Past President, Webmaster, and Director of Planning and Development
Sharon Stoute, Treasurer
Larry Whatmore, Director of Membership
Gita Viswanathan, Director of Advertising for West Rouge Life
Ken Kuzmich, Publisher of West Rouge Life
Sonya Barclay, Secretary, and Director of Website Advertising
Reza Khoshdel, Director of Environment and Conservation
Ash Khan, Director of Social Media
Deb Kravis, Director of Rouge Park Operations
Rose Morra, Director-at-large

Larry asked for any other nominations, none received.
All current board members were declared as elected for another term.

Concluding Remarks

Kathi Loughran stated that the board is felt to be an appropriate size, but encourages community members to consider serving on the board and to contact her for more information. The WRCA is always looking for dedicated volunteers who are interested in making West Rouge a better place to live, the board has the authority to appoint members during the year in between annual AGMs.

Kathi Loughran opened the floor for any questions new / other business.

Q1: Has the WRCA expressed an opinion on the trail being built through the Rouge marsh?

A1: The WRCA has not expressed an opinion or taken a position, although engaging in any meetings to hear the proposal and options and understand the impact on the community. Residents are encouraged to raise any concerns with Parks Canada – Jeffery Law is the contact.

Q2: Is there a possibility for advocating to have speed bumps installed on Friendship Avenue? Vehicles travel 20-30kms over the 40km posted speed limit.

A2: Emergency vehicles are concerned with speed bumps as they hinder response time. The WRCA will continue to advocate other measures to control speed.
Jennifer McKelvie responded that the Speed Display Board was up on Friendship for a while but has now been removed as it is rotated throughout the neighbourhood. These are used in 'hot spots' but there is a risk of desensitizing drivers if displayed for too long or used too frequently. Jennifer will request for the speed sign to be put back on Friendship Avenue and also encourage use of 'please slow down' lawn signs. She will also confirm that automated speed signs are being used effectively in school zones.
Contact Greg Long, WRCA contact for Crime and Safety for further off-line discussion.

Adjournment

Kathi thanked everyone for attending
The AGM adjourned at 8:25 pm