

LEASH FREE MISSISSAUGA

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MEETING MINUTES



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday November 3rd, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

7:00 PM to 9:00 pm

Board Attendance	Board Member Regrets	Board Member No Regrets/Vacancy	Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angela Puliyodil – President & Meeting Chair - Kevin Pullis – Vice President - Rose Shao – Treasurer - Bruce Hunter – Secretary - Hugo Reinoso – IT & Webmaster - Veronica Cheng – Social Media - Ryan Verwymeren – Etobicoke Valley - Margaret Hempstead – Garnetwood - Sue Walsh – Jack Darling - Ellen Lockley – Lakeside - Carol Mitchell – Parkway Belt - Bob Dowling – Totoredaca 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vacant – Membership and Communications Director - Vacant – Fundraising and Events Director - Vacant – Quenippenon - Vacant – Paul Coffey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jamie Ferguson, M. Sc., Manager, Park Services Park Operations, Parks, Forestry, and Environment Division - City of Mississauga - Etobicoke Valley: Catherine Williams, Glen Hogle - Garnetwood: Alice Liu, Peter Paryniuk, Trish Aleve, Virginia Cook - Jack Darling: Deborah Lauzon, Julie Murphy, Kim Gladding, Peter Bremner, Renee Skea - Lakeside: Heather Ciasnocha, Molly Fuller - Parkway Belt: Kim Harkins - Quenippenon: Alan Attar, David Ohashi, Luciano Lolli, Patricia Bally, Sarah Craig - Totoredaca: Chris Erskine, Dania Lynne, Dave Carty - Other: Heather Stewart, Rakesh Misra

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- ❖ Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM, seconded, with a quorum being present; moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.
- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
Angela welcomed all to the LFM Annual General Meeting for 2021 and introduced the board members.
- ❖ Apologies and Regrets - none
- ❖ Quorum
There being more than 10 members from more than 3 parks and all directors in attendance a quorum was declared at 7:08pm.
- ❖ Minutes from November 4th 2020 Annual General Meeting
Accepted, approved, and seconded by the board at 7:09pm.
- ❖ Minutes from October 6th, 2021 board meeting
Accepted, approved, and seconded by the board at 7:10pm.
- ❖ President's report
 - We had a fairly quiet year so far because of COVID, a lot of social distancing in place, a much higher influx of dogs coming to the leash-free parks.
 - Happy to report for the most part people have been doing fairly well introducing their dogs to the dog park, picking up after their dogs which was a bigger issue last year, through the help of the Park Reps been able to mitigate that issue a little bit.
 - Brought up last year, we wanted to have more functions to bring in more new members signing up, but because of COVID this was put on hold, hopefully after mask mandates are eased up should be able to do over next couple of years, saving budget funds for this to pull in more new members, have a few more membership drives, to have more clout with the City and Councillors.
 - Going to be opening more new parks in North East and North West parts of Mississauga
 - Encouraged members to contact any of the Board members and Park Reps, we are the liaison between the Members and the City
- ❖ Treasurer's report
 - The September 30, 2021, LFM Financials are posted on the website
 - Reviewed \$10K donations including much appreciated Purina \$5K grant and remaining from much appreciated member donations
 - Reviewed \$2K expenses, including road signs to increase membership, facebook advertising, insurance



- Reviewed net income of \$8K could have been spent
- Ideas welcome from members to increase membership and engagement
- Winter hats on order, expected next month

❖ Questions to Directors

- Toto member asked about the fence going in the back; Jamie reported city just finalized with contractor to do the work, working with Forestry team to finalize the boundaries, to protect the woodland there from declining forest health due to a lot of unauthorized use, this is done across the city where declining forest health is seen, volunteer tree planting has been done, let forest rest for 10 years or so and regenerate, fencing should be complete before year end
- Toto member also asked about process for getting permission to use leash-free forest trails; Jamie reported no process in place, and may not be supported by Forestry team due to lot of impact by leash-free use, invasive species spread, trampling of undergrowth, impact on wildlife; Etobicoke Valley park is most like leash-free forest trails
- Jack Darling member asked about mud and muck, standing water making some dogs sick, gravel or wood chips needed, entrances have large puddles; Angela reported loss of Park Rep moving away few month ago with vacancy hoping to fill tonight, ideally Park Rep will open 311 ticket number requests that can be followed up
- Another Jack Darling dog-walker member also mentioned closed off higher-level sections and deep holes needing filling but need fill to put in the holes; Jamie reported ideally city more than happy to deliver fill and wood chips ideally during turf-cutting when park is shut down, and likes to liaise with LFM Reps or Board for commitment in spreading wood chips and filling holes normally coordinated and done by LFM Reps and Volunteers
- Quenippenon member apologized and thanked Jamie for patience dealing with after previous park rep resigned, understands best to go through Park Rep or Board member; Jamie confirmed that LFM, a Registered Group, is best main point of contact with city
- Another Jack Darling member appreciates the park but does need maintenance and asked who the Park Rep is, also it is a large park, and can there be more than one Rep, are there enough Reps; Kevin reported that Sue is now official JD Park Rep but others can volunteer to help do the job; Angela mentioned members are also welcome to join monthly Board meetings to participate
- Also, the JD member asked about the process to volunteer as park rep, Angela asked that members interested can apply but Sue currently only candidate for confirmation today; member understands and will volunteer to help as needed



- Another JD member asked about upcoming construction for an update; Jamie advised Region of Peel leases park to the city and doing work on underground facilities week of Nov.8th, and completion date of all construction not available yet due to COVID and supply chain issues sourcing some of the materials, and he will follow-up and report back to Angela on overall completion dates
- Q Park member asked about protocol for 311 tickets and following up; Jamie confirmed best to work through Park Rep.
 - member also appreciated parking lot lights and asked about water and lights in park itself; Jamie confirmed capital investments should go through LFM board, and the light and water requests are already noted for consideration, it is complex due to Q Park leased to city by Region of Peel and agreement with them and Ontario Clean Water agency but is in progress to determine feasibility.
 - Jamie confirmed if there is an immediate health and safety risk where a person or animal can get hurt or loose, like broken gates, tree branches hanging, broken trees about to fall, hole in fence, etc., anyone can call 311; maintenance and operation requests should go through Park Rep or Board.
- JD member asked best way to communicate with Park Rep or Board; Angela explained website Contact section has message function to send emails, and Hugo explained Board members section explains who the Park Reps and Board are.
- Another JD member asked about why restricted park hours on weekend; Jamie informed last bylaw update removed restricted hours, signed will be updated, parks are open from dawn until 11pm.
- Another JD member asked about children bylaw; Jamie advised updated bylaw last year, if bylaw being ignored at certain times causing safety concerns, can be passed on to city who can arranged security visits during those times to enforce bylaws.

❖ City of Mississauga report

- Small dog areas were benchmarked by the city of surrounding municipalities and Jamie will bring city recommendations to the December board meeting, which will become design standard for any new leash-free areas, and when maintaining fencing at existing LFM parks will look at implementing small dog areas if one does not exist already.
- Winter coming soon so city ensuring sandboxes in place to assist with icy conditions, and will be spreading pet-friendly ecotraction product up to gates; sand for use within park only, not on paths outside parks, can clog storm sewers.
- New dog park at Paul Coffey is now open at Derry Road and Goreway Drive in Northeast corner of Mississauga. Park 459 at new Churchill Meadows Community Centre will be open in 2022, with a small dog area.

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- ❖ Proposed resolutions
 - Approve updated Constitution with 1 required change from city, moved by Hugo, seconded by Carol, motion passed, will be posted on website.

- ❖ Acceptance of financial statements
 - Moved by Bruce, seconded by Ellen, motion passed, posted on website.

- ❖ Election of directors
 - Secretary position filled by Bruce since July, all in favour voted by raising hand on camera or in Zoom, vote passed unanimously
 - Jack Darling Park Rep position filled by Sue, all in favour voted by raising hand on camera or in Zoom, vote passed unanimously
 - Quenippenon Park Rep position, Sarah volunteering, all in favour voted by raising hand on camera or in Zoom, vote passed unanimously
 - Fundraising and Events Director, Alice volunteering, all in favour voted by raising hand on camera or in Zoom, vote passed unanimously

- ❖ Park Rep Updates
 - a) Etobicoke Valley: Ryan: people staying overnight in park over last 18 months, campfires and litter issues, many new visitors, occasional coyotes, foxes and wildlife, looking forward to next year
 - b) Garnetwood: Margaret: woodchips and sand on order to fill many holes, users asking about brighter lights, still waiting for gates to be fixed and benches to be moved away from fences to prevent dogs jumping over
 - c) Jack Darling: Sue: looking forward to partnering with other volunteers
 - d) Lakeside: Ellen: expecting woodchip delivery, working with volunteers to spread and to fill holes
 - e) Parkway Belt: Carol: willow tree needs trimming, split during storm, needs gravel between entry gates, looking for icy pathway support from city
 - f) Q-Park: Sarah: need woodchips, like to get water in summer, lighting improvement desired to review with Jamie
 - g) Toto: Bob: looking for city update on trees in forested area, back parking lot, lots of volunteer help happening

Next Meeting is the December Board Meeting on Wednesday December 1st, 2021, at 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Minutes taken by Bruce Hunter, Secretary