

Leash-Free Mississauga Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

(Reviewed with all contributors and LFM Board members; pending approval at next General Meeting)

Date: 7 December 2011
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Burnhamthorpe Community Centre

Attendees:

Board of Directors	Jim Harper	Debra Buckler	Lynne Hind
Absent with apologies	Andrea Casale	Linda Weaver	Diane Petrie

Park Representatives:	David Black	Jack Clarke	Gloria James
Absent with apologies	Patricia Pierpoint		
	Dennis Weaver	Anna Legge	

Members:

Etobicoke Valley	Lynne Hind		
Garnetwood	Paula Curtis	Leslie Jamieson	Shane McNeil
Jack Darling	Donna Appleton	Barbara Hanson	Jack Clarke
Lakeside/Petro Canada	Jim Harper	Patricia Pierpoint	
Quineppenon	Richard Carmen	David Black	
Parkway Belt	Gloria James		
Totoredaca	Dave Carty	Nancy Gorelle	Debra Buckler
	Andrea Ferguson	Brett Martin	Gordon Divitt
	Paul Goold	Martin Goold	Leslie Blais

Debra Buckler and Nancy Gorelle greeted attendees at the door, recorded their names and park memberships and provided members with a red sheet for voting purposes.

A Quorum was achieved with 21 members present, representing all 7 parks.

Lynne Hind served as Chairperson and opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the current Directors and Park Representatives.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was distributed at the door to all attendees. Jack Clarke motioned that the Agenda be approved and Debra Buckler seconded the motion. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of minutes for AGM December 2010

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting were distributed at the door to all attendees. Some changes were identified.

2.1 Lynne Hind was elected as a Director at the 2010 AGM but this was not reflected in the minutes.

2.2 Spelling correction - liaison

Lynne took on the task of making the corrections to the 2010 AGM minutes.

Jim Harper moved that the minutes be adopted as corrected. Barbara Hanson seconded the motion and the corrected minutes were approved.

3. New Business

3.1 City Report

Hazel McColl is the City Liaison for Leash-Free Mississauga, returning after a six-year gap. Hazel reminded us that LFM has now been in existence for 16 years. She was there in 1995, when the pilot was instigated, and LFM was officially launched the following year with two parks, Jack Darling and Totoredaca's predecessor, Battleford Park.

Member questions for Hazel.

3.1.1 What is the Role of the City Liaison?

The City Liaison is the link between LFM and the City of Mississauga, facilitating group development and ensuring that applicable policies and guidelines, procedures and by-laws are communicated to the group.

The Liaison assists LFM and the Parks Dept. with identifying new locations and establishing new leash free zones within Mississauga Parks

She also provides support and information re City services, i.e. Animal Services.

3.1.2 Are there formal reports to City Council regarding LFM?

LFM is not on City Council's agenda. Visibility is via Quarterly Success Reports, which are circulated to Council.

Councillors participate with individual parks and promote LFM on their websites.

Any issues brought to Councillors, or identified by them, go through Hazel and then to LFM.

Hazel reports to Andy Wickens, Manager, Parks and Forestry

3.2 Mississauga Animal Services

Mr. Du Rose is the Manager of Mississauga Animal Services, the City department that rescues and cares for lost pets and reunites them with their owners, as well as providing adoption services and responding to and investigating citizen complaints re dog bites/attacks, etc.

All of this work is funded through animal licensing and ticketing. Currently only about 10% of dogs and cats are licensed.

Animal Services officers visit all parks, including Leash-free zones, to check for unleashed dogs outside of the zones and for unlicensed dogs. The officers have on board computers in their vehicles and can sell a license or issue a ticket on the spot or give a 14-day warning.

Animal Services does not get involved with the Dog Owner's Liability Act for incidents in Leash-Free parks. Dog owners can pursue cases civilly, if need be. Leash Free zones are considered to be "Enter at your own risk".

Limiting the number of dogs with one professional walker is still an issue under consideration but Mr. Du Rose does not expect it to be addressed this year as there are many other items on the table. He feels it is very hard to establish a ceiling for the maximum number of dogs under the control of a single walker.

Member questions for Du Rose

3.2.1 Would you consider selling LFM membership with every dog license?

I believe that would require an amendment to the by-law, however membership in leash free is up to each owner and should not be mandated under the by-law. Licenses are a legal requirement and membership should be left as an individual choice and would not be approved, or supported by Animal Services. It would also place the cost of leash free on many owners who do not use the areas.

3.2.2 Will Lifetime Licensing be brought back?

There is no plan to return to Life Time Licensing. Costs increase over the life time of a dog and the City's intention is to provide all services in a revenue neutral way. When Lifetime Licensing was introduced, sales of licenses dropped over time.

3.2.3 Are the costs of cat and dog licenses the same?

Yes.

3.2.4 Could LFM provide License Applications in the parks?

You could invite Animal Control to fund raising events.

Presidents Report:

It has been an interesting as well as trying year at LFM. We are dealing with 3 park closures that have resulted in great frustration for members as well as diminished membership.

We have also witnessed the opening of the beautiful Lakeside Park and would like to thank the City for getting the Petro Canada site as a temporary measure.

We adopted a new form of structure for our meetings this fall that have allowed them to flow much better and allow us to accomplish more in the short time we have during the meetings.

My greatest surprise this year has been the number of people that have come forward and volunteered for sub-committees to help with the rewriting of the Constitution as well as the Newsletter. I want to thank them and I hope this is something that will continue in the future so that we may proceed with input from a greater number of people towards park issues at LFM.

3.3 Financial Report:

Debra Buckler presented the Treasurer's Report, which is attached as

Appendix A – Balance Sheet

Appendix B – Statement of Income and Expenses

Appendix C – Notes to Financial Statements

3.3.1 For the fiscal year 2011, LFM had

Total Income	\$ 10,412.50
Total Expense	\$ 11,439.97
Deficit	\$ 1,027.47

The deficit has been covered from investments.

Total Assets \$ 42,927.45

3.3.2 Debra fielded questions re how the reports relate to each other.

3.3.3 Members offered suggestions to differentiate the 70% of membership fees assigned to Leash-Free Mississauga from the 30% of membership fees reserved for each individual park.

3.4 Individual Park Reports

Etobicoke Valley – Lynne Hind

The park remains closed for construction to allow the region to do some much needed repairs to the underground sewer system. The re-opening is anticipated for late-Spring/early-Summer 2012.

Garnetwood

Garnetwood has been without a Park Representative for most of this year. In 2011 the park signed up 33 new members, installed a new light for security and raised \$475 at a fund raising event in September.

Jack Darling – Jack Clarke

At last month's meeting I asked Hazel about installing lights and an exterior water tap in the revamped Jack Darling Leash Free.

It resulted in a meeting on Wednesday, November 30th with Hazel McColl and Frank Buckley, Mississauga Parks and Jeff Hennings, Project Manager of Jack Darling Water Treatment Plant.

I required:

1. That some lighting be installed by the North East corner of the Park between the 2 parking lots
- 3.4.1 That a Water Tap be installed outside the pumping station but inside the Leash Free Area

It was agreed that this could be done with some details to be finalized. The great thing about this is that there won't be any cost to Jack Darling Leash Free.

So a big Thank You to Hazel, Frank and Jeff on behalf of JD Leash Free.

Lakeside/Petro Canada – Patricia Pierpoint

Lakeside re-opened in late June. Many of the regulars have returned and memberships grew by 27 but Petro Canada remains very popular, despite the announced closing date at end-March 2012.

The reduced size of Lakeside is perceived to be very small and many of the weed issues remain. The dual gates, one in / one out, with no clashing in the middle, benefit both dogs and owners and also provide a smooth straight though flow for wheelchairs on the cement path and patio. The water tap was a blessing, providing cool water for drinking in the heat of Summer but the wet sidewalk, dirty water bowls and adjacent muddy field detracted from this benefit. We are working with the City to find drainage and drinking solutions before next season.

The Annual Meeting was held at Lakeside on October 22nd with only 15 members. Seating is a priority and talks are underway with the City to find the right fixtures and locations for next year. Both parks are getting new wood chips to cover the paths and fill in the digger dog holes. We give a grateful thank you to Hazel for all her advice and support and to Jeff Cunningham and his crew for

their help in spreading the paths at Lakeside and to our Volunteers for their help in spreading so many areas at Petro Canada.

Parkway Belt – Gloria James

There is increased security for the dogs as a chain link fence has been installed in the south west corner of the park, which faces Eglinton Ave. Also the gates have been improved at the entrance to the park. In 2012 there will be no garden area which will give the dogs more space to romp and less hassles with clean up.

Quineppenon Meadows – David Black

The park has lost 100 members due to construction. For the last 6 weeks the park has been closed more than it has been open. The works project covers a 4-year time span but phase 1 may finish ahead of time. The Region of Peel has been very helpful. Lighting has been installed now and water will be available at the end of the project. Our annual Christmas dog gift exchange has been cancelled for this year,

Totoredaca – Dennis Weaver

Dennis was unable to attend but there were questions and discussion from Toto members.

Security Light was requested to for the Back Parking Lot area. However, investigation of the cost of bringing electricity into the park proved to be prohibitive.

Portable Toilet - results of the porta-potty survey showed that there was sufficient member support for continuing to pay the cost of \$100 per month. After a letter from a member with a disabled child, was forwarded to the City's Accessibility Committee, it was determined that the portable toilet must comply with the City's accessibility policy. Consequently the original toilet was removed on November 9th and replaced with an accessible model on November 10th at an increased cost. City will subsidize until fundraising is in place. Hazel will assist with fundraising plan. If the monies are not raised, the potty will be removed.

October 30th Halloween Event parking was severely limited due to closure of the Park Gates to the back parking lot, causing attendees to park on the busy street adjacent to the Park. These gates had remained open until 1:00 pm on the day of the event.

Hazel explained the City's policy to close the Main Gate from the street to the back parking lot at the end of the last working day in October each year, since the City provides no winter maintenance in that area.

Community Groups have keys to the Master Lock as do city staff. The back parking lot can be opened for planned events.

4. Amended Constitution

4.1 Explanation from Sub-Committee

LFM established a Sub-Committee in September 2011 to review and revise the Constitution as needed. Tonight we are presenting 4 changes required by The City of Mississauga's new policy for its Community Group Support Program, which is designed to assist non-profit groups like LFM. The Policy outlines eligibility criteria to become either an Affiliated Group or a Recognized Community Group. LFM proposes updating its constitution to comply with the requirements for Affiliate status.

4.2 General Membership vote for approval

4.2.1 Update to number of Directors from 4 to at least 5

After a lively discussion of the roles of Directors and Park Representatives, Martin Goold moved to adopt the change to a Board of at least 5 directors. Gordon Divitt seconded the motion and it passed

4.2.2 Residency requirements

- Majority of Board must be Mississauga residents
- President or VP must be Mississauga resident
- 80% of members must be Mississauga residents

Discussion focussed on how the majority would be maintained and whether Board business could be transacted in the event of absenteeism, resignations etc. It was agreed that any gaps must be filled before business would be transacted. Leslie Blais moved to adopt this change, Nancy Gorelle seconded the motion and it passed.

4.2.3 Adherence to Human Rights Code

We clarified that the code referred to is the Ontario Human Rights Code and accepted a correction to the wording to state that LFM shall comply. Paul Goold moved to adopt this change, Andrea Ferguson seconded the motion and it passed.

4.2.4 Application of Conflict or Interest Policy

Gordon Divitt questioned why the guideline and procedure for the LFM Conflict of Interest was not included in the Constitution change package. Patricia attempted to describe the procedure but without the document it was agreed that this change could not be approved. Hazel agreed that the City would accept the withdrawal of this item, as long as it will be redressed and brought to a vote at a general meeting before the next AGM

5. Elections for Board Positions

A Hotmail address was set up for nominations and election questions and distributed to all members in the LFM Newsletter. Four candidates were nominated prior to the meeting.

Debra Buckler; Nancy Gorelle; Barbara Hanson; Patricia Pierpoint

A new member, Shane McNeil, nominated himself at the meeting, bringing the number of candidates to five.

Andrea Casale, who served as President in 2011 to complete the term vacated when Erica Saunders resigned, moved into the Past President position, increasing the number of open director positions to 3. The approved Constitution change to have a Board of at least 5 Directors made it possible to increase the number of open positions.

After general discussion, Martin Goold made a motion to accept all nominees. Andrea Ferguson seconded the motion and it was approved by a majority of the members present.

6. Adjournment

Martin Goold moved to adjourn the meeting. Lynne Hind seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Appendix A

Leash-Free Mississauga Balance Sheet September 30, 2011

ASSETS	2011	2010
Cash	\$12,670.67	\$14,642.51
Investment	30,000.00	25,169.85
Accounts receivable	209.40	307.17
Prepaid deposits	47.78	47.78
Total assets	\$42,927.85	\$40,167.31
LIABILITIES AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$6,121.66	\$2,004.72
Individual park liability (see note)	25,269.64	25,598.99
	31,391.30	27,603.71
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	11,564.02	10,202.78
Current deficit	-1,027.47	2,360.82
Total liabilities and surplus (deficit)	\$41,927.85	\$40,167.31

Appendix B

Leash-Free Mississauga
Statement of Income and Expenses
For the Year Ended September 30, 2011

REVENUE	2011	2010
Memberships		
Etobicoke Valley	\$ 133.00	\$ 402.50
Garnetwood	668.50	546.00
Jack Darling	1,029.00	550.00
Lakeside/Suncor	818.00	721.00
Parkway	157.50	157.50
Q Park	441.00	1,092.00
Totoredaca	<u>1,701.50</u>	<u>1,932.00</u>
	4,948.50	5,401.00
Donations		
Purina	5,000.00	5,000.00
Pet Valu	333.00	-
Other	<u>50.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
	5,383.00	5,150.00
Interest revenue	<u>81.00</u>	<u>171.78</u>
Total revenues	<u>10,412.50</u>	<u>10,722.78</u>
EXPENSES		
Park expenses		
Etobicoke Valley	-	-
Garnetwood	4,016.70	-
Jack Darling	-	-
Lakeside/Suncor	485.90	-
Parkway	1,367.50	580.65
Q Park	657.97	3,035.55
Totoredaca	1,791.27	2,415.50
Advertising	533.41	466.40
Bad debt	140.00	10.00
Postage	128.82	-
Insurance	405.00	405.00
Interest and bank charges	0.64	3.16
Paypal fees	146.05	79.21
Office supplies	120.01	66.92
Printing/newsletter	708.97	88.19
Telephone	446.76	423.09
PO box rental	152.55	135.60
Website	<u>338.42</u>	<u>652.69</u>
Total expenses	<u>11,439.97</u>	<u>8,361.96</u>
Net deficit for year	<u>- 1,027.47</u>	<u>2,360.82</u>

Appendix C

Leash-Free Mississauga
Notes to Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2011

30% of membership dues collected by each park is allocated for the use and maintenance of that park.
 The other 70% is allocated to Leash-Free Mississauga for it's daily activity and for any major capital investments.
 100% of individual donations are retained by that park.

Current cash allocations for parks

		2011	2010
Etobicoke Valley			
	30%	539.00	482.00
	donations	<u>1,077.50</u>	<u>917.50</u>
		1,616.50	1,399.50
Garnetwood			
	30%	595.50	309.00
	donations	<u>716.97</u>	<u>2,093.41</u>
		1,312.47	2,402.41
Jack Darling			
	30%	11,108.37	11,110.50
	donations	<u>2,368.85</u>	<u>1,535.00</u>
		13,477.22	12,645.50
Lakeside/Suncor			
	30%	4,669.50	4,487.50
	donations	<u>1,332.94</u>	<u>815.00</u>
		6,002.44	5,302.50
Parkway			
	30%	3.00	214.55
	donations	<u>0.69</u>	<u>171.15</u>
		3.69	385.70
Q Park			
	30%	832.51	925.50
	donations	<u>1,539.58</u>	<u>1,484.38</u>
		2,372.09	2,409.88
Totoredaca			
	30%	270.43	362.50
	donations	<u>215.00</u>	<u>691.00</u>
		<u>485.43</u>	<u>1,053.50</u>
		<u>25,269.84</u>	<u>25,598.99</u>