



Old East Village Community Association

Executive Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 18th/2016

Location: Lifespin Living Room

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*

David Cook, *Director-at-Large*

Rodger Moran, *Director-at-Large*

Carole Perraud Joly, *Director-at-Large*

Carrie Vaughan, *Director-at-Large*

Executive Members Absent:

Jennifer Diplock, *Past President*

Joel Eckert, *Director-at-Large*

Guests:

Peter Fragiskatos, *Liberal MP*

6:37pm Kristina

Open & welcome to our guest, Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos

Rodger motions to adopt the OEVCA December minutes.

Jacalyn seconds. All in favour. No one opposed.

6:38pm Peter Fragiskatos

Happy to be here to build relationships at the local level.

Recently attended a similar meeting recently with the Soho neighbourhood and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Doesn't want to spend this time this evening advertising what the Liberal government is doing at the moment. Instead, he'd like to hear our questions and do his best to answer them or put us in touch with local counterparts who can provide details.

Peter described a bit about his background: He lived on Egerton Street for a time as a child then lived in Exeter for many years. He moved back to London when he started teaching political science at Huron College and eventually at King's College. He sought and won the Liberal nomination in April 2015 and won in his riding in the election in October 2015.

- Rodger** Canada Post issues are a neighbourhood hot topic. Boxes installed. Some removed. What's going on?
- Peter** Amazingly, there are even frozen boxes out in PEI right now! The election campaign pushed a moratorium on new box rollouts until a review of Canada Post's business plan can be completed to determine why they chose to move towards eliminating door to door service. There are fewer people utilizing door to door service but the Liberal government doesn't feel that it should be eliminated completely. Perhaps twice weekly service would be acceptable? The vulnerable, elderly and infirm need to continue to have door to door service. There is no anticipated date for the moratorium to be complete.
- Kristina** Wonders why most boxes were removed?
- Peter** It's very unclear what Canada Post's policy was on removing the boxes. We'll know more once the moratorium is complete. The Canada Post pension plan was woefully underfunded and they've had difficulty maintaining payment of their bills.
- Kristina** Feels letter mail is down but parcel delivery is way up.
- Peter** Canada Post owns almost all of Purolator. He expects parcel delivery will be a focus. He anticipates announcements of some sort in the next month and a half.
- Peter** OEVCA is curious to know how Peter feels about the city's proposed transit plan overhaul? He indicated that certainly MP's won't be reviewing blueprints in Ottawa. They're following the process but at a glance. What do we feel about what we've learned so far?
- Benjamin** Feels that council has made compromises to try to balance the needs of drivers and transit users. It's not 100% ideal in either case but they've tried to strike a balance. He feels that OEV stands to benefit greatly from the rapid corridor that we'll be a part of.
- Kristina** Really likes the proposed light rail and the rapid transit route on Dundas.
- Dave** Very happy to see a transit hub in our area.
- Peter** Funding for the proposed transit plan would be comprised of 15% paid by the city and 85% between provincial and federal governments. It's not for the government to decide between light rail, etc. The city has to work out those details and submit

their business model to the government. The government will evaluate the plan once they see what London brings forth. He knows that the timeline is frustrating for transit users but also emphasizes that since it's the largest infrastructure project in the city's history, the planning must be done as comprehensively as possible to produce the best result for everyone's benefit.

Peter Asked us how we feel about business development in our area? Soho known for tech development. What are we known for in OEV?

Dave We're starting to develop as a food district. Wants to know if there are any programs in the future to help refurbish the properties to assist new businesses in getting up and running?

Peter The budget tends to have retrofit programs for property improvements. From a heritage perspective, there isn't anything he's aware of to incent or assist small business developments. Peter sat on the board of the Heritage London Foundation for a time. He knows there's a lot property in this city that could benefit from heritage programs.

Dave We have an above average number of heritage properties in our area. It would be very helpful to focus on this area.

Peter There is a program for small businesses up to 250 employees, to help market/export their product. He encourages us to get in touch if there are any businesses that we know of that might be able to benefit from that type of program.

Kristina Mentioned that there's a community group in North East London focused on basic guaranteed income program. What are Peter's feelings are about the idea?

Peter It's true that this issue is gaining some steam. There's been a pilot in Manitoba. He would be interested in attending that local meeting if it fits in his schedule. He's in Ottawa 4 days per week. He would really like to attend this meeting. It's been discussed in the National Post and the New York Post called Jesse Helmer with a question about the program so it's getting some notice. Peter thanks us for having him out to our meeting.

7:03pm Carole Soiree update. No emcee yet. If no one chosen by the end of the week...it'll be one of the OEVCA members. Kristina is willing if no one else steps up. Sarah Howard did the poster and we're all very pleased with it. Carole doesn't have anyone postering but she feels confident that she can put them up around the neighbourhood and

distribute copies to local merchants.

We need more promotion. OEVCA members should invite as many people as possible. Tweet if possible. Talk to your neighbours.

OEVCA should be there. Lori will do memberships. Carole will print membership forms. Jacalyn will bring the float. Jacalyn will sell t-shirts and bags & Carole will bring them to the event.

Patrick is taking care of the food. Carole has 2 babysitters for the kids. The new event planner at Aeolian is pretty good...Ashley is her name. Westminster Park is super excited and Kevin's Bacon Train will be great. Christoph the sound technician has a fee of \$135. Food is \$200. Last year about 70 people attended by rough estimates. Maybe more?

Rodger Have we gotten anywhere with PayPal? Shall we get Scott to set something up? Motion forth by Rodger to set up PayPal account. Carole seconds. All in favour. No opposed.

Kristina Will ask Joel to set up a treasurer email. Once that is set up, Lori will ask Scott to link PayPal to the www.oevca.ca website.

7:15pm Kristina Soiree agenda to include the following ideas:
Welcome.
Last year we introduced our strategic plan. This year we only have our statement of purpose.
Introduce the executive.
Financial review by Jacalyn.
Time is usually filled with committee updates. Our committees have fizzled. We'll promote block party, OEV Health Challenge (formerly healthy hearts).
The community exchange program should be presented as well. If Zack could finish his "meet Joe" video, we could debut it at the meeting. Kristina will reach out to see who can come and pump up the CEP.
Kristina can also cover off the local development issues.
We should also update people on the newsletter.

Kristina There will be a vote to adopt the statement of purpose. Green index cards will be used again for voting purposes like at the September annual general meeting.

Jacalyn She'll mention that the neighbourhood parking plan is still in progress.

Kristina We really need to promote this. Dance with your neighbours.

Lori Merch prices \$5 bags and \$20 tshirts.

- Dave** Will promote the soiree at the market.
- 7:22pm Carole** Health Challenge update. The program name was updated at the December meeting to focus on overall health and wellness, not just cardiac health. The plan is to have local businesses get involved, both to help with financing and organization. It will take place over 2 weeks. The 5 committee members are each contacting various merchants to get them involved. There's a contact letter available to use in approaching people. Businesses can offer classes, incentives, specials, discounts...anything health related. Participants partake in those items and get a stamp on their passport. The committee will develop a system to determine how prizes are awarded. The next Health Challenge committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 25th at Carole's house.
- 7:26pm Lori** Member message: Lori is having difficulty producing a bi-weekly member message. Marketing is not her forte so she's asking for guidance regarding content for the member messages. First priority is the soiree. Remind everyone that this is a great way to renew their membership. Carole will forward the poster. Excited about PayPal coming soon. Maybe promote PayPal after the soiree. Top 3 reasons to get a membership: Supporting community events like the block party, distribution of the newsletter and voting rights for community decision making at 3 meetings per year.
- Kristina** If the calendar can be updated regularly, it could simply be put in the member message.
- Kristina** Tomorrow is the Verge launch event. 4-7pm. Not a structured agenda. Some presentations throughout the evening. We could promote the soiree at the Verge launch. If someone gets the materials to Dave, he'll set up a passive table. Kristina/Carole/Jaclyn will confer about setting up a static table.
- 7:34pm Kristina** Jenny was hoping to be here to talk about the newsletter but then couldn't make it. It's still on track for distribution on February 27th.
- 7:35pm Benjamin** Community connections meetings. Benjamin normally attends these. He hasn't heard anything. Monthly meetings fell off. Lewis Seale used to be the contact person for feeding info into the Community Connections. Since he's no longer the news editor, he feels someone else should take this on. Carole doesn't feel that Angela Galloway will be willing to take on

this responsibility.

7:41pm Kristina

Urban League: it's time to renew our coverage. The block party is the only event that requires insurance. Ellen Husk used to attend the Urban League meetings. She is no longer on the OEVCA so one of us should take over that commitment. They make some public policy announcements but otherwise our only interaction is to insure our group events. New Urban League chair is Wes Kinghorn. He had run against Peter Fragiskatos for the Liberal seat. Meetings are the last Thursday of the month, 7pm Grosvenor Lodge. Benjamin can do it. Dave could alternate with Ben. No meetings June/July/August and December. Ben & Dave will both go on Jan 28th.

Kristina

Active & Green communities initiative that we talked about at the last meeting is interested in getting in touch with the OEVCA. They want to set up a meeting with a few of us. We've decided that they could join us at our next monthly meeting.

Benjamin

There is news about the empty lot on the west side of Elizabeth between Queens and Dufferin. Proposal for a small apartment building. Sarah Merritt approached Ben and indicated we (the OEVCA) should comment on it the development plan. Approximately 10 units with no noted heritage style or features. Ben is not concerned about a lack of heritage. Ben presumes he'll get sketches in the next few days. Developer wants to talk to BIA and OEVCA before proceeding.

7:48pm Rodger

Rodger is unfortunately stepping down from his Director at Large position on the OEVCA. He has a personal issue that he needs to take time to deal with. We're sad to see him stepping back but we support his need to take care of his personal needs first.

Benjamin

Do we want to appoint someone to carry out the rest of the term?

Jacalyn

Could we look for nominations to fill his spot at the soiree?

Rodger

He and his family will still be at the soiree for a good evening.

7:50pm Kristina

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 17th from 6:30-8pm at the Lifespin Living Room