

MEETING MINUTES



Wednesday May 3, 2017

Mississauga Valley Community Centre, Program Room 2 from 7-9 pm

Board Attendance	Member Regrets	Member No Regrets/Vacancy	Guests
Gayle Laws- President James Aiken, Vice President Karen Forrest, Treasurer Irene Hill- Secretary Jennifer Reid-Kuess – Etob Valley Kevin Pulis – Garnetwood Carol Mitchell- Parkway Belt Elaine Theriault – Q Park Kim Miedema – Toto Dave Carty – Past President	Leslie Peres - JD	Cathy Hunt – Lakeside Marianne Mowbray (Resigned)	Hazel McColl – City Liaison Alex Izzo Samir Menon

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08. Agenda was approved.
2. The minutes from April 5, 2017 were reviewed.

Moved by Kevin, seconded by James, that the April 5, 2017 minutes be approved and posted on the website.
 Carried

3. REPORTS:

a) President; Gayle Lawes

James, Vice President will chair the June meeting as Gayle will be absent. Each agenda item will have a standing item requesting the city to provide a status of the planning of new parks.

b) City:

Hazel reported that:

- As part of the City's Strategic Planning, citizens are being consulted via a City Connects survey. This survey allows dog owners to respond about the need for leash-free parks. There will be more public engagement after the survey. The Mississauga Master Plan, 'Future direction' will be completed in 2019 and will include leash free dog parks as an option for the redesign of city parks which is done once every 10 years for every park.
- The Corporate Policy on maintenance for leash-free parks is being drafted. This will include recommendations for parking, fences, buffers, etc.
- Wind shelter at Parkway Belt. Hazel will be scouting the area to determine where the concrete pad will be built.
- Replacement fencing for Q Park should be done within a few weeks. Has been delayed due to wet weather. The shed will remain.
- No status on the picnic tables for Jack Darling. Leslie needs to follow up via 311.
- Storage container at Toto will be removed. Hazel to coordinate this in consultation with Kim.
- Recycling cans will no longer be available at dog parks because they have been contaminated with dog poop.

- Garbage cans will be placed on the outside of each park fencing so they can be collected by trucks. This means a change in practice at Toto which currently has garbage cans in the parks and volunteers remove the garbage.
- Q Park had garbage cans moved inside the parks. The cans will be relocated outside the park with reinforcements.
- Hazel reported again that grass cutting will be every 10 days but still has no schedule. Signs have been made to alert park users of closures due to grass cutting.
- Etobicoke Valley will be closed next week for tree planting. Signs will be placed at the park.
- Construction at Jack Darling will commence June 8. Signage will be placed at the park.
- Previous LFM Board arranged for code of conduct signs at each park. They need to be updated. The city is revising signs, and LFM Board will review these signs after they have been reviewed by the city's Legal Department.
- Code of Conduct regarding children must be posted on bulletin boards.
- Paul Caffey (also known as Wildwood) proposed leash-free park in Malton is still under development.

c) Financial:

Karen noted that she is not receiving information linking memberships with park assignments.

Action: Gayle and Karen will follow up with Anna, the webmaster. Also Gayle will follow up with Anna regarding the issues of membership sign up and communicate how to do it.

Karen confirmed \$7,000 received from Purina. Thanks to Marianne for coordinating this annual donation. Purina will have their logo on the home page of the website.

Membership is 154 to date- which is seriously low compared to 558 for 2016. Discussion: Why is the web site not allowing enrollment to go through for renewals? Is there a question, 'Where did you hear about us?' If yes, can the drop down menu add 'Pet Expo' and 'Dog fest'.

d) Membership and Communications

A volunteer has offered to assist with communications.

Gayle will draft a newsletter and requires park reports from each park rep.

e) IT and Website

Marianne has resigned effective May 3, 2017. She provided a website report. Gayle will contact the webmaster for full briefing about status of the website and what needs to be done.

f) Fundraising and Event Planning:

A report from LFM involvement with Pet Expo and Dog Fest will be attached to these minutes. It was agreed that LFM should have a presence at both these events.

Irene displayed the new park photo posters which can be used during any membership drive or promotions. They will be stored at Gayle's home, along with other LFM assets.

4. Zone Updates:

- a) Etobicoke Valley: Jennifer reports a park clean up was held April 22 and that lots of garbage was collected.
- b) Garnetwood: Kevin reports woodchips were delivered and that students helped to disperse them around park.
- c) Jack Darling: Karen reports that the annual Easter Egg hunt on Good Friday was very successful with about 300 people lined up to participate. There were 7 new members and \$206 was raised.
- d) Parkway Belt: Carol said the park clean up on Earth Day April 22 was successful
- e) Q-Park: Elaine reported that her park is clean but that it needs more wood chips.
- f) Toto: Kim asked when the water will be turned on. Hazel will check. Doggie pot holes must be filled with either soil or gravel. There was one bad dog incident.
- g) Lakeside—no report

5. Action items:

- a) The signs that were designed and hung last year have too much information on them, thus the key message of going to the LFM website is lost. An idea to create very simple signs, a few to be hung at each park depending on size of the park, which simply says Become a Member at Leashfreemississauga.ca with the logo

Kevin shared his research on various prices for signs. Additional information is required before a decision is made. Kevin will provide this information and a decision will be made by email (as an exception to board practice due to timeliness of the signs). The final decision will be recorded at the June meeting.

- b) Alex, guest, suggested members be encouraged to submit photos of their dogs to the website. Gayle noted this will be encouraged via the newsletter and we hope to receive lots of pictures of our local dogs.
- c) Leslie created personalized LFM business cards to hand out to people in the park, and to solicit donated items from stores. She made a template that each park rep could use. After discussion, it was decided not to have personalized cards because there could be confusion with the official Leash Free business cards. All board members are encouraged to hand out the official business cards, and board members can be verified as being legitimate via the website contact page.
- d) Irene presented an option to purchase small pocket flashlights to be used as gifts for new memberships. Possible \$1.19 each if several hundred were ordered. Discussion led to decline.

Next meeting Wednesday, June 7, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

Minutes taken by Irene Hill, Secretary