

**Minutes of AGM for Pocket Community Association
June 29, 2022
Phin Park, 115 Condor Avenue, Toronto**

Present: Approximately 31 people attended, including seven members of the current Executive.

“Friends of the Pocket” and others were also present.

Welcome: PCA Chair Eadit Rokach called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees, introducing guests and providing the traditional land acknowledgement.

Our invited guests were City Councillor Paula Fletcher, MPP Peter Tabuns and Adriana Gomez, Senior Project Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. MP Julie Dabrusin sent regrets.

Eadit introduced and thanked the current Executive: Treasurer Martin Pollak; Secretary Linda Blake; Communications Coordinator Daryl Boshart; Fundraising Coordinator Marco Oved (regrets); Membership Coordinator Julie Charles; Member at Large Gail James; Member at Large Michelle Kushnir (regrets); Past Chair Lori Zucchiatti O’Neill. Lori thanked outgoing Executive members Linda Blake, Daryl Boshart and Michelle Kushnir.

Confirmation of quorum/Secretary’s report: Linda confirmed that we had quorum. The Executive had six meetings during our 2021-22 year, and the minutes of meetings were published on the PCA website.

Approval of 2021 AGM minutes: Susan McMurray moved, Susan Fraser seconded, and the members approved the minutes of the previous AGM (June 22, 2021), as circulated.

Nomination & Election Committee summary of nominating process; introduction of 2022-23

slate; election/motion to approve: Eadit introduced the members of the Nomination & Election

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Committee: Linda Blake, Malinda Francis and Robyn Switzer (regrets). Committee Chair Linda Blake described the communication process used in identifying members who were willing and qualified to serve as Directors for 2022-23, and also trying to reflect the diversity of our community. The List of Nominees was circulated to members prior to the AGM. The Committee received one name for each position except Vice-Chair and Fundraising Coordinator. Linda read out the name and position recommended, as follows:

Chair	Eadit Rokach
Vice-chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Martin Pollak
Secretary	Sarah Sheard
Communications Coordinator	Marco Oved
Fundraising Coordinator	Vacant
Membership Coordinator	Julie Charles
Member at Large	Gail James
Member at Large	Malinda Francis
Past Chair	Lori Zucchiatti O'Neill (this is not an elected position)

Lori moved, Peter Farncombe seconded, and the members approved that we elect the full list by acclamation. The 2023-24 Nomination & Election Committee members will be Linda Blake, Desiree De Barros and Malinda Francis.

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Chair's report: Eadit 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.
- Linda as Nomination & Election Committee Chair and Malinda Francis and Robyn Switzer for joining the Committee.
- The Chairs of our other Committees: Jeff Otto & Dean Miller for the Events Committee, Lori for the Phin Park and Greening Committee and the Neighbourhood Support Committee; David Langille for the Pocket Change Committee
- Our twenty-five Street Captains who delivered two flyers - Pocket Change/Phin Park & Greening and Membership/Nomination & Election - to 1100 Pocket residences in May
- Ellen Titus for coordinating the Street Captains and performing other membership tasks
- The many volunteers at our events, with the Phin Park Rink Dream Team, Pocket Rocket and Pocket Pride participants 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, including grocery delivery to an elderly resident until his recent passing, and the many people who demonstrated instances of neighbour-to-neighbour (sometimes stranger-to-stranger) support during the pandemic
- Personal thanks to Lori for her support during Eadit's first year as Chair

Treasurer's report & motion to approve: Martin provided a breakdown of revenues and expenditures for 2021 (fiscal year January 1 to December 31), reporting that the PCA's income was \$3,130.96 and expenses were \$3,097.34, for a surplus cash flow of \$33.62. Net worth was \$15,241.04. Primary

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fundraising drivers this year included new memberships and donations. Susan Patterson moved, Susan McMurray seconded and the members approved the Treasurer's Report.

Other Executive and Committee reports since our 2021 AGM:

- **Communications:** Daryl outlined information and events posted to the PCA website, Twitter and Facebook accounts, and to the Pocket Facebook group this year. He reported the status of the PCA website's move to a NationBuilder platform, from the current Wordpress platform. He noted that Marco, the incoming Communications Coordinator, was one of the developers of the new Pocket Change website which uses a NationBuilder platform. Daryl said goodbye to his fellow Executive members and thanked them for their support.

- **Events:** Jeff Otto was unable to attend due to illness and Lori presented the report on his behalf. She thanked Jeff and his co-chair Dean and the volunteers who supported the following events. Lori noted PCA funding is integral to many of these events.
 - Pocket Rocket Music Festival, with thanks to musicians and porch providers, and the audience members who donated money to the PCA
 - Little Red Theatre's free presentation of *Ferretale* in Phin Park; Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre day campers came to see the show along with Pocket families; the PCA made a donation to the theatre in appreciation
 - Pumpkin Parade was back - over 100 pumpkins, and hot chocolate and popcorn provided by the PCA
 - Pocket Porch Pop-up holiday shopping event, organized by Jen Balogh and other neighbourhood vendors and supported by the PCA

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- 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
- Phin Park skating rink and Family Day Skating Party, with particular thanks to the volunteers who created and maintained the rink
- Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt was back, with thanks to the volunteers who cleaned Phin Park beforehand to ensure it was safe for the hunters
- Pocket Street Sale, with thanks to the participants who donated their proceeds to charities
- Clean Toronto Together Community Clean Up Day in Phin Park
- Eco Fun Fair organized by Pocket Change
- Pocket Pride Parade, with thanks to Michael Winnett for taking photos

- **Fundraising:** Martin reported donations received, and collected for others, particularly Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre via Donna Lee's sponsored Santa's Frozen Festival. Eastview still needs support, and use of its food bank has doubled during the pandemic

- **Neighbourhood Support:** Gail thanked the ten members of the COVID-19 Committee and the other volunteers who supported the neighbourhood during the pandemic, and described some of their efforts. The COVID-19 portal on the PCA website and 24/7 helpline were shut down in July 2021 after requests for assistance stopped. Neighbourhood Support delivered almost 40 welcome bags to new residents since the last AGM. Sip and Chat is discontinued until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- **Outreach and Membership:** Julie reported that the Pocket Change/Phin Park Greening flyer and the Membership "Top Ten Reasons to join the PCA"/Volunteer and Nomination & Election flyer

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were delivered to 1,100 households thanks to Ellen Titus, Street Captains and other volunteers.

Thirty-three eblasts were sent to members since our last AGM. For 2022, we have 175 PCA memberships to date, fewer than usual because the pandemic continues to prevent a door-to-door membership drive, but more than we had at the same time last year (159) A \$100 gift certificate was won by a renewing member via a draw in January and a similar membership incentive is planned this fall. More Street Captains are needed – volunteers should contact Ellen directly, or via Julie.

- **Phin Park & Greening:** Lori reported on the Committee’s scheduled Phin Park and off-leash dog park garbage clean-ups and garden watering this spring/summer/fall. The Phin Park herb garden has new plants and repair of its stone border is planned. Posters and eblast/social media identifying several invasive plants have been distributed. Native pollinator plant seeds have been prepared for sale to support Pocket Change. This year there were several incidents of vandalism of the park shed which were reported to Toronto Parks & Rec.
- **Pocket Change:** David Langille thanked our neighbourhood elected representatives, City Councillor Paula Fletcher, MPP David Tabuns and MP Julie Dabrusin for their support of Pocket Change. He reported on developments in Pocket Change’s mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting heating our homes with electricity, not fossil fuels, retrofitting our houses to reduce our carbon footprint, and making the switch to electric vehicles:
 - A new website, pocketchangeproject.ca has been created
 - A new Executive has been elected by 130 neighbours
 - Sixteen ChangeMakers are working together to retrofit their homes with the guidance of Pocket Change’s Retrofit Coach Paul Dowsett and support of Registered Energy Advisors.
 - Toronto City Council approved the Pocket Plus Neighbourhood Action Plan which calls for the TTC, Toronto Community and Housing Corporation, Toronto Fire Services and Parks, Forestry

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and Recreation to become part of this larger Pocket project and develop a 'larger institutional environmental project'

- Six on-street EV charging spaces – 2 on Chatham Ave. and 4 on Jones Ave. – are planned to be installed by the city
- Four charging spots for Toronto Fire Services in the Chatham parking lot are also planned, with the intent that they will also be available to the public.
- The Eco Fun Fair was held in Phin Park in June, with presentations by the TTC, City of Toronto's Environment and Energy Division, Toronto Hydro's Climate Action Team, and others.
- Two summer student interns, Biancka and Harrison, will be knocking on doors this summer asking residents to answer a few questions about home energy use and transportation habits. The survey and recruitment of the interns through the Canada Summer Jobs program is coordinated by the Green Neighbours Network.
- Pocket Change Parties are planned to resume this year
- Several webinars have been presented: Air Sealing and Insulation; Air Source Heat Pumps; Home Retrofit
- A free native shrub giveaway in partnership with TRCA is happening, with delivery in the fall
- Native pollinator seeds are available with a \$2 donation to Pocket Change
- Pocket Change can connect people who want to share their gardens
- A Sustainable Transportation working group is in the planning stage
- People can subscribe to the new Pocket Change newsletter

The Pocket SNAP: Adriana Gomez, Senior Project Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) provided an update on the Pocket Snap Program and thanked David Langille, the PCA and the community for its support of the project. After extensive

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community and multi-stakeholder engagement, the Draft Integrated Project Ideas is now posted on the TRCA SNAP website. Adriana advised the four main action areas are:

1. Sustainable building – home retrofit group, Pocket Plus, TTC
2. Green space biodiversity
3. Streetscape improvements – laneway project
4. Community enrichment – more public art, circular economies, engagement in nature based action

The next step will be to circulate the Draft Action Plan for review by the community.

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 past Secretary Linda Blake and current Secretary Sarah Sheard on July 20, 2022.