

Minutes of AGM for Pocket Community Association
June 22, 2021
Via Zoom (hosted by PCA Chair, Lori Zucchiatti O’Neill)

Present: Approximately 45 people attended, including the current Executive and “Friends of the Pocket”.

Welcome: PCA Chair Lori Zucchiatti O’Neill called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees, outlining Zoom guidelines, introducing guests and providing the land acknowledgement.

Our invited guests were City Councillor Paula Fletcher, MPP Peter Tabuns, MP Julie Dabrusin, Emma Weyman, Assistant to Coreen Jones, the Climate Change Champion for Toronto-Danforth, and Lisa Roberti, Project Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Trustee Jennifer Story sent regrets.

Lori introduced and thanked the current Executive: Vice-Chair Eadit Rokach; Treasurer Coline Morrison; Secretary Linda Blake; Communications Coordinator Daryl Boshart; Fundraising Coordinator Zhiizhii Prince; Membership Coordinator Gemma Parker; Member-at-Large Gail James; Member-at-Large Michelle Kushnir; Past Chair Susan McMurray. Lori thanked outgoing Executive members Coline Morrison, Zhiizhii Prince, Gemma Parker and Susan McMurray.

Anti-Racism Statement: Michelle, Lori and Susan read a statement. Its purpose is “to add our (the Pocket Community Association) voice to that of many across various communities in standing with our neighbours and all Canadians affected by racism, as well as to hold ourselves accountable. The focus is on what the PCA can do ourselves – what is within our power and capacity.”

Confirmation of quorum/Secretary’s report: Linda confirmed that we had quorum. The Executive had six meetings during our 2020-21 year, and the minutes of meetings were published on the PCA website.

Approval of 2020 AGM minutes: Diane Smith moved, Jeff Otto seconded, and the members approved the minutes of the previous AGM (September 9, 2020), as circulated.

Nomination & Election Committee summary of nominating process; introduction of 2021-22 slate; election/motion to approve: Lori introduced the members of the Nomination & Election Committee. Committee Chair Nina Littman-Sharp described the process used in identifying members who were willing and qualified to serve as Directors for 2021-22, and also trying to reflect the diversity of our community. This List of Nominees was circulated to members prior to the AGM. The Committee received one name for each position except Vice-Chair. Nina read out the name and position recommended, as follows:

Chair	Eadit Rokach
Vice-chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Martin Pollak
Secretary	Linda Blake
Communications Coordinator	Daryl Boshart
Fundraising Coordinator	Marco Oved
Membership Coordinator	Julie Charles
Member at Large	Gail James
Member at Large	Michelle Kushnir
Past Chair	Lori Zucchiatti O’Neill (this is not an elected position)

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Jeff Otto moved, Don Smith seconded, and the members approved that we elect the full list by acclamation. The 2022-23 Nomination & Election Committee members will be Linda Blake, Malinda Francis and Robyn Switzer.

Chair's report: Lori thanked all who contributed to the PCA mission during a year in which COVID-19 continued to challenge us. In summary:

- *Our Executive of the past year.*
- *Nina as Nomination & Election Committee Chair and Linda and Robyn Switzer for joining the Committee.*
- *The Chairs of our other Committees: Jeff Otto & Dean Miller for the Events and Phin Park/Greening Committees; David Langille for the Pocket Change Committee;; Ellen Titus for coordinating our Street Captains and performing other membership tasks.*
- *The entire Pocket Change Executive*
- *Our approximately two dozen Street Captains.*
- *The many volunteers at our events, with the ones on the Santa's Frozen Festival Committee, our Phin Park Rink Dream Team, and our Pocket Pride Committee deserving special mention.*
- *The monetary and in-kind sponsors of our events – essential to reducing our costs.*
- *Residents who registered as COVID-19 volunteers to do a range of tasks and are still called upon to help, and the many people who demonstrated instances of neighbour-to-neighbour (sometimes stranger-to-stranger) support during the pandemic.*
- *Michael O'Neill, Lori's husband, for his support for both her and the PCA.*

Treasurer's report & motion to approve: Coline provided a breakdown of revenues and expenditures for 2020 (fiscal year January 1 to December 31), reporting that the PCA's income was \$4,322.90 and expenses were \$5,588.43, for a cash flow change of (\$1,265.53). Net worth was \$15,007.42. Primary fundraising drivers this year included new memberships and donations. Gail James moved, Nina-Littman-Sharp seconded and the members approved the Treasurer's Report.

2021 Canada Healthy Communities Initiative grant application: Emma Weyman reported on the PCA's planned application for this grant. The Laneway Project will be the prime object of the grant request. This project will transform the alleyway that runs alongside Phin Park and Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School with murals inspired by climate change/climate action and celebrating Indigenous people. Other potential components are vertical gardens and raised planters, with a focus on native/pollinator species. Emma and David Langille asked members to send ideas and letters of support for the grant request to their attention.

Other Executive and Committee reports since our 2020 AGM:

- **Communications:** Daryl outlined information posted to the PCA website, Twitter and Facebook accounts, and to the Pocket Facebook group. He advised that our website is moving from a WordPress platform to a NationBuilder platform, via vendor Progressive Nation, in 2021.
- **Events:** Jeff Otto thanked his co-chair Dean and the volunteers who supported the following events:
 - Yoga with Trisha Lanns, with the assistance of a \$1,000 donation by a PCA member
 - Halloween activities
 - Santa's Frozen Festival: Porch Edition, sponsored by Donna Lee; cash, food and toy donations were presented to Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre, a cash donation was given to the Toronto Humane Society, and a Santa Claus parade was held
 - Pocket Pop-up Holiday Shopping

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- Phin Park skating rink with particular thanks to the volunteers who created and maintained it
- Spring Fling: scavenger hunt and outdoor décor
- Pocket Pride Parade

- **Neighbourhood Support:** Lori described the committee's activities, including welcome bags for new residents and pandemic support. Sip and Chat was discontinued until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- **Fundraising:** Zhiizhii reported donations received, and collected for others, particularly Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre. Eastview still needs support, and use of its food bank has doubled during the pandemic.

- **Outreach and Membership:** Gemma reported that the Pocket Newsletter was delivered to 1,100 households thanks to Ellen Titus, Street Captains and other volunteers. Twenty-three eblasts were sent to members since our last AGM. We have 159 PCA memberships to date, significantly fewer than usual because the pandemic prevented a door-to-door membership drive and other events where people may sign up. Two \$100 gift certificates were/will be given away via a draw as incentives to become a member or renew membership. Six more Street Captains are needed – volunteers should email Ellen. Over 50 welcome bags have been distributed to new neighbours since the last AGM.

- **Phin Park & Greening:** Jeff Otto reported on the park garbage clean-up, watering and proposed repair of the herb garden, removal of invasive plants and Project Swallowtail. The Pocket has been designated as one of three new "expansion hubs" of Project Swallowtail. More volunteers are needed to support the work of this committee. Work recommended by the LEAF Young Urban Forest Leaders Pocket Tree Report is expected to begin this summer.

- **Pocket Change:** David Langille gave a PowerPoint presentation to promote heating our homes with electricity, not fossil fuels, and the need to retrofit our houses to reduce our carbon footprint. Project Change can help residents by advising on retrofits and financial assistance. David thanked our local political representatives for their support.

The Pocket SNAP: Lisa Roberti, Project Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) presented a slide show and reported favourably on the Zoom workshop held earlier this year. It had close to 100 participants, and their input is being analyzed for a "Next Steps" report, which will identify emerging themes and action areas and prepare for a community co-design workshop in the fall.

Councillor Fletcher remarks: Councillor Fletcher shared her appreciation of Pocket Change and its efforts to reduce The Pocket's carbon footprint. She noted the neighbourhood fire hall, TTC yards and Toronto Community Housing are on board to achieve this goal, as is she. She also praised the PCA's pandemic support.

Closing remarks and adjournment: Lori declared the AGM to be adjourned at 8:50 PM, with thanks to all participants and guests.

Minutes prepared by PCA Secretary Linda Blake on August 31, 2021.