

Minutes of the SoHo Community Association Meeting
Wellington Street United Church
Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Mark Woodward

Executive: Laurie Bursch – Vice President
Jennifer Verdam-Woodward - Treasurer
Mair Hughes – Web Administrator

Secretary: Peter Karas

Members
at Large: Greg Yarker
Alice Gibb

Sub
Committees: John George - Gardening

Liaison
Committees: Nancy Hamm – Neighbourhood Watch

In Attendance: Gerry Thomas
Ellen Innes
Robyn Harvey
Karen Allwood

Guest Speakers: Frank Longo
Greg Thompson

City Liaison: Councilor Judy Bryant Ward 13

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action By:</u>
<p>Presentation by Frank Longo, Longo Food Service Equipment Inc. Mr. Longo gave a short presentation about his plans to move his business to Soho. (Property at 523 South St.) Details included business type, possible donation of two houses to Habitat for Humanity, traffic effects, and variance required for startup. Mr. Longo asked for community support for his plans, including a letter of support.</p> <p>The group decided that a letter of support, (when needed) would be offered to Mr. Longo.</p>	
<p>Presentation by Robyn Harvey, regarding community gardens. His suggestion was to have someone in the group be a “community garden liason.” (Or to have a community garden subcommittee.) John George volunteered for this position.</p>	John George

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Action By:</u>
<p><u>Executive Committee Appointments</u> Members of the group decided that it would be appropriate to assign (or volunteer) for positions on the executive committee, so as to get the group “up and running”. Positions as follows: President: Mark Woodward Vice President: Laurie Bursch Treasurer: Jennifer Verdam-Woodward Secretary: Peter Karas</p> <p>Additionally, a subcommittee position. Social Service Subcommittee: Wendy Russell</p>	
<p><u>Website:</u> The website is up and running. Everyone was encouraged to have a look, and comment on changes, updates etc. Report any changes to Mair Hughes.</p>	Mair Hughes
<p><u>Database Retrieval:</u> Mair Hughes gave us an update on the continuing job of contacting the community, and establishing a “complete” email list. Nancy Hamm gave an update on updating the phone tree, for people without email accounts. .</p>	
<p><u>Community Mailout Opportunity:</u> There is still the opportunity for inclusion in the mailout by City of London, through the Community Improvement Plan. (Next meeting has not been set.) Mair Hughes volunteered to add a “soho graphic” to the letter provided by Mark Woodward, and to get that back to Judy Bryant.</p> <p>Laurie Bursch volunteered to get in contact with city rep (Lou Pompilli?) Re: date for next meeting.</p>	Mair Hughes Laurie Bursch
<p><u>AGM Planning:</u> Discussion on setting a date for the AGM, and how to plan for the meeting. (Should we send out an email with nominees names beforehand.) A tentative meeting date for June 23rd was set, depending on the date of the next Community Improvement Plan meeting, and inclusion in the city’s mailout.</p>	
<p><u>Presentation by Greg Thompson:</u> Greg Thompson president of the Old East Community Association gave a presentation on how “Old East” operates, and what they have found has/hasn’t worked. Some of his thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the structure of a community association. To have at each AGM, when a president steps down, or doesn’t put his/her name forward, automatic election of the Vice President. This would ensure continuity, and dissuade special interests from voting in “one issue” 	Laurie Bursch (see below)

<p>candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The merits of getting business involved in the community organization. His advice was to encourage business to form a separate BIA, and to only offer membership to residents, due to conflicting goals of business and residents (possibly). - How best to communicate to residents/members. Old East does a quarterly newsletter. Expensive but it gets the message out. - Charging a membership fee – do we want to do this? Old East charges a 10/ yearly fee. (Woodfield has 10/year, 50 lifetime membership.) - Greg strongly recommended joining the Urban League of London. (50\$/yr) This would give us access to their insurance coverage for events at lower cost, give us future access (possibly) to city committees etc. Every community association recognized by City of London is at least a member of the Urban League. Laurie Bursch agreed to attend meetings. (Judy Bryant agreed to pay for a 1 year membership.) - In addition Greg spoke about getting our message out to the media – and how best to speak about community issues. (Discussion of problem issues downplayed / positive messages, in line with Community Plan emphasized.) 	
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Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Distribution List:

- Greg Yarker
- Jennifer Verdam-Woodward
- Mair Hughes
- John George
- Nancy Hamm
- Laurie Bursch
- Alice Gibb
- Peter Karas
- Mark Woodward
- Debra Martin
- Cathy Martin