

Vars Community Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2008

Opening:

The AGM of Vars CA was called to order at 19:09 on November 26th 2008 at the Bearbrook Community Centre by Jean Séguin.

Present:

Denis Mailloux, Darlene Brown, Nicolina Kingston, Jean Séguin, Stephen Taylor, Monique Belliveau, Louise Summers, Ken Doyle, Christine Flood, Ray Wiggins, Nancy Johnson, Charles Jewkenson, Barb Lavictoire, Hélène Manning-Lemieux, Manon Taylor, Dai Jones, Barbara Jones, Linda Payant, Marlene Gauthier, Scot Lemieux, Gary Larocque, Denise Robinson.

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

No minutes of previous general meeting were available for approval.

C. Open Issues

- Introduction of head table
 - Jean Séguin representing the interim board and chairing the meeting
 - Suzanne Sanford, from the City of Ottawa, Community Liaison Officer and provides support to community associations
 - Nancy Jackson, from the City of Ottawa, is the coordinator to push forward the Vars Neighbourhood Plan
 - Scot Lemieux, former President of Vars.CA
 - Hélène Manning-Lemieux, resident, recording secretary for this evening.

- Role & Importance of VARS.CA
 - The Association is your voice to the well-being of the community for representations to the City, the province and even back to the community on issues that affect our lives, our families, our development, our safety.
 - VARS.CA is our forum to exchange opinions on priorities for the community, our youth, and our seniors, our environment, our business climate. Through its website, is the transfer of knowledge of our heritage, our businesses, our community activities to newcomers as well as to all residents and non-residents.
 - The Association can and has access to dollars. However, the only drawback is that it operates on a voluntary basis with residents and even non-residents.
 - The website (VARS.CA) is a terrific communication tool available.
 - ***The Association can only work for us, through us.***

- VARS.CA Financial Status
 - \$5,600 in the coffers at this time. The City has given the community its grant for the maintenance and operations of the rink, the park and Community centre facilities.
 - The new Board, through partnering with the City and other groups like the Optimist Club, the parishes, private individuals, can raise money or lead projects for the development of our community.
 - Councillor Rob Jellett had informed that there is money put aside for our community under the Legacy funding program (to be verified by the Board). This means that, through the Association, projects can be proposed and funding mechanisms can be developed with the support of the City.

- VARS Vision Document
 - Recall the launch of the pilot project for a Neighbourhood Plan for Vars in September 2007. While the City had already launched a similar planning exercise for the urban core of the City, Vars was chosen to scope out what could be a ten year socio/economic/infrastructural development plan for the rural areas.
 - A committee of some 15 residents has been meeting on a regular basis to draft a vision plan for the community with follow-up recommendations to Council for its consideration.
 - Two surveys were sent to residents seeking opinions on priorities for our well-being. Your committee held a consultation process during the community Bar-b-q held at the Fire hall in late June.
 - The committee has heard from a great number of witnesses touching on some 22 facets of social, economic development, and environmental issues involving our community. A sub-committee was created to work with the owners of the three group homes in the village to exchange information on issues and how to improve on the challenges that these residents face on a daily basis within the community.
 - 30 residents of the group homes were honored two weeks ago for their community involvement in picking up trash in the park, on the side streets, around the school, etc. in order to keep our community clean.
 - Now at the stage of writing the recommendations to Council. What your Neighbourhood Planning Committee is attempting to do, is to assess the priorities, confirm our needs, and determine the “do-ables” in a realistic world in order to set the pace for Vars’ development over the next ten years. Copies of the draft Vision document were available and comments can be forwarded to Nancy by December 15.

- Election of the Executive Committee
 - Proceeding of election. Suzanne chaired this portion of the meeting assisted by Nancy as the “RETURN OFFICER”.
 - There are up to seven positions to fill on the Board of Directors including the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors at large in support.

- For each position, Suzanne described the key functions as outlined in the Association's constitution and then proceeded with the nomination and election process. Where there is more than one candidate for a position, a secret ballot may be used to appoint/elect a resident to that particular position.
 - PRESIDENT:
 - Jean Séguin (nominated by Garry Larocque, seconded by Joanne Gravelle, accepted) - appointed
 - VICE-PRESIDENT:
 - Nicolina Kingstone (nominated by Marlene Gauthier, seconded by Barb Lavictoire, accepted) – defeated by ballot
 - Garry Larocque (nominated by Louise Summers, seconded by Charles Jewkenson, accepted) – appointed by ballot
 - SECRETARY:
 - Hélène Manning-Lemieux (nominated by Darlene Brown, seconded by Nicolina Kingstone, accepted) - appointed
 - TREASURER:
 - Darlene Brown (nominated by Nicolina Kingstone, seconded by Garry Larocque, accepted) – appointed by ballot
 - Monique Belliveau (nominated by Louise Summers, seconded by Joanne Gravelle, accepted) – defeated by ballot
 - DIRECTORS AT LARGE:
 - Scot Lemieux (nominated by Marlene Gauthier, seconded by Barb Lavictoire, accepted) - appointed
 - Nicolina Kingstone (nominated by Denise Robinson, seconded by Darlene Brown, accepted) - appointed
 - Barb Lavictoire (nominated by Scot Lemieux, seconded by Joanne Garry Larocque, accepted) - appointed
 - Marlene Gauthier (nominated by Darlene Brown, seconded by Scot Lemieux) - declined
 - Christine Flood (nominated by Denise Robinson, seconded by Joanne Gravelle, accepted) – appointed
 - Discussions were held to amend the constitution to raise the number of directors from 7 to 8. Proposed by Jean Séguin, seconded by Marlene Gauthier, all in favor for motion by show of hands.
- Closing remarks by the new President
 - Encouraged by having the challenge of having one nice happy family and a firm commitment of residents. There is work to be done, even if all cannot sit on the executive (Vision document, volunteer,...). A consensus to make progress in the year to come.
 - Top priority: website and other tools for better communication throughout the community.
- D. New Business**
- Consultation process in the new year for the Vision Document of the Neighborhood initiative (CCC)

- Careful when sending flyers or documents by mail, the Village includes only 2/3 of the population; need to include RR3 in mail out.
- Youth Survey needs to be developed and collected for the CCC planning
- Future park projects with Legacy funds from prior plans (paving the rink, tennis lines, Bocci court...) and discuss future development plans.
- Bring back to the Village (Scouts, events...), because partnering is important.
- Bugle was a very interesting way to advertise and communicate with residents, partnered in the past with Rogers - look if able to re-instate this tool.
- Signage on billboard was raised, to look if Vars CA should manage or to leave under the City of Ottawa, but careful for conflict of interest.

E. Agenda for Next Meeting

- Plan the year ahead calendar for general, executive meetings and AGM.
- Tasks, issues and priorities for Vars CA.
- Review the constitution
- Discuss if a financial audit report is required of the previous years.
- Availability of Legacy funds through the City for projects with certain guidelines.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 20:11 by Jean Séguin, moved by Dai Jones, seconded by Denis Mailloux. The new Board and executives will meet at 19:00 on December 2nd 2008 at the Saint-Guillaume School to discuss transfers of documents/powers from previous board. A calendar of next General Meetings will be developed and published.

Minutes submitted by: Hélène Manning-Lemieux

Approved by: Jean Séguin