

Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group (GNAG)
Board Meeting February 19, 2014
7 pm GCC

Present: John Richardson, Geoff Kellow, Heather Irwin, Mary Tsai Davies, , Cathy McCallion, Suzanne Joyal, Joanne Lennon, Brad Sigouin, Michel Ouellette

Regrets: Clare Pearson, Christy Oliver, Kate McCartney, Nicole Allen

1. Quorum established.

2. Review/adopt agenda:

Brad Sigouin, Geoff Kellow

3. Review/adopt minutes from meeting of October 16, 2013:

Cathy McCallion, John Richardson

4. Operational Overview

4.1 Chairperson's Report (Kate McCartney)

- No updates this month.

4.2 Executive Director's Report (Mary Tsai)

- Outdoor Rink Party
 - A rink party has been planned as a community appreciation event.
 - March 1st from 2 – 5 pm.
 - Will include many ice events, bbq, licensed.
- Spring/Summer Registration
 - Summer camp registration going well.
 - Spring programming registration begins Monday, February 24.
 - Suzanne presented neighbourhood feedback – a discussion about the name Odyssey camp. This name came from the City of Ottawa camps, which are now run by GNAG, and perhaps a name more suited to the extra GNAGness now evident in the camps would be a good idea (Odyssey Plus, for example).
 - Suzanne is building a requirements document re registration as e-register continues to be slow on first registration nights. All recommendations to be captured in this document, as well as a feasibility/cost analysis, as cost is of course an issue. This topic is being looked at by a sub-committee that will produce a set of recommendations.
- Glebe Collegiate Partnership
 - Mary approached Glebe Collegiate Institute (GCI) about the possibility of a partnership; daytime programming will decrease as full-day kindergarten rolls out across the neighbourhood and GNAG is considering new programming ideas to replace this decrease, with partnerships being one option. The idea is to consider courses on site at GCI in conjunction with GNAG staff. There are 1500 students at the school, with 800 enrolled in extra-curricular sports activities. The timing to approach GCI was perfect as they are applying for a grant to increase physical education in high schools with community partners.
 - Looking at activities for youth who do not need to try out but anyone can join.
 - The phys-ed department head at GCI thought a nominal fee might be one way to go; GNAG prefers no initial cost. GNAG would absorb the costs for fall 2014, if this rolled out in that timeframe. Potential to look at matching funds through the Community

Development Fund (school council match, ½ from GNAG CDF, courses free for now...nothing set in stone yet).

- Considering lunch, am, pm timeslots. Principal did a 20-minute mandatory survey and 1100 people responded...they overwhelmingly prefer lunch or pm programming but not am. Another survey with a question about what activities are of interest would be great input.
- First Avenue Public School is interested in units (school units) on pottery and art, for example, and this might be another day-time programming option. In the case of First Ave, programming must be in French.
- Need to meet with CDF to see how much money is available.
- Maybe a bi-directional option exists, where school building time that is locked down for school use only in the morning, but not regularly used as students don't participate in am offerings, could be made available to GNAG for things like spinning class (GCI).
- Q4/Breakfast Club Registration Policy
 - The next registration guide is out. Registration for Q4 and Breakfast Club will take place via lottery rather than sleeping out. Begins in May. Current registrants will be informed and will commit for the upcoming year, which will indicate how many spots are left open. Applications will be collected June 2 – 6th and names will be drawn for the amount of spaces available. The current waiting list will go into the pot.
 - Michel mentions that there may be an influx from people who chose in-school care when it was introduced but who are now disappointed in the poor programming available.
 - Mutchmor space is not yet confirmed for Q4 vets next year as they are increasing their daycare. If they do not need the extra space they are happy to share.
 - A lively board discussion occurred re the switch from sleeping out in order to secure a space in Q4 vs new lottery approach. The lottery will be a trial and will be evaluated.
- Glebe Report
 - Glebe report proposal was accepted but with a three-year term rather than a five year term.
 - Related to the Glebe Report, the latest GNAG programming guide was printed on glossy paper – looks great but there were complaints from volunteer Glebe Report carriers who said it was very heavy. GNAG to review. The glossy guides were less expensive.

4.3 Treasurer's Report (Brad Sigouin)

- There are deficits occurring – partially due to the difficulty of comparing current numbers to same time period last year and programming changes that occurred. A quarterly comparison presents a more accurate picture.
- Online payroll is being considered. Manual cheque signing is time consuming, some part-time employees lose their cheques, etc. Online payroll will also remove the dependence on having few signatories. There is a cost associated (per transaction and monthly) which is likely offset by the time saved in not signing so many cheques. Pete is looking into quantifying this. Online payroll is also a better fraud prevention mechanism, as employee names on a list is better than random cheques presented to signatories. No motion to vote on yet.
- Brad presented the numbers, with highlights discussed.

- In looking at the numbers, kids are aging and numbers for “littles” are slightly down based on a changing demographic.
- Kids’ programming overall increasing (just not “littles”)
- Specialty camps up.
- Adult general us up – suspect Phil’s great wine-tasting courses are the reason.
- Suzanne mentions that we need a clear picture of what money we need to set aside, when we have enough to give back or plan for a strategic move or make an investment. Brad says we have a need to continue with the rainy-day fund should we need to shut unexpectedly. Joanne agrees that a year-over-year plan to show where our next focus lies is a good idea. Mary adds that daytime programming will be down next year based on full day kindergarten – this will mandate a directional look as we’re headed for a BIG change so all these matters will come up over the course of the next year naturally. There is not only a school shift, but a demographic shift (drop) that may contribute to planning.

4.4 Community Partners Report (Geoff Kellow)

- Geoff passed around the plan for the new Mutchmor field. The new field has a running track, a soccer field, no school parking, no rink (can’t maintain the other things with ice and boards each winter – city apparently considering Sylvia Holden park for a new rink), a permeable surface. The focus is on the school yard and there is currently no summer time custodian. Completion date up in the air as it will move with the construction schedule of the school.
- GCA moving ahead with an exploration garden, looking at a long-jump pit at Chamberlain Park, new swings at Eugene Fossey park.

4.5 Other Standing Committee Reports

Taste in the Glebe (Nicole):

- Huge success, net a little over 17K.

5. Adjournment:

Michel Ouellette, Geoff Kellow