

# WEST BEND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of November 21, 2007

Chair: Duncan Farnan, Minutes: Hilary Bell

Guest: Michael Menegon, Producer, Special Projects, Junction Forum for Arts & Culture

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

## 1 Minutes of October 17, 2007

The minutes of October 17, 2007, were read and amendments were made to item 4.1 as follows:

### 4.1 Tentative Plans for Upcoming Meetings

**November 21, 2007 – Junction Centennial Celebration, Guest speaker, Michael Menegon**

Original topic, Traffic study and management deferred to a later date. Duncan to contact Councillor Perks' office to develop a plan.

**January 16, 2008 – Vision Study for Bloor/Dundas**

In conjunction with City of Toronto Planning Department and Kevin Edwards, city planner

Original topic, Urban Forestry – tree inventory has been deferred to **March**.

**February 20, 2008 – Animal Policy in the City**

Chair/organizer: Deborah Chalmers

Potential guests: City of Toronto Animal Services, Animal Alliance of Canada

**March 19, 2008 – Urban forestry and tree inventory**

Chair/organizer: David White

**April 16, 2008 – Municipal Task Force Reports on uploading and tax assessment**

Chair/organizer: Hilary Bell, Tim Noranha

Possible guests: Cheri di Novo, Gord Perks

**May 21, 2008 – to be determined**

**June 18, 2008 – to be determined**

## 2 Junction Centennial Celebration

2008 marks the centennial of the founding of the City of West Toronto, the last of a series of municipalities carved out of York Township during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the area popularly known as *The Junction*. In 1909, the City of West Toronto was annexed to the City of Toronto. Michael Menegon, producer of the Junction Arts Festival, is working with the Junction Forum for Arts & Culture (JFAC) and the West Toronto Junction Historical Society (WTJHS) to mount a series of installations and activities to mark the centennial year under a grant program for Community Heritage and Anniversary Projects. He provided the context and described the following potential events:

- Junction Murmur Project – an oral art work, consisting of personal reminiscences about the neighbourhood both contemporary and historical
- Historic Mind/Modern Eyes – curated exhibition of 15 artists

- Stockyards exhibit or walk
- A short history booklet
- Focus on the Junction during the Contact Photography Festival in May 2008 (e.g., life size installation of actual size storefronts circa 1908)
- Replica of CPR Station
- Documentary – the Junction Centennial
- A train journey from the Junction to Dundas, Ontario
- Twinning with Elizabethville (north of London, Ontario), also celebrating a 2008 centennial
- West Bend and Junction Residents Associations – signage project (funded through s.37 funds from 403 Keele Street) or Discovery Walk

Michael would like to hear from interested volunteers:

- residents
- schools
- history buffs
- stockyards

Actual incorporation day was April 14, 1908. The day may be marked by special events – perhaps even a plebiscite on whether to secede from the city or to “go dry” (just kidding). Check the JFAC website ([www.junctionartsfest.com](http://www.junctionartsfest.com)) for more information.

### **3 Status of Area Property Developments**

#### **3.1 1540 Bloor Street West**

City Planning has now offered to conduct a Vision Study for Bloor to develop guidelines for development along Bloor Street from just east of Dundas to Parkside/Keele.

- **January 16, 2008** at Indian Road Crescent School
- **March 5, 2008**
- **March 26, 2008**

The results of the Vision Study will help the planner to evaluate the proposal for 1540 Bloor Street West (former Joe mercury/Range Plaza).

#### **3.2 McBrides Site Development**

Nothing to report. At last contact, Robert Chang was still engaged as architect and Justin Garak was still owner. It might be a good idea to approach the owner informally to see if we can find out what he is thinking. With the development of Victoria-Royce Church into Victoria Lofts at Medland and Annette, he may be re-thinking the site.

### **3.3 Village by the Park**

Options for Homes has applied to have the development charges deferred and is still waiting for a decision. Variances were approved and demolition will proceed in the new year. S.37 money of \$200,000 is coming to Junction BIA (\$150,000), the Junction Business & Community Development Corporation in which the West Bend is one of the four participating organizations (\$20,000 for signage, Discovery Walk, see above re Junction Centennial plan) and \$10,000 each for three parks (Vine, Baird and one in Ward 11 north of the site).

### **3.4 1638 – 1650 Bloor Street West**

A developer proposes to build a 10 – 12 storey condo at the north-east corner of Indian Grove and Bloor Street West (current plaza with Pet Value, Curves, etc.). A preliminary meeting was held October 16 to look at the draft Avenue Segment Study. People attending the meeting were fairly positive and receptive to intensification. See the study at <http://www.box.net/shared/0th51nnt0f> Password: Bloor. (Note: the password is case sensitive.)

## **4 Committees & Reports**

### **4.1 Baird Park Improvements**

Parks has completed the long-promised fence around the playground. It matches, in style, the iron fence around the whole park. New sand was installed in the fall. A notice board has also been installed and Tim Noronha agreed to look into getting a key so we could post WBCA notices. Repairs to the pathways are pending the availability of funds.

### **4.2 Treasurer's Report**

Balance as of November 21 is \$879.37. Permits for 2007 – 2008 have been paid, and income and expenses related to the All-Candidates/Referendum meeting have been paid. Of the balance, \$500 is a fund for maintenance of the Wallace Footbridge murals and \$233.29 is the balance remaining from the 2006 – 2007 Clean & Beautiful City grant (\$750 minus plants and supplies costing \$516.71). *Ted Fox moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Aileen McDonald. Passed.*

### **4.3 Communications**

The Communications team (Tim, Aileen and Peter) met and proposed some new interactive features for the website. The contact address has been changes to [info@thewestbend.ca](mailto:info@thewestbend.ca). Other enhancements may include: ability for individuals to subscribe to updates; segmenting the members' list by interests so members would receive the updates that most interest them; ability for individuals to update the Events section with garage sales or other community happenings; and a community chat room. Tim has also set up a steering committee e-mail address [steering\\_committee@thewestbend.ca](mailto:steering_committee@thewestbend.ca) to make it easier to keep the whole steering committee in the loop.

### **4.4 Agenda Planning for 2007/2008**

See revisions to October minutes at the beginning of these minutes.

## **5 Other Business and Announcements**

Paul Telford from Medland Street provided an update on Victoria Lofts:

- Of 38 units, half have been sold.

- Windows will be donated to another church.
- Church structure will be kept but Sunday school building at rear will be modified.
- Pillars will be incorporated in the suites.

Paul also asked for advice on how to organize a residents association. We let him know about the former Junction Residents Association and encouraged him to start monthly meetings again with the help of the former JRA members (Hilary to provide contact info). Also, we suggested Paul contact Councillor Saundercook's office and request a community meeting about the development.

It was noted that buses frequently exceed idling guidelines at the Keele subway station. It was suggested to contact Councillor Perks' office to ask him to investigate.

Membership fees are due in January. Aileen will draft a notice as she did last year.

## **6 Next Meeting**

December festive occasion will be at the Blackjack Grill on Keele opposite the post office on Wednesday, December 12th. (Aileen to draft invitation.)

## **7 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm