

**Minutes of PCA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Via Zoom (Hosted by Eadit)**

Present: Eadit Rokach (Chair), Gail James, Lori Zucchiatti O'Neill, Malinda Francis, Marco Oved, Martin Pollak, Linda Blake (guest)

Regrets: Julie Charles, Sarah Sheard

Regular Business:

1. **Welcome to new Board; appreciation; land acknowledgement, introductions**
2. **Review and approval of agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by Martin, seconded by Gail and passed.
3. **Approval of minutes from AGM June 29, 2022:**
 - Draft AGM minutes were submitted to the Board for review. Comments are to be submitted to Eadit by December 31, 2022. The final AGM minutes will be approved by the PCA membership at the next AGM.
 - The May 17, 2022 minutes will be circulated via email to the Board for review and approval.
4. **Treasurer's report:**
 - Martin submitted three financial reports - Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2022; Profit and Loss January-August 2022; Quarterly Profit and Loss Summary January-August 2022 – and answered questions. Lori and Martin will further discuss some items to clarify information.
 - The PCA 2021 corporation tax return has been filed and assessment received confirming the PCA pays zero taxes.

Committee Reports – What's New?

1. **Communications:**
 - Eadit reported that Google recently instituted a charge for previously free email services for organizations, including the PCA. The PCA did not authorize Google to switch to this paid service by the deadline and Google suspended our email account on August 1, 2022. Consequently, we lost the ability to send emails to our membership. Sean Symes has provided information to Eadit about the cost to maintain our current Wordpress website 'as is' and reinstate Google email functions, which she will share with Marco.
 - Marco will discuss how to expedite activation of the new Nationbuilder website with Susan McMurray, Julie and Sean Symes and report back.
2. **Events:**
 - Eco Fun Fair, June 18 in Phin Park – Marco reported great participation in the event, including our elected officials City Councillor Paula Fletcher, MPP Peter Tabuns and MP Julie Dabrusin speaking about actions the various levels of government are taking to reduce our carbon footprint. Representatives from Cycle TO, Green Thumbelina, Toronto's Environment and Energy Division, Goldfinch Energy, Harbord Village Association, TTC and Toronto Hydro were present, along with the annual display of our neighbours' electric cars. One hundred plus guests enjoyed the pollinator seedling giveaway, barbeque treats and local vendors' tables. Thanks were expressed to the many volunteers. More information is available at pocketchange@thepocket.ca.
 - Pocket Pride Celebration, June 25 – Lori reported the Pride Parade was greeted warmly by our neighbourhood as it celebrated Pride, diversity and a sense of belonging. The Pocket Pride Committee will consider moving the parade to the start of June next year to avoid conflict with the Toronto Pride Festival Weekend. Thank you to the many volunteers who participated.
 - Pocket Arts Festival, August 27-28 in Phin Park – Eadit and Lori reported a turnout of 175 to 200 people for free plays and music at the festival. The Lakeside Players presented their play *Robin Hood* three times over the weekend and the Little Red Theatre performed *The Name of the Tree* once. Pocket resident Stavros Stavropoulos kindly volunteered to provide musical entertainment. Refreshment sales income was donated to the two theatre companies. Thanks were directed to the volunteers who helped the theatres set-up and tended the refreshments stand.
3. **Membership:**
 - Lori reported on strategy for the fall membership drive. A membership discount and draw for a gift certificate will be offered to new and renewing members. The discount will be \$15 for the remainder of 2022 and all of 2023. The draw will be launched at the end of September.

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- The Board discussed possible local BIPOC businesses from which to purchase gift certificates.
- A door-to-door Membership Drive is planned for the spring.

4. Phin Park and Greening:

- Lori reported on the committee's successful summer watering and debris pick-up efforts in Phin Park, Oakvale Green and the leash-free dog park.
- Adriana Gomez, Senior Project Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods at TRCA, contacted Eadit to determine how TRCA could support the Phin Park and Greening Committee's efforts. TRCA representatives will conduct a site visit at Phin Park on September 13, 11:15 a.m. to meet with Lori and Jeff Otto and other available members of the Committee to discuss possible areas of cooperation.

5. Pocket Change:

- Lori reported on the summer door-to-door survey on home energy use and transportation habits conducted by two summer student interns, Biancka and Harrison. The survey and recruitment of the interns through the Canada Summer Jobs program was coordinated by the Green Neighbours Network. The students visited every address in the Pocket but completed only 100 surveys. Three other neighbourhoods that conducted the same program had similar results, most likely due to residents' reluctance to engage with unknown visitors during the pandemic, and although the students' objective was clearly identified by clothing and credentials.
- An application for a grant to hire a Retrofit Coordinator has been submitted, with the goal of extending the program citywide.
- On August 27 the Toronto Star published an article, "*How one Toronto neighbourhood is coming together to fight climate change faster for less money*", describing the evolution of the Pocket Change Project. French CBC Radio Toronto and Radio Canada contacted Pocket Change for interviews after the article appeared.
- Julia Morgan has established a Sustainable Transportation Working Group.
- A Pocket Change Talk on windows, doors and insulation is scheduled on September 17.

6. Secretary's Report / review of motions managed by email

- Motion on May 20 by Eadit to use Copy Cat Printing to print 1200 Pocket Change/Pocket Greening 8-1/2 x 11" 2-sided flyers, colour one side/black one side, 20 lb. white bond @ \$474.60, tax included, seconded by Julie. Motion passed May 20, 2022.
- Motion on May 27 by Lori to allocate \$500 of PCA funds to the Pocket Change Project for Eco Fun Fair expenses, with any leftover amount to be used for other PCP expenses, seconded by Eadit. Motion passed on June 1, 2022.
- Motion on June 24 by Lori to approve \$150 for herb garden expenditures, seconded by Linda. Motion passed June 28, 2022.
- Motion on June 24 by Lori to approve up to \$250 for Pocket Pride expenses, seconded by Gail. Motion passed on June 28, 2022

New Business:

1. Transition to ONCA committee:

- Eadit described the purpose of the committee and asked for volunteers. Eadit and Malinda volunteered and Eadit will follow up with Michelle Kushnir, former Board member, who had expressed an interest in participating at an earlier meeting. Lori can perhaps join the committee at a later time. Lori will forward Eadit a document developed several years ago with draft amendments to the PCA Constitution & By-Laws. The first meeting date is TBD.

2. Motion to give a \$150 honorarium to Crystal Dawn ("Green Thumbelina") for her indigenous teaching/walking tour for children at the Eco Fun Fair by Lori, seconded by Gail and passed.

3. AGM debrief: The Board agreed the AGM went well, but was concerned by the low attendance.

4. Final Comments: Eadit requested feedback re: in person Board meetings. The next meeting will tentatively be in person at Eadit's home.