

Strathcona Community Council  
Executive Meeting On Zoom  
January 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes  
(Draft)

Present on Zoom: Chris Erl (President), Michael-Allan Marion (Secretary), Denise Minardi (Treasurer), Rosemary Baptista, Jason Morse, Brian Hovsepian, Dominic Sorbara.

Regrets: Barb Williams, Jen Dawson, Ian Borsuk (Vice-President).

Guests: Councillor Maureen Wilson, Stephanie Hilson, Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives Advisor, Hamilton Police Sgt. Asim Butt.

Others: Elizabeth Lopes, Jennifer Leah, Lennox Toppin, Bob McGray, Katherine Baines, Jeff Powell, Yvette and Stacie, Denise and Chris.

1. Chair's Welcome and Land Acknowledgement:

Chris Erl (in the Chair) welcomed all to the Zoom Meeting and read the following acknowledgement:

We take this time to recognize that 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 one spoon to represent that the people are to share the resources of the land and take only what they need.

2. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

3. Agenda: No changes were sought.

Motion: Moved by Michael-Allan M., seconded by Denise M., that the agenda for the meeting be adopted.

Carried.

4. Adopting Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Michael-Allan M., seconded by Denise M., that the minutes of the December 2022 Executive meeting be approved.

Carried with Dominic S. abstaining.

## 5. Updates from Ward 1 Councillor:

Councillor Maureen Wilson presented updates on the following topics:

A) City budget process, emphasizing a delegation day on February 6 and how to appear as a delegation;

B) Breadalbane Street resurfacing, just completed. Striping for bicycles will be done in the spring.

C) Victoria Park overhauls. The archeological assessment has been completed and work on the spray pad is ready to go ahead in the spring.

D) A public meeting will soon be announced for a redevelopment on the northeast corner of Queen and Main streets. The property has a designated heritage building.

E) A vacant property on Main Street where Mor Carwash once operated. Stephanie H. says information is coming on a proposed development.

F) Victoria Park Field House. Work is almost done after it was closed due to a break-in in which damage was done. Only cleaning remains to be done and the Councillor remains hopeful that the SCC Executive can hold meetings there soon, as originally arranged before the break-in.

## 6. Updates from HPS Crime Manager:

Sgt. Asim Butt delivered a statistical report on officer workloads and crime occurrences this year, compared with last year. He referred to staffing pressures, noting the division was down to 11 officers and was running low at one point, but is now back up to 16 officers.

Crime trends: Using year-end statistical reports from 2022 and 2021, he said break and enters and thefts are the area's biggest concerns. He gave a report on the five categories of break, enter and theft, comparing 2022 with 2021:

- Auto theft: 2022 - 13 / 2021 - 4
- Break and Enter: 2022 - 25 / 2021 - 28
- Robberies: 2022 - 5 / 2021 - 2
- Theft from auto: 2022 - 76 / 2021 - 67
- Theft under \$5,000: 2022 - 122 / 2021 - 123

Sgt. Butt also said in May and June 2022 the force launched Project Home Alone, which sends targeted patrols into hot spots. There were 28 checks, three arrests and a total 17 charges laid. Officers also noted a 23 per cent reduction in break and enters.

Officers also responded to a wave of theft from bicycles. During 2022, a total 24 suspects were stopped, 16 were arrested, and quantities of drugs and stolen items were seized.

Sgt. Butt detailed a rash of incidents in which car windows were smashed and vehicles were broken into. Those incidents caused some residents to join the Zoom meeting to get information. On a Friday night, 18 vehicles were broken into on Head Street, he said. The

following Tuesday night, about 25 autos were vandalized on another street. Other similar incidents occurred elsewhere.

“I can assure you everyone up to the Chief is aware of what is happening” in the Strathcona neighbourhood, Sgt. Butt said. He noted that more officers have been directed into the neighbourhood to tackle the problem.

He also spoke about an enforcement strategy aimed at three intersections where automobile collisions occur with alarming frequency: Main and Dundurn streets, Main and Wellington, and John and King.

Pointing to Main and Dundurn and King and Dundurn, he said he believes it’s a design issue.

Lennox Toppin asked Sgt. Butt “what do you mean by design issue?” Sgt. Butt said he is not an engineer but the Main/Dundurn and King/Dundurn intersections are under a safety audit. Councillor Wilson said the chief of police has made note of the audit.

Sgt. Butt also noted that the police are coming out soon with a strategy to handle thefts from automobiles throughout the city.

#### 7. President’s Report:

Chris E. said the community is concerned about a rash of vandalism, as noted in Sgt. Butt’s report detailing vandalism and theft. “Strathcona is a great neighbourhood” and it is important to build a sense of community. More details will come later in the agenda about initiatives the SCC can take, he said.

Motion: Moved by Chris E., seconded by Denise M., that the President’s Report be approved.

Carried.

#### 8. Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Denise M. and the President are still in the process of resolving changes in the SCC’s banking arrangements. More will be announced at the next Executive meeting.

#### 9. Business:

##### A) Ratifying Community Vote on Minutes from 2021 AGM:

Chris E. explained that at the 2022 AGM, which he chaired, he accidentally skipped over a section in the agenda to approve the Minutes of the 2021 meeting. The matter was discussed at the last Executive meeting in December 2022 and it was decided to put the minutes to the membership at large on the website and email list and call for a vote. The result was 100 per cent approval, but only eight members at large voted.

Since there was no opposition, he called for a motion:

Motion: That the Executive ratifies the approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Carried, with Dominic S. abstaining.

B) Bylaw 2023 - 1: Committees:

Motion: Moved by Rosemary B., seconded by Jason M., that Bylaw 2023 - 1: Committees be ratified to enable the striking of committees.

Carried.

Chris E. explained that the motion will allow the filling of four standing committees by the Executive members along with general members. The four committees are: Policy and Advocacy; Events; Governance; and Communications. The call for membership will be put on the website and in emails. Membership will be confirmed at the next Executive meeting.

10 Discussion:

A) Guided walk with Paul O'Hara:

Jason M. gave a presentation on field botanist Paul O'Hara, his organization Blue Oak Native Landscapes and his guided walks. O'Hara will lead a guided walk on February 12 at 10 am. Participants must acquire tickets. Jason will co-ordinate through email.

B) Banking Situation:

Members heard that it would be preferable to review the SCC's banking arrangements and were given options. They are to stay with our current bank, or go to FirstOntario Credit Union, or Tandia Credit Union. Brian Hovsepian said he prefers to use a credit unions because they are closer to the community. Others agreed

It was agreed that Denise M. and Chris E. will investigate further and report at the next Executive meeting.

C) Planning Transparency:

The executive and Councillor Wilson talked about the lack of transparency in the city's planning department viv-vis the community and the need to stay on top of development proposals that are in the neighbourhood but the plans are not not widely known yet, so community groups cannot get in early and have an effective impact on the approval process. "The sooner and better you know a developer and a plan the better," agreed Councillor Wilson.

Chris E. said he will come up with a proposal to present to the city's planning committee and share a draft with the Executive.

11. New Business: None.

12. Notices of Intent: None.

13. Information Updates From Executive Members: None

14. Time of Next Meeting: February 27, 2023, at 7 pm. Carried.

15. Adjournment t:

Moved by Rosemary B., seconded by Michael-Allan M., that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm