



RARA Annual General Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Meeting Agenda:

1. Pym Buitenhuis: Welcome Comments + RARA Executive Introductions
2. Pym Buitenhuis/Murray Campbell: Co-Presidents
 - a. Pym – Internal Community Relationships
 - b. Murray – External Community Relationships (i.e. Avenue Road Traffic/Safety Issue)
3. Updates from Josh Matlow (City Counselor), Caroline Bennett (MP) and Jill Andrew (MPP)
4. Staci Clayton: Membership Report (2021: 80 Member Households)
5. Pippa Sargent: Treasurer Report
6. Community Round Table

Josh Matlow, City Counselor: Josh spoke of many initiatives going on in the neighbourhood and the City of Toronto: Café TO roll out; Green Line Park; Park apparatus improvement; Davenport park – contribution to indigenous reconciliation; Avenue Road Safety Coalition; Side walk snow clearing – next year all sidewalks will be cleared in TO; Development on Avenue Road.

Caroline Bennett, MP: Caroline spoke fondly of the community of RARA and thanked all for effective advocacy on Rail Safety.

Jill Andrew, MPP: Jill thanked RARA for being such good stewards. Also, Covid is challenging but we are turning a significant corner.

Other Updates:

Alice Prodanou (McMaster Street Rep) provided update on plans for the Pump Park upgrade. Some options include new picnic benches, sand box, new swings, refurbishing existing structures, staying within the current footprint. Community meeting will be held online to discuss options.

Anne Levenston (Cottingham West Street Rep) provided perspective on Heritage conservation areas in Toronto. This is a city program to preserve the streetscape and protect our neighbourhoods. However, neighbourhoods may feel restricted – preservation pertains to the façade of buildings and not the whole structure. More information will be on RARA website. Principle reason to do this would be to protect the integrity of the community.

Pym Buitenhuis shared details of the Responsible Development sign campaign in the neighbourhood to increase visibility on the community's position on development and specifically the proposed development between Macpherson and McMaster.

Q&A followed.