

# Strathcona Community Council Executive Meeting Victoria Park Fieldhouse September 18, 2023

## Meeting Minutes

### **Present:**

Chris Erl (President and Chair), Michael-Allan Marion (Secretary), Barb Williams, Jason Morse, Brian Hovsepian, Jen Dawson.

### **Regrets:**

Ian Borsuk (Vice-President), Denise Minardi (Treasurer), Rosemary Baptista, Joshua Allen.

Guests: Hamilton Councillor Maureen Wilson, Stephanie Hilson (Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives Co-ordinator).

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 pm, and read the following Land Acknowledgement:

Strathcona is situated upon the traditional territory of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee. This land is shared between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinaabe nations as acknowledged in the Dish with One Spoon Wampum belt. That wampum uses the symbolism of a dish to represent the territory, and the one spoon to represent that the people are to share the resources of the land and take only what they need.

### **1. Agenda:**

**Motion:** Moved by Jason M., seconded by Michael-Allan A. that the agenda of the meeting of June2023 Executive meeting be approved.

**Carried:**

### **2. Adopting Minutes:**

3. **Motion:** Moved by Michael-Allan M., seconded by Barb W., that the Minutes of the June 18, 2023 SCC Executive meeting be approved.

**Carried.**

4. **Updates from Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson:** Councillor Wilson provided updates on the following matters:

A) Victoria Park Pool Project - She said she had moved a motion at city council to move ahead with project.

B) Spray Pad – The Indigenous archeological work on the land for the project has been completed and a report is forthcoming.

C) Fieldhouse: - A civil engineer has been on-site and the city is approved to proceed. A mural on the outside wall will be painted, to be handled by Ward 1 finances. The washrooms will have to be closed while renovation to the facilities is undertaken.

D) The “Fortinos Wall” - The SCC and Councillor Wilson reached out to the owner Choice Properties. The wall at the corner of Main and Dundurn streets has come down, the corner has been redesigned, and mall management is maintaining security on that area of the property.

E) Locke Street North – The stretch from King Street North to York Boulevard will undergo a full reconstruction. The intersection will be redesigned.

F) Plan to Redesign York Boulevard – It is in limbo. A redesign to set to begin late this year into next year. Slip lanes are no longer considered a good engineering features, so some may go.

G) Encampments – Wilson gave a brief explanation of city council’s recently approved protocol concerning encampments of homeless people, particularly in city parks. She noted that the number of encampments in Victoria Park has dwindled to one, and those in that one have been given notice to vacate, which will be enforced once an alternative location has been found.

H) Breadalbane Bike Boulevard – Coun. Wilson said her office has received numerous concerns and complaints about the recent installation of the bike boulevard, particularly the short stretch between King Street and Hunt Street, which has been converted to one way and a dedicated bike lane has been installed along with a barrier on one side. She said the entire project is a pilot meant to integrate and control vehicular traffic and bicycle traffic and maintain safety. She said her office and the traffic department are collecting feedback and monitoring the project’s performance, and welcome the public comments. “Sometimes something that looks good on paper does not work well in reality and may have to be changed.”

Stephanie Hilson, in the councillor’s office, took notes and collected names and contact information.

Several residents were in attendance at the meeting to voice their complaints. Neal Scobie, who runs Paton Motors at 4 Breadalbane St., gave a verbal presentation and

submitted a written statement. "The closure of Breadalbane St. At Hunt St. has had a major negative impact on my business," his written statement says. "Forcing anyone to Dundurn and King, an intersection considered to be one of the most dangerous and unsafe in Hamilton, does not make sense. Cyclist or not. By not allowing to enter the first block of Breadalbane from Hunt is making my business not accessible from Breadalbane and Hunt – the safest way."

Another resident called Dave objected to the installation of a flowerpot in the middle of an intersection along Breadalbane. "There is no median leading up to it."

Keith Powell criticized that four parking spaces in the stretch between Hunt and Breadalbane have been eliminated by the changes.

#### **5. Updates from Crime Manager Sgt. Asim Butt:**

Sgt. Asim Butt could not be present for the meeting, so Chris E. presented a report on his behalf. He said that since Jan. 1, 2023 there have been five auto thefts, 29 break and enters, four robberies and 70 thefts from auto.

#### **6. President's Report:**

Chris E. recounted his lobbying work on the removal of the wall at Dundurn and Main. He said that the company was hesitant at first to deal the problem and appeared uncooperative over several months. Then officials suddenly executed the removal of the structure and redesign of the corner.

**Motion:** Moved by Chris E., seconded by Jason M, that the President's Report be approved.

**Carried.**

#### **7. Treasurer's Report:**

There was no report because Denise M. could not attend the meeting.

#### **8. Committee Reports:**

Governance – have not met yet.

Events – Chris E. and Michael-Allan M related their work, helped by other Executive member to mount a Community Day at the end of October, including a scavenger hunt, treats, and displays.

Policy and Advocacy – have not met yet.

Communications – Barb. W. and Jen D. reported progress on plans to revamp the SCC and improve other tech features.

**9. Business:**

**A) Head-Dundurn House Petition**

Chris E. and Michael-Allan M. presented a draft petition calling for action on the part of corporate owners concerning a 15-year-old problem of six boarded-up houses on Head Street and two on Dundurn Street North that have been left to deteriorate and become the repositories of break-ins, vandalism, crime and at least one fire, threatening the safety and well-being of the neighbourhood, while the corporate owners have kept a planned development in limbo with no publicly announced plan to proceed. (see attachment below).

**Motion:** Moved by Michael-Allan M., seconded by Brian Hovsepian, that the text of the draft petition be approved; that the Strathcona Community Council circulate it in the neighbourhood to collect signature; and further that the SCC hold a press event to publicize it.

**Carried.**

**10. Time of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on October 16 at 7 p.m. in the Victoria Park Fieldhouse.

**11. Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Moved by Michael-Allan, seconded by Jason M. that the meeting be adjourned

**Carried.**