



Annual General Meeting

October 17, 2023

MINUTES: AGM, October 17th, 2023, 6:15 – 8:00 PM

Executive Committee Present: Rhoda Potter (President), Richard Yang (Treasurer), Sarah Martin (Secretary)

Absent: Randy MacDougall (1st VP), Elli Cristea (2nd VP)

Members of AVCA & Residents of Agincourt community as well as guests in attendance, taking place at Public Library (Agincourt).

Opening greetings from President Rhoda Potter, introductions of guests: Cameron McKinnon (Agincourt Mall –North American Group Development), Ernie McCullough (Dir. Sheppard East BIA), Howard Tam – Resident & AVCA Member

1. MINUTES FROM 2022 AGM

- Approved by Elaina DeLuca & Margaret Jameison

2. TREASURER REPORT (RICHARD YANG)

- Richard Reviewed the budget
- AVCA held the sponsorships money for other associations (CANS – Community Association North Scarborough) with regard to the 2020 BBQ that was subsequently cancelled due to Covid. \$ 1500.00
- A decision amongst participating associations of CANS was made on how to allocate the funds. The funds were divided and donated to the food banks at ACSA and RISING SUN.
- AVCA yard sale was a big success this year
- Money raised from the sale and memberships will go toward maintaining the website, flyers, Zoom account and other various administrative and event driven costs.
- Budget was approved by Janet Martin & Chin Lee

3. RECAP OF ISSUES OF CONCERN/INTEREST OF MEMBERS

- Handouts were given for people to write down a few ideas/concerns they would like to have addressed for 2024
- There were 4 main issues from 2022 AGM that members expressed the need for AVCA work on for 2023:
 - **SAFETY – Top Priority**
 - Have increased the amount of stop signs
 - New crosswalk at Huntingwood and Kittery, Elli is working on the crossing guard still at the Sheppard/GO intersection
 - No U-turn signs have been installed on Lockie Ave. by Junior A Public School
 - Work is still being done to advocate for sidewalk installation at Bellefontaine near Lynwood Heights School
 - WhatsApp has become quite popular, a lot of sharing of positive things as well as cautionary notices
 - Through WhatsApp have been able to provide 42 Division Police Dept. with a lot of valuable information
 - Our community is now up on their bulletin board to be checked for any alerts

- Members are encouraged to continue reporting, locking card doors, leaving outdoor lights on at night.
- Rhoda continues to attend CLC meetings for the Delta Hotel to keep up on the status, acknowledged that both the MP & MPP attend or a representative from their office regularly, our city councillor does not attend or send anyone often.
- The expected expiration of the Delta lease by the city is 2024. The question remains about what will happen to the people currently living there? Where will they go, what provisions have been planned?
- **DEVELOPMENT**
 - Agincourt Mall, scheduled to begin 2025, possible shoves in the ground
 - There will be a daycare and a 10000 sq. ft Community room built into the plan beside the library
 - There will be at least 1 large park and 1 small park
 - The 2 new condos at Kennedy & 401 are seeing people moving in currently
 - With the 401 ramp closed at Kennedy (now extended until spring 2024), traffic is becoming very congested.
 - There is a new street being proposed that will connect Village Green Square Condominiums to Sheppard Ave., it will connect to Sheppard at Gordon Ave., this is still in the EA (environmental stage)
 - There are proposed town homes at the corner of Kennedy and Collingwood (53 homes), AVCA has asked Councillor Mantas to put forward a motion for a set of traffic lights at Gordon/Sheppard and at Collingwood/Kennedy.
 - Midland and Sheppard property is now being proposed to have 3 condominiums (1 x 33 floors, 1 x 39 floors, 1 x 12 floors), cars will only be able to turn east on Sheppard Ave, and south on Midland Ave out of this development
 - Rhoda and Chin Lee met with developers and requested that the current building (old flea market building) be torn down immediately in the meantime while plans are being developed
 - Cowdry Court, there is a proposal for development of condos, still in discussion phase
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
 - Agincourt Mall Development: 10% will be affordable housing
 - EHON – (Expansion Housing Options in Neighbourhoods), zoning is in place for Garden Suites, Laneway Suites, and Multiplexes. Discussion is happening regarding stacked townhouses & 6 storey apartment buildings on identified major streets
 - Go to [Toronto.ca/ehon](https://toronto.ca/ehon) to see additional information regarding the Major Street Study
 - Modular homes are almost completed in Glamorgan/Dundalk neighbourhood. Is meant to help people from shelters transition into their own space, small units, supportive housing. This is being allocated to people displaced from Etobicoke currently.
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**
 - With all the development along Sheppard, need to advocate strongly for Sheppard Subway, great need now and even more so in the future for public transit
 - Need to push for a continued line from Don Mills station out to meet the McCowan station, email Aris Babikian (MPP for Scarborough/Agincourt)
 - Also need to push for later than 7:12 pm return trips from Union on the Stouffville GO Corridor
 - The closing down of the Scarborough SRT has created changes to Kennedy and Midland routes. 1 northbound lane of Kennedy from Eglinton to Progress is a 'RED' bus lane only, and 1 lane of Midland southbound is a 'RED' bus lane from Progress to Eglinton.
 - City is currently studying the possibility of converting the SRT rail line into an express bus lane
 - Question from members about integrating the fares between the GO line and the TTC
 - Rhoda confirmed that Durham and VIVA transit lines have worked out an agreement with GO Transit to transfer from they system to GO's, TTC had an agreement for a short period then cancelled it.
 - Email torontoeast@metrolinx.com and make them aware of your suggestions and concerns around fares and scheduling
 - The new 'end-of-line' subway station in current development at McCowan and Sheppard does not have any current plans for providing vehicle parking.
 - AVCA encourages members to Email the Minister of Transportation about this to request parking options at this station.

4. **METROLINX**

- Agincourt GO Station currently closed after 11:45 am on weekdays and closed completely on weekends
- Notes from Randy:

- The noise walls installed within the AVCA boundaries were the 1st of the RER projects along the Stouffville corridor
- They were planned and built hurriedly, haphazardly, rushed
- There have since been changes made to the noise walls as the project has moved on to other sections of the project because of the work Randy did to point out the inadequacies, however Metrolinx has left the Agincourt community with the poor quality noise walls that are not up to code.
- AVCA was contacted by the Leslieville community when they were going through the construction of the GO expansion in their community, as a result of work done by AVCA, they are receiving 8 metre high walls that are absorbative
- AVCA encourages members to email the MPP (ARIS) and our Minister of Transportation regarding this issue
- We need to advocate to the media, and hopefully before December we can enlist the help of Mike Adler of Metroland Media before he leaves his position
- AVCA is also still advocating for grade separations for Passmore, McNicol, Finch, Huntingwood, Progress, all of these areas are areas of concern
- A lot of the trains are still diesel, when will we see the electrification of the trains?
- ASK TO COMMUNITY: Is there any interest in forming a protest/demonstration, or in litigation for the replacement of the noise walls?
- ASK FROM MEMBER: Are we able to join with other associations? Ans. There are 3 – 4 others that we may have support from
- MEMBER GUEST SPEAKER: HOWARD TAM – recounting his experience with Metrolinx
 - The reduction of the schedule at Agincourt GO has greatly impacted his life and livelihood, avid commuter
 - He wanted to find out more about why the trains were reduced in our community, there were no announcements regarding the closures or reduced schedule
 - The Metrolinx tag line “Keeping You In The Know” was not ringing true, they were not being transparent
 - Sent out many ‘Tweets’ and comments with regard to the changes
 - Went to inquire about finding out the ‘why’ and was told it was due construction, but there was no evidence of construction
 - Requested information under the ‘Freedom of Information Act’, an initial fee of \$ 5.00 for the application, filed this application in person, 20 Bay St., 6th Floor, Mail Room
 - The response to this application was they could get him the information he requested, but there would be a fee of \$ 1500 to account for the costs to have someone work on compiling the information for him, later reduced to \$ 750
 - Was told that no one actually ever made this request so they didn’t really have a known process in place for handling the request
 - He has finally had a response from Metrolinx to send a person/team of people to meet with him at the station to discuss some of his concerns, (he requested someone from operations)
 - If anyone has any questions they would like answered he will gladly take them and ask during his meeting
 - If he gets the answers he is looking for he may drop the application for information
 - If the FOI application seems like it will need to be pursued, Howard asked if the community was interested in fundraising, maybe \$ 10/pp?

5. AGINCOURT HERITAGE SIGN PROPOSAL

- AVCA is asking the community if there is interest in having an Agincourt heritage sign installed, proposed for the green space at the end of Agincourt Dr.
- The land belongs to Metrolinx, in casual conversation with Metrolinx - it is something they don’t see a problem with but it would have to be maintained by the community, Metrolinx would not assume the responsibility of upkeep
- AVCA would work with the Scarborough Historical Society – namely Rick Schofield
- AVCA member suggested that there could be included a QR code that would allow people to scan and be directed to a site where they could read stories from other people that have lived or live in the community and about their experiences in Agincourt
- If interest is there, we would need to fundraise for it, could not confirm cost, but some indicators suggest \$ 700 - \$ 1500.
- AVCA has also worked with Metrolinx on having historical photos added to the station to show the history of this community
- Judy, Elaina and Virgil volunteered to assist with this endeavour.

7. **VOLUNTEER REQUESTS - Sarah**

- There are a number of tasks, with sub type committees that are taken on and formed to work on initiatives
- AVCA in the past has not been proactive in asking for volunteers, but with the growing membership and the desire to do more, plan more events, we are asking for people to volunteer more, participate where they can to help make these things happen
- The AVCA executive is a small team and can only do so much and give so much of their own time, the more the members of the community can volunteer the more we can accomplish
- Asking people that are interested to put their name down on areas of activity they would be most interested and available to offer their help, sign up sheets provided.
- Recognized Elaina DeLuca for her work on the Parks improvements
- Recognized Steve Lim for his generous donation and sponsorship of our Volleyball event

8. **DOOR PRIZES & SHEPPARD EAST BIA GIFT CERTIFICATES:**

- Several door prizes given away
- BIA Gift Certificates:
 - Susan
 - Bill Martin
 - Frances Rose

9. **QUESTIONS COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS**

- Concerns for look and feel of garden suites
- Noise from cars and GO trains
- Pedestrians vs. E-Scooters & E-bikes on sidewalks
 - Several members not comfortable walking around regular routes due to safety with regard to this

10. **TIME LEFT TO MINGLE**