

Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting of Brenda Leipsic Dog Parkers Inc.

(hereinafter referred to as the "Group")

February 19, 2015

Present at the appointed time for the meeting were:

First Incorporators: Kevin Kushnier, Rosalyn Jones-Smith, and Evan Wilcosh; along with other

Provisional Board Members: Suz Wiens and Lois Melville;

Visitors: Frank Machovec, Co-Chair of Maple Grove Dog Park, and Georgina Sabesky, Executive Assistant to local City Councillor John Orlikow;

The Group's General Membership: represented by the attendance of 44 members, from a total roster of 70, including 32 of which who joined as new members at this event;

Regrets: Kristy Slough, provisional Director of Communications.

1. Opening

Kevin Kushner, as provisional Chairman, acted as chair for the meeting. Quorum having been achieved, the meeting was called to order at 6:55 P.M. on February 19, 2015 at the Winnipeg Humane Society, 45 Hurst Way, in Winnipeg. Suz Wiens, as provisional Secretary, kept the minutes.

2. Reports from the Provisional Chair

The chair welcomed the members. Being the inaugural meeting of the Group, the chair summarized the group's statement of purpose as recorded in the draft bylaws, and included a brief discussion of the opportunities and liabilities associated with the City's "Adopt a Park" stewardship program. He summarized the Group's incorporation status, along with a description of its implications for applying for membership in Windog Inc., a city-wide umbrella group that exists to advocate for off-leash dog parks and their user groups. Finally, the chair reported on the opening of the new corporate bank account at Carpathia Credit Union.

The chair then reviewed the proposed *Stage 2 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Expansion (the "dog-leg" route)* and the extension of Hurst Way eastwards, including the City's *Environmental Act Proposal* - the license against which the Group has appealed to the Minister for the Environment. He also discussed the proposals' impact on the Brenda Leipsic Off-Leash Park (the "Park"). He included the timeline for the start of construction of the project, being early spring of 2016.

Further, the chair reviewed City Council's recently announced decision to approve expropriation of 22 acres from the Parker lands (now under private ownership) to develop the *City of Winnipeg Public Works Department's* plans for a deep-water retention pond at that site in aid of the *Cockburn/Calrossie Combined Sewer Relief Project* and the *Combined BRT/Jubilee Overpass Expansion* project.

The chair shared his conclusions as to the improbability of stopping the City's development of the BRT "dog-leg" route expansion, given the will at City Hall to push it forward, given the City's announcement that it has now secured P3 funding for the project from the Federal Government, and

given the many millions of dollars that have already gone into funding the promotion and the development of the proposal. He did, however, detail the remaining possibility - and his recommendation - that the Group lobby the city to secure the western half of the Parker Lands parcel, up to the main central dividing path, which eastern border aligns with Planet Street, and which southern border abuts a MB Hydro Right of Way.

Following from questions from Members in attendance, the chair outlined the partnership that the Group enjoys with the *Parker Wetlands Conservation Committee*, which includes our shared concerns for preservation of the natural habitat, and "at risk" species. Further, he mentioned the need for continued efforts to encourage partnerships with various other community organizations including the *South Osborne Residents Group*, and the residents group from the Lord Roberts community which is opposed to the planned "Yards at Fort Rouge" transit-oriented housing development. The chair also looked to the Group for suggestions such as to whom the Group could appeal for assistance, whether from government or outside parties, so as to further the Group's stewardship/land protection advocacy efforts. Member Jennifer Still suggested that the province of Manitoba had recently enacted new measures that govern protection and management of surface water and wetlands. Member Dan McInnis recommended approaching the *Nature Conservancy of Canada**.

*(*Note: The Chairman approached the Nature Conservancy of Canada on 23Feb15. Their representative stated that their mandate does not include urban areas.)*

The chair then detailed the City's proposed relocation site for the Park, including his concerns regarding the distinct potential for re-grading of the entire parcel to effect drainage conditions conducive to the City's *Combined BRT/Jubilee Overpass Expansion* project. The chair expressed his concerns that such wholesale changes to the drainage patterns in the surrounding areas may well cause the demise of the wet meadowlands habitat in the Park, and the Aspen woods in the Parker forest. In addition, the chair observed that the proposed site would remain outside of city-owned lands. The chair observed that this arrangement would be contrary to recommendations following from the draft report of Landscape Architect Dean Spearman (as commissioned by the City of Winnipeg) in his submission regarding guidelines for the development of protocols and policy for the City's development and management of off-leash parks.

Finally, the chair reported the City of Winnipeg's recent activity aimed towards acquiring the CNR lands, a 14 acre triangle located between the Park and the privately owned Parker forest. He concluded with his ideas for a proposal to the City such that the triangle of CNR land might be reconfigured to square-off a parcel in the Parker forest, and that City Council - following from previous recommendations of our ward's City Councillor, John Orlikow - should give due consideration to earmarking this land as an addition to, or as an alternative to, the proposed relocation site for the Park. The chair further recommended that the Group prepare a submission to City Planning Department for an alternate proposed re-alignment of the Hurst Way extension such that it would run directly alongside the BRT route, rather than cut the forested land off from the MB Hydro right of way where the Park is currently located, thereby lending to further potential expansion of the allotted space by providing a parking lot in that area for park users.

3. Approval of Bylaws

The chair gave a description of the proposed set of bylaws, noting that the bylaws had been posted for review at the time the Notice of Meeting was provided to members. He highlighted some important points. The bylaws were received by the general membership, who upon a motion made by Lois Melville, and seconded by Lawrie Cherniack, voted in the majority such that it was...

RESOLVED that the draft bylaws appended hereto are hereby approved and shall be adopted henceforth as the Bylaws of the Corporation.

4. Election of the Board of Directors

The chair outlined the duties of the various positions on the Board of Directors. Then he introduced the various members of the provisional Board, noted their nominations for election in their respective roles, and asked for any other nominations for those offices, and for the remaining offices, from the floor.

Carla Bates, Dan McInnis, and Michael Bagamery nominated themselves for the roles of Director of Events, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

The Elections of Directors and Officers for the Corporation ensued, with the result being that the following individuals, being duly nominated, were elected by acclamation to serve in those offices that are recorded directly opposite their names, as recorded below:

- a) ***Chairman - Kevin Kushnier***
- b) ***Vice Chairwoman - Suz Wiens***
- c) ***Secretary - Michael Bagamery***
- d) ***Treasurer - Dan McInnis***
- e) ***Director of Communications - Kristy Slough***
- f) ***Director of Marketing - Evan Wilcosh***
- g) ***Director of Events - Carla Bates***
- h) ***Director of Membership – vacant (see “Note”, following)*****
- i) ***Director of Stewardship – vacant***

*****{Note: Andrea Szwajcer, Jennifer Still, and Lois Melville approached the Vice Chairwoman following the adjournment of the meeting, offering to serve in the respective capacities as Director of Membership, and as Directors at Large. The Board will consider such interim appointments for these offices, or interim appointments in such other capacities as the Board may consider appropriate for Ms. Szwajcer, Ms. Still, and Ms. Melville at the time and place of the Board’s next meeting}***

5. Appointment of Accountant

The Chair recommended that the group consider the appointment of Mr. Gil Harms as accountant for the Corporation. By majority vote it was...

RESOLVED that G. D. Harms, CMA Ltd. be appointed as accountant for the Corporation.

6. Dispensing With an Audit

Following a brief description by the chair of the obligations of the Group to consider a financial audit pursuant to the *Corporations Act of Manitoba*, the Members were asked if there were any objections to dispensing with an audit for the forthcoming year. There were no objections. By Unanimous Consent it was...

RESOLVED that the Corporation dispense with a financial audit for the forthcoming year.

7. Other Business: Questions and Comments from the Floor and General Discussion

The chair received and addressed members' comments and questions as regards:

- Ownership of the lands that comprise the Park and lands surrounding it, as well as issues regarding MB Hydro towers, their relocation, and subsequent implications for use of the surrounding area;
- The respective measurable area of the lands under discussion, by estimation:
 - The Park is approximately 30-40 acres;
 - The most heavily used area, including the Park and the main Parker forest (everything west of a line draw north from Planet Street) is approximately 60-70 acres;
 - The Parker Lands are approximately 58 acres;
 - The CNR lands are 13.88 acres;
 - The land to be expropriated from the Parker Lands for the deep-water retention pond is 22 acres;
- *How much land would the Group be interested in, if looking at alternate locations?* - In reply the chair noted that the informal estimate of user numbers provided in Dean Spearman's report to the city for our Park was 200; the Board considers this to be an undervaluation and indeed estimates users to be in the neighbourhood of 400-450 users. In any event Spearman's report observes that the users are having a significant negative impact on the land to the extent that it is over-utilized and is showing marked wear. Given that the allotted area of the Park is 30-40 acres and that the typical users also engage in significantly more use of the adjoining Parker lands, being another 58 acres, a reasonable replacement area must exceed 60-70 acres to avoid over-usage;

- The suitability of the BRT project for the lands available (drainage, proximity to homes and to other infrastructure, environmental concerns, etc.);
- *What is the position of the Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) as regards the Group's concerns?* – The WHS is helpful in providing space for our meetings, and will help where possible. However, the needs of WHS, being more modest inasmuch as they only desire a buffer strip outside of their own land, are not sufficient to match the needs for land of the Group. This puts the WHS in the position of being a “soft” ally in terms of our advocacy and lobbying efforts, but further to the Groups future efforts, BLDP should continue to encourage our relationship with WHS so as to enlist their ongoing support via the sharing of information regarding our initiatives to the WHS membership;
- Alternative dog park sites were suggested and discussed:
 - Crescent Drive Park and Golf Course (the latter recently decommissioned by the City of Winnipeg and slated for multiple group use development) – adjacent to *Thermia Spa*;
 - John Blumberg Golf Course;
 - Assiniboine Forest, specifically a grassed meadow area near the NW entrance;

A comment was made by a Member that the Group should not diffuse its efforts by spreading its focus too much. The Chair replied that these were important fall-back positions that merited some limited investigation given the uncertainty of success of the Group's main priority to secure a portion of Parker forest as a prospective relocation site;

- The provision of fences as a barrier near the *CNR Rivers* railroad tracks running along the northern border of the Parker Forest was raised as a possibility;
- The possibility of time-shared dog parks - A local park in the Lindenwoods neighbourhood, which remained unnamed, had been brought to the attention of the Chairman as having been explored as such a potential site, but its proponents reported that such arrangements were dismissed out of hand by the officials consulted.

8. Adjournment

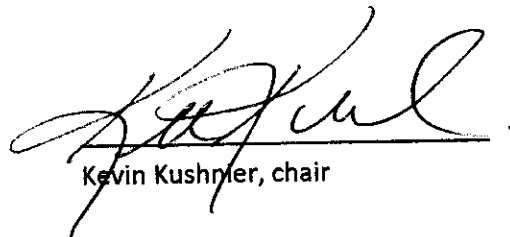
There being no further business the Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by



Suz Wiens, secretary

Attest to Contents



Kevin Kushner, chair