



**Minutes of the
Beaconsfield Citizens Association (BCA) Meeting of
Wednesday, January 12, 2015, 7:30 PM
Beaconsfield Recreation Centre
1974 City Lane,
Beaconsfield, Quebec**

Present: Al Gardner, Rick Jones, Bruce Macdonald, Larry McKinnon, Marcel Roux, Roland Sayegh, John Whatmore, Charles Bourgeois

1. Welcome

The President, Al Gardner, welcomed everyone to the BCA's January meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added under "New Business": Salary Increase for Elected Officials and Follow-up to the Power Failure.

Upon a motion duly made by John Whatmore and seconded by Bruce Macdonald, it was moved to approve the agenda of the January 12, 2015 BCA meeting as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2014 Meeting

Item "7. 2015 Meeting Schedule" was amended to read: "He indicated that the February, March and April 2015 BCA meetings would be held in the Annex on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM."

Upon a motion duly made by Bruce Macdonald and seconded by Larry McKinnon, it was moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014 BCA meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the December 10, 2014 Meeting

Al Gardner mentioned that he had made the necessary arrangements for the upcoming meeting schedule.

He further indicated that a letter addressed to Geoff Kelley requesting a grant had been sent, but that no response had yet been received. In a follow-up letter, Mr. Kelley will be invited to sit in on a BCA meeting.

Al Gardner mentioned that Rick Jones had worked on the budget and produced a report that was discussed at an Executive Committee meeting on January 9, 2015 and would be presented to the members under Item 8 on the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

In Warren Mayhew's absence, Al Gardner stated there would be no report. However, he indicated that the BCA's financial situation had not changed since the December 2014 report.

6. Amendment to BCA Bylaws

The members voted on the Notice of Motion to amend the bylaws of the Beaconsfield Citizens Association tabled at the December meeting and subsequently amended.

Upon a motion duly made by Larry McKinnon and seconded by John Whatmore, it was moved to approve the amendment to the bylaws.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2015 Meeting Schedule

Al Gardner informed the members that the February, March and April meetings would take place in the Annex on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

8. City Budget

8.1. Analysis

Rick Jones presented a series of slides describing the evolution of Beaconsfield's pre- and post-merger property taxes. He indicated that the substantial jump in the aftermath of the demerger was largely due to the city's prior adoption of Montreal's salary structure. He then went on to compare Beaconsfield with other cities, notably Pierrefonds, Pointe-Claire, Dollard-des-Ormeaux and Kirkland pointing out the evolution of the relationship of municipal to Agglo tax rates. He further mentioned that while Beaconsfield's taxes remain high, rates in the comparison cities have increased with Dollard-des-Ormeaux' now ranked highest. The slides will be available on the BCA website.

8.2 Next Steps

Al Gardner read from notes taken at the January 9, 2015 Executive Committee meeting during it which it was suggested that he write to the mayor and council recommending that the city publish quarterly results, clarify the director general's comments regarding tax rate increases over the past 15 years and hold an open-house type consultation in September on next year's budget featuring a presentation

similar to the one at December meeting, but with time for comments from citizens.

Since the city would not be in a position to provide final numbers in September, its presentation should focus on major priorities and projects allowing for citizens to react and provide suggestions.

There was consensus among the members present on this approach and Al Gardner said that a letter would be sent to the mayor within the following week. He further indicated that he would be meeting with mayor Bourelle prior to the next city council session.

9. Safety Day

Bruce Macdonald has been in contact with the Montreal Fire Department, but the labour situation remains unstable. It was recommended that it be put postponed until negotiations have been completed because the fire department's participation would be crucial to the event's success. Al Gardner mentioned that the city's commitment to the event is tentative and that he intended to meet with each councillor to get his/her buy in. He suggested that if the Safety Day could not be held in the spring, a fundraiser of some sort could be organized.

10. Consultation – Canada Post

Al Gardner has posted information on the process being led by the City of Montreal. He informed the organizers that the BCA intended to submit a brief, which must be presented on January 20.

11. New Business

11.1. Salary Increase for Elected Officials

While there was general consensus among the members present that the percentage and timing of the salary increase for the mayor and councillors were problematic, it was agreed that the BCA should refrain from taking an official position on the issue.

11.2. Follow-up to the Power Failure

Time did not allow for a discussion of this item.

12. Next Meeting

The next BCA meeting will be held in the Annex on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

13. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made by Rick Jones and seconded by John Whatmore, it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Al Gardner, President

Charles Bourgeois, Secretary