



Old East Village Community Association

Executive Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 16th/2015

Location: Lifespin (Small room, enter off Ontario Street)

Time: 6:30-8pm

Open to the public

Executive Members Present:

Kristina Greenaway-Courey, *President*

Benjamin Vazquez, *Vice-President*

Jacalyn Grabowski, *Treasurer*

Lori Aitken, *Secretary*

Rodger Moran, *Director-at-Large*

Carole Perraud Joly, *Director-at-Large*

Carrie Vaughan, *Director-at-Large*

Executive Members Absent:

Jennifer Diplock, *Past President*

David Cook, *Director-at-Large*

Joel Eckert, *Director-at-Large*

Guests:

Andre Vashist, *Verge Capital*

- 6:39pm Kristina** Meeting called to order. Delay caused due to locked meeting room.
- 6:40pm Rodger** Introduced Andre Vashist of Verge Capital
- 6:41pm Andre** Affiliated with the Pillar Non-Profit Association
Verge Capital's goal is to invest in businesses, associations or non-profit groups who are enacting great change in their areas
First project funded is the For the Love of Laundry - Melissa Powers
Second project is the Food Incubator. Launch date is January 19/2016, 4-7pm. 630 Dundas Street.
Focus is on London and surrounding communities. Their launch in OEV was heavily supported by ATN.
RSVP's will be necessary in order to properly prepare for the launch.
- 6:56pm Kristina** Carole moved to accept the November minutes. Rodger seconded. All in favour. No opposition.
- 6:57pm Kristina** Discussions are underway about dealing with the Adelaide Street train crossing. Evaluations for an overpass, underpass, etc. Construction (if approved) wouldn't begin until 2031 but the plans and consultations are underway now. We will need to represent OEV even though it is a long way off.

Civic Works Committee meeting on January 5th. This is a public meeting but it's not taking public input. If we don't have a representative to attend, we'll follow up with Jesse Helmer for an update on what was discussed. Rodger or Jacalyn may be available.

7:01pm Kristina Ward 3 and 4 community meeting. Kristina attended the planning session today. January 14th from 6-8:30pm at the North London Optimist Community Centre. First hour Jesse Helmer and Mohammed Salih will answer questions submitted ahead of time. Then open mic questions for 30 minutes. Lastly, ward 3 and 4 will break off into groups to discuss our particular areas.

We need a volunteer to assist with the registration table and 2 others to take notes. Lori is unsure of her commitments in early January so she'll have to wait until a few days prior to the meeting to RSVP. Rodger has also volunteered to take notes for one of the hours.

Note: This does conflict with the Pints and Politics event.

7:05pm Kristina Approached by Carolyn and Charles Innis from North East London Community Conversations about the possibility of beginning to consider a basic income program. The new Liberal government is interested in doing a pilot program to evaluation the concept's pros and cons. They plan to discuss this in their own area but they'd like to have the same meeting in Old East Village as well. North East London plans to meet in January. Lifespin or EVAC would be good venues here in OEV and early February would be a good time. Lifespin or EVAC would likely co-host the conversation. The back room at EVAC can hold up to 80 people.

Kristina will keep us informed as details firm up.

Benjamin Notes that Prince Edward Island is rumoured to be in the running for the pilot program so we may be late to the party however, there is no harm in exploring the topic. The pilot is anticipated to start in 3 years with program implementation in approximately 15 years.

Kristina Though this is a national issue, programs like this often get off the ground with support at local levels.

Benjamin Anticipates that several local groups may wish to get involved (LIHC for example)

Carrie What is the expected outcome of the meeting?

Benjamin It's too early to have expectations but it's a good chance to talk about what a basic income program is, how do they work, what are the pros and cons, how do we weigh in, etc. This is the first month of probably 7+ years of legwork so it won't be a quick venture.

Carole What's the goal of these "conversation meetings"?

Benjamin Public awareness, education and perhaps a petition would be the likely initial expectations after these conversation meetings.

Kristina Will get more specific details and pass those along to the executive by

- email.
- 7:18pm Benjamin** Smokestack update. He spoke to Jesse Helmer recently and Jesse doesn't anticipate that saving the smokestack is going to be the battle that we want to go to bat for. We need to stay in the good graces of City Hall and there are anticipated heritage issues that we anticipate in the near future that would be more important than the smokestack. Though not a lost cause, he indicated we might want to choose our battles. The developer is opposed, city staff and city council are lukewarm. We would have to turn over one of these groups to gain any headway. Other things are more important to focus on in the coming months such as: Kellogg's Benjamin was in the area of the Kellogg's building a few days ago when Joe Fontana happened by and offered a tour of the building on the spot. Unfortunately, he was unable to do so due to other commitments at that time. Benjamin will contact Joe Fontana sometime soon to potentially arrange a walk through.
- Kristina** Mr. Gillies (a heritage enthusiast) has been contacting Kristina recently with lots of interest over the McCormick's site. Kristina will forward his email address to Benjamin so they can touch base.
- 7:25pm Jacalyn** Is anything happening with Lorne Ave? The request for proposals was put off from June 1st to October 1st and still we haven't heard anything.
- Kristina** She hasn't heard anything from the city but can touch base.
- Benjamin** It's his understanding that there are some other employees from the area being moved into Lorne Ave temporarily. He hopes to save the school bell, a carved wood map and some plaques from the walls. He anticipates that we will need to write a letter to the school board to request transfer of ownership of those items.
- 7:29pm Kristina** OEVCA Facebook page. What do we want to do with it? It works differently than Kristina had hoped. She wanted items on that page to share to the Facebook group automatically. Instead it says "Kristina shared OEVCA's post". The new page allows non-OEV people to see what's going on in the area. The FB group benefits OEV residents specifically. The old page could be called OEVCA Village Chatter, whereas the new page should be the full Old East Village Community Association. There are concerns that changing the group name will make it hard to find but there are already many versions of OEV, Old East, etc so people do tend to try the many variations until they find what they're looking for. Currently Kristina, Carole and Lori have access. Carole will add the other members of the executive, though Rodger doesn't wish to have access. In upcoming monthly meetings we'll try to be more aware of who is

- posting to the OEVCA Facebook page. Also, Lori will try to remember to post member messages and minutes to the Facebook page.
- 7:47pm Kristina** Project Neutral. Neighbourhood by neighbourhood initiative trying to reduce our effect on the environment to a neutral level. Kristina will reply to Jay Stanford at the City of London to indicate we are interested and would like more information.
- 7:49pm Jacalyn** Newsletter. Not happy that the next issue is happening a full month after the soiree on January 29th.
We realize that we have little control over this. We can try to compensate with full and regular member messages that are also posted to our Facebook page and group.
- 7:51pm Carole** Soiree. Friday, January 29th/16, doors at 6:30pm, Westminster Park at 7pm, meeting from 7:30-8:15pm, Kevin's Bacon Train at 8:15pm. We will need to pay for the sound engineer and the food. Patrick's Beans will cater again.
Carole also wondered about direct mail postcards to advertise but the cost for 2000 of them would be approximately \$300+. We decided as a group that this outlay isn't likely to garner enough new visitors to justify the cost.
We will however print colour posters to be put around the village.
Jacalyn will print these at work.
- 8:03pm Carole** Healthy Hearts planning meeting will take place this upcoming Monday at Lifespin.
- 8:04pm Jacalyn** Greg Thompson and Jacalyn met regarding the front yard parking issue. This requires some more discussion before providing information to the OEV residents.
- 8:05pm Carole** Minor concern regarding so many people working on newsletter...will there still be enough volunteers for other events and projects in OEV?
- Lori** Feels that many hands make light work so this is no longer such an overwhelming task. Additionally, several of the people who have stepped up to help are very talented individuals.
- Benjamin** Also concerned that so many volunteers opens up the situation for failure if anyone doesn't pull their own weight.
- Lori** Feels that risk exists whether there are a dedicated few or a small army of participants. This is how this situation happened in the first place. At least with a larger group of volunteers, if anyone doesn't follow through, the amount of work for others to cover off is much smaller.
- 8:08pm Kristina** Meeting adjourned.