

Leash Free Mississauga Board Meeting
Wednesday April 2nd, 2014 (Approved May 7, 2014)
Mississauga Valley Community Centre
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Directors:

Joan Christensen President
Jim Bentley Vice-President
Suzanne Godin JD Rep
Barbara Hanson Secretary
Debra Buckler Treasurer
Dave Carty Toto Rep
Anne McGivern Director
Jack Clark Lakeside Rep
Richard Bramwell Q-Park Rep

Leslie Jamieson Recording Secretary
Hazel McColl City of Mississauga
Marc LeBlanc Toto Member

Regrets:

Sonya Matheson Garnetwood Rep
Michael Wood Director
Patricia Pierpoint Past President

7:05 ~ Meeting called to order

1~ Approval of Agenda

Suzanne moved approval of agenda :with a note to add fundraising
Debra seconded the motion
All in favour ~ motion carried

2~ Approval of Minutes

Barbara moved to approved a reworded Mission Statement
Suzanne seconded the motion
All in favour ~ motion carried

3 ~ Reports

A. City Report

Request made for a decision on grass cutting at Lakeside, Parkway Belt, Garnetwood and Toto. Cutting will begin in May and is scheduled for once a month. A decision will be made at the May meeting.

Councillor McFadden will be holding a public meeting on Tues Apr 29th regarding the proposed Button Bush site

- o A corporate report will be presented in June with construction beginning in August if site is approved
- o Joan will attend the meeting and it is open to all LFM members

March 19th meeting

- o The city has met with dog walkers
- o Over 100 surveys have been received so far and are still being accepted
- o Postal codes are being recorded in an effort to avoid duplicate responses
- o Hazel will bring her report to Laura Piette on Monday and the target date for the Corporate Report to go Committee is May 7th

Bulletin Boards

- Hazel asked the board if there is still interest in moving forward with the construction of 4 bulletin boards for Etobicoke Valley, Garnetwood, Parkway Belt and Lakeside
- Due to the cost of the boards, \$1000 per board, Hazel did not proceed with the order without verification
- If a decision is reached in May we can expect the boards to be installed in fall '14
- Jack asked if members of the board can construct the boards themselves and present them to the city for approval, and the answer is yes
- Jack and Richard would prefer to come up with an alternative plan as the cost seems high
- Hazel will send the specs to Joan who will forward them to the board and the group can come up with a proposal for Hazel
- The discussion was deferred to the May meeting as there was only 1 rep at the meeting from the 4 parks

A. Financial Report

Jim moved to approve the financial report

Suzanne seconded the motion

All in favour ~ motion carried

4 ~ Business arising

E. Code of Conduct

Discussion points regarding the Code of Conduct rough draft provided by Barbara

- It was suggested that we don't call them rules, we use respectful wording and reduce the use of the word 'don't' to sound less negative
- Anne brought in some great examples of diagrams to be used in conjunction with the rules, there is an artist at JD who is willing to draw them as chosen by the board
- Question was raised as to who enforces the rules
- Pictures potentially more effective than words
- Suggestion made to post them in two groups
 - Bi-laws and Do's & Don'ts
- Replace existing yellow signs with new signs displaying the "Top 10"
- Post signs in appropriate areas i.e. 'close gate' posted on gate
- Jack will send out copies of the diagram examples for the board to review before the next meeting (there will be 15 minutes allotted at the next meeting)
- Feedback is requested and appreciated prior to the next meeting
- Question regarding unneutered dogs was posed and the City of Mississauga is looking into it
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The following items were approved in principle for inclusion in the Code of Conduct

- Don't bring a dog into the Zone who bullies, causes serious injury, intimidates, has a contagious illness, or is in heat.
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- Don't bring food or alcohol into the Zone, cook, or hold private events
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- Don't bring items that might lead to injury into the Zone such as laser toys, choke collars, balls smaller than 2.5" diameter (standard tennis ball), or spiked collars.
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- Please bring extra bags and put them in containers for use by people who run out of, or occasionally forget, bags.
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- All Leash - Free Mississauga members and Zone users must comply with the City's Respectful Workplace Policy

AA. Membership

Richard took a moment to read an email he received from Michael Wood to the board. It was an email apology to the board and specifically Jack Clarke for his inappropriate outburst at the March meeting which Jack accepted with thanks.

Jim is working with Michael to start a Mail Chimp Account to update all membership info on the website.

Michael is taking the data base and inputting it in Mail Chimp

The question of how to increase membership was raised

- Word of mouth i.e. peer pressure
- Business cards
- Park reps walking around with membership forms handy and talking to people
- Have the membership list posted on the bulletin boards as was done in the past
 - Dog names and first name of walkers only
- Suggestion was made to have a major membership drive in June
- Jack suggests more than 1 per year
- Joan made the suggestion to develop a calendar of events for each year, including events from all parks i.e. JD Fun and Family Day
- Joan will send a mock up around and would appreciate feedback
- Jack questioned how we can improve membership when park reps don't have access to the membership lists
- Jim is developing an email list per park allowing park reps access to their own parks membership list

- Barbara reminded the board of the concern regarding privacy
- Jim is working on privacy issues and a discussion regarding privacy concerns will be carried over till next month

Joan made the suggestion that EVERYTHING be transferred to the new website and be edited from the new site

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of calendar year renewals

- Debra suggested December 31st expiry
- advantages: no need for tags, not posting lists
- cons: too many financial burdens on people in January
- Joan suggested expiry fall in line with fiscal y/e
 1. September 30th expiry with a \$ due date of October 1st
- Jim and Marc suggest April/May expiry

Dave moved the renewal date for membership expiry fall in line with fiscal year end of September 30th

Jim seconded the motion

6 in favour

1 opposed

Motion carried

BB. Covered under city report

5 ~ New Business

A. Organization

- I. A draft of an events calendar will be sent out electronically
- II. Operation Plan
- III. Budget mock-up was distributed

A. Fundraising

Jack is currently working on a calendar for 2015

The Pet Valu in Clarkson has until now provided bags for use at JD and Lakeside at no charge (to be distributed 1/3 LS and 2/3 JD) and due to Pet Valu head office no longer cost sharing he is unable to continue to offer the bags for free

There was a discussion had regarding whether LFM should pick up the cost of the bags

Pet Valu Clarkson has offered to set up a donation collection for a period of time with all the money collected going to pay for the bags

- Questions were raised regarding LFM money going to pay for bags
- The onus should be on the individual
- There will be a considerable cost for the bags which will benefit only 2 parks

Pet Valu is also considering sponsorship for the 2015 calendar

Joan will contact the owner and discuss the options available to us that will benefit everyone and report back to the board

Motion to adjourn at 9:20

ALL IN FAVOUR!

See you all at the next meeting

Wednesday May 7th @ 7pm

Mississauga Valley Community Centre