

**Briarwood Community Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday May 13, 2019
Briarwood Community Centre**

Present: Eldon Ortman, Mark Planchot, Michael Boyko, Lou Anne Turcotte, Bruce Richet, Kristin Harmel, Darien Moore, Wally Leis

Regrets: Jeff Taylor, Nora Ortman, Shirley Zhou, Jordan Turcotte, Paul Bonnet

Guests: Jeannette Wheeler (COS Urban Forestry), Lesya Sabada and Thomas Nahachewsky (Residents)

1. Call to order at 7:02 pm.
2. Approval of agenda – Motion by Kristin, seconded by Darien.
3. Adoption of March 2019 minutes – Motion by Bruce, seconded by Wally.
4. Correspondence
 - a) Lesya Sabada expressed concern about the removal of two mature trees along the lake that were in front of their property and asked BCA for assistance. In response, Mark Planchot arranged to have Jeannette Wheeler (Superintendent – Urban Forestry) attend meeting along with Lesya and Thomas to provide some background and attempt to address their questions. Jeannette provided the following information:
 - Main priorities of Urban Forestry are pruning, planting and protection of City of Saskatoon urban forest
 - Cottony Ash Psyllid has resulted in a large loss of trees in Saskatoon in the past few years, especially the black ash. Urban Forestry first focus is removal of dead trees and is working to replace the removed trees however that will be done over a few years due to budget constraints
 - Large loss of ash trees highlights the need to have a very diverse tree population
 - Regarding the trees removed that Lesya and Thomas were concerned about, Jeannette did not have a detailed knowledge of the situation however her understanding was that it was evident that the bases of the trees had been drilled and some type herbicide solution injected which resulted in the tree deaths
 - Jeannette also advised that currently COS has a tree protection policy but not bylaw which limits their enforcement power. They are working toward development and approval of a policy but no timeline was given for when that may happenLesya and Thomas were then given the opportunity to speak. They advised the following:
 - When they purchased the property in Briarwood over 20 years ago there were three trees between their property and the lake (COS trees) that were already established

- About 12 years ago one of the COS trees died and was removed and not replaced. At that time they received permission to plant two willow trees on COS property at their own expense. COS agreed and never did replace the removed tree.
- Last year one of the remaining mature COS trees began showing stress and by end of summer there was no visible life. The other mature tree appeared healthy up until when leaves dropped and tree went dormant for winter. Lesya had previously provided pictures from last summer that showed both the dead tree and the healthy one beside it
- COS were on site at the end of April 2019 removing several trees around Briarwood Lake. At that time they removed both trees in front of Lesya and Thomas's residence. Lesya was home at the time and immediately asked why they were removing both trees as only one had appeared to be dead. She was advised that the Urban Forestry arborist had concluded that both trees were dead. In a subsequent discussion with the arborist Lesya was advised that COS had removed another mature tree in the vicinity of Briarwood Lake that had similar evidence of intentional poisoning.

Based on the information from Lesya BCA had previously asked COS the following questions:

- Why were both trees removed if the one tree still appeared healthy going into winter? At the time they were removed this spring trees were still dormant.
- When will trees be planted to replace the two mature trees removed?
- If there is evidence that these trees as well as others have been intentionally destroyed, why was BCA not notified? We should be posting this information on our website and Facebook page so residents can be vigilant and perhaps come forward with additional information.

Mark and Jeannette advised that they would provide additional information to BCA and Lesya regarding the tree removal and would consider what information could be provided to BCA to advise residents of this issue and contact information to report suspicious activity.

Before concluding this topic Wally expressed concern to Jeannette about damage being done to trees on medians during winter snow clearing, especially on 8th street. He asked why the grader operators maneuver so close to trees that they are removing bark. Jeannette acknowledged that this is a concern to Urban Forestry as well and they have advised COS Roadways to not be concerned about leaving some snow around the trees.

- b) A resident advised via email that she recently received a speeding ticket travelling on Wess Road between 8th street and Zimmerman Road and sent the following email:
- Hello Eldon, am just sending a note with regard to the recent speed trap that was set up on the east Briarwood boundary on the road leading to the Hillcrest Cemetery. I received a ticket today and was told by the issuing officer that the speed trap was set up at the behest of the Briarwood Community Association. If this is true, I would like to suggest that BCA is targeting the wrong group.

The City of Saskatoon should have anticipated increased traffic on the road with

the development of Costco and other retail stores in the area, built a better road and set a more appropriate speed limit to accommodate the needs of the community. Instead, Briarwood residents like myself are being punished for the City's lack of foresight in planning.

I would appreciate if the BCA in future would consider advocating for changes to the roadway rather than solely focusing on policing.

In response to the email Eldon advised the following:

- While it is true that BCA has been raising concerns about this stretch of road (Wess Road) for well over a year, our concerns have been the same as you have raised, ie:
 - i. High volume of traffic since opening of Costco and other box stores
 - ii. Poor road condition for the amount of traffic
- At no time has BCA made any formal or informal requests to COS for increased traffic speed enforcement. Short term, we wanted to see improvements to the road however the long term solution has to be alternate paved routes to Costco and area, not only for neighborhoods in the Briarwood area but more so for Brighton and adjacent areas (Erindale, Arbour Grove, etc.).

Eldon advised Councilor Gersher of this issue and advised that BCA was not pleased with the comments provided by Saskatoon Police Service. She advised the following:

- *Hi Eldon, I heard back from the Inspector of East Division about the concerns raised with the messaging coming from SPS. Inspector Nogier had a chance to follow up with the officer who issued the ticket and it appears that the discussion was accurate with respect to comments about speed enforcement on behalf of the BCA. It appears that there might have been a misunderstanding on the end of SPS. They offer their apology for any inconvenience they may have caused the BCA. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I too offer an apology about this miscommunication*

Based on the response from Councilor Gersher we consider this matter closed.

- c) A condo association in Briarwood who have previously rented the community centre indicated that they would be interested in renting on a more frequent basis however due to limited financial resources they asked if we would consider a reduced rental rate for frequent rentals. Bruce proposed that we approach them about the possibility of opening up their functions to residents of Briarwood and we could consider running programs similar to our indoor programming (nominal fee assuming no instructor costs). Lou Anne also reminded that we don't have access to the centre from June to August so any arrangement would start in the fall at the earliest. Eldon will follow up with them to find out how often they would want access, time/day of week, etc. and we can discuss further at the next meeting.
- d) A resident had advised today that the Briarwood ball diamond was extremely rough due to muddy conditions on the previous weekend. He was concerned as his daughter had practice the following day. Eldon had already advised Mark who was following up with Parks.

5. Community Consultant Report – Mark Planchot

Mark distributed his report prior to the meeting and highlighted some of the issues in it:

- Indoor programming template for fall leisure guide due June 10
- Notice for Household Hazardous Waste Days – place in newsletter or on website?
- Dates for Summer Park Play Program

He also advised the following:

- It may be possible for BCA to add either murals or mirrors to inside of Community Centre
- Adding WIFI would be allowed but would be at BCA expense
- No information yet as to whether COS will replace hand dryers

6. Director Reports –

Reports submitted prior to the meeting. Additional points:

- As communicated by email, Eldon sold the water pump and hose that had been used on the pond rink and was no longer required. This was last of surplus assets from pond rink
- Eldon suggested that Michael should be added to bank signing authorities. He will have Nora investigate what is required and advise
- Lou Anne advised that the Community Centre has been booked for October 21 for the Federal Election and therefore would not be available for indoor programming that day
- Kristin attended COS workshop (IT Summit) on previous weekend

7. Old Business

- a) Snow-clearing in front of the Comm Centre: Mark had provided update on this issue to Eldon and Bruce following the meeting with COS representatives at end of March. Bottom line is that COS is maintaining its position that the windrows are removed basis the street priority system and this is not a priority. They also suggested that snow cannot be placed in Briarwood park adjacent to the parking area “due to flooding issues in the park and possible damage to park turf”. Eldon will draft a response however our position remains the same ie: this is a safety issue and if the current priority system does not allow for snow clearing then the system needs modification. Eldon also feels that the COS arguments for not putting snow in the park are “weak”.
- b) Bulletin board refresh is complete - Thank you Kristin!!!
- c) AGM – general view of the board is that attendance was much appreciated as it showed the residents interest in the community. Also the support shown for the rink and possible enhancements was also evident. Thank you to Councilor Gersher for attending and providing additional info on upcoming traffic review and other issues.

Rather than borrowing a screen and projector, Bruce put forward motion to spend no more than \$275 for a 100 inch X 100 inch screen and projector. This equipment will be available to people who rent the centre. Seconded by Michael. Passed.

- d) Rink Improvement Grant – Bruce submitted grant for permanent power and lighting at ball diamond for outdoor activities including outdoor rink (application previously circulated to BCA board). Mark advised that COS will provide updates to issues discussed at Outdoor Rink meeting held April 30 (landscaping to improve elevation, permanent lighting)

8. New Business

- a) Land Use Agreement for Outdoor Rink – Mark will work towards replacement of the temporary agreement. Eldon again suggested that if a firm date for removal is included in the revised agreement (temporary agreement stipulated April 15) then he would also like some working indicating that this is flexible basis spring conditions.
- b) Briarwood Traffic Review – Bruce and Eldon attended and provide some feedback. There was a lot of concern from residents about the amount of traffic on Wess Road (8th Street to Zimmerman Road) due to Costco and other box stores. COS advised that Taylor St will eventually be connected to Zimmerman however this will take 2 construction seasons. Eldon proposed more marked crosswalks (Bayview Crescent/Briargate Road and Beechdale Crescent (south entrance)/Briarwood Road as these are pathways into park/natural area and heavily used.
- c) Kinder Soccer Update – Lorie Wagner is the volunteer coordinator with assistance from Nora. Final registration numbers will be provided at next meeting.
- d) BBQ – Eldon reminded the board that because the federal election is this fall, we should consider if we should invite all candidates for the Saskatoon Grasswood riding rather than just the incumbent (Kevin Waugh). Regardless of who we invite, it needs to be made clear that BCA has no political affiliations and no campaign literature is allowed at the BBQ. Eldon can include this reminder in invitations that will be sent out in the next month.

9. Next meeting will be Monday June 10 at 7:00 PM.

10. Motion for Adjournment at 9:05 by Kristin, seconded by Darien.