

Harbour View Citizens Association
Minutes of General Meeting Held April 3, 2022
via Google Meet

***** Call to Order & Welcome *****

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by President Hall who apologized for the delayed start which was as a result of the Secretary having to deal with an issues and was not back home for the start of the meeting.

Sixteen persons were present at the start and warm welcome was extended to all, especially those who were in attendance for the first time, namely Marsha Hibbert and Reverend Kirk Brown, the new priest at St. Boniface.

***** Prayer *****

Prayer was offered by Reverend Kirk Brown.

***** Apologies *****

The following are the apologies that were tendered:

For absence:

- Lorna Harris
- Garth Daniels
- Oliver Clue
- Charlene Sharpe

For lateness:

- Carol Harris
- Karlene Black

***** Family Matters *****

Birthdays

Heartiest birthday greetings and well wishes were extended to persons celebrating birthdays in April, namely:

- Mrs. Peat-Smith – 27th

Wedding Anniversary

There were no announced wedding anniversaries.

Passing

- Mrs. Hyacinth Frater from Venus Ave.
- Mrs. Blackburn from Southern Cross Drive.

***** Reading, Correction and Confirmation of Minutes *****

The minutes of the meeting of March 06, 2022 was not read due to the absence of the Secretary at that point

***** Updates *****

President Hall provided the following as updates:

○ **Sewage plant.**

With the development of the new housing complex, Seascape, and not wanting a repeat of having to go to court, discussions have been had to verify that adequate provision has been made for the expected increase in sewage. Assurance has been given that due consideration was given and measure are in place. Mrs. Rodriguez-Moody, CEO, who replaced Ms. Diana McCauley, now retired, works closely with the Association and facilitates the site visits which take place at least every three months.

At the last visit which took place last week, the reed-bed which was almost totally destroyed by a fire that started on the Palisadoes Road and spread to the sewage area needs to be replanted. The team that visited consisted of four representatives from NWC as well as Ms. Bridgette. The Association will network with these persons to monitor and report on concerns regarding the sewage plant.

In relation to the concern raised re the dumping of garbage in the area, we were assured that no dumping is taking place. So, Mrs. Rodriguez, Moody is going to follow up on that to make sure that nothing like that is being done. Also, with their around-the-clock security anyone attempting to dump garbage would be noted and dealt with.

The Association will continue to monitor and welcomes any concerns or queries.

○ **Vacant positions:**

The positions of Public Relations Officer (PRO) and Assistant Secretary remain unfilled.

The role of the PRO will involve working with a team and using creative means to manage the website, maintaining a social media presence on Instagram and Facebook, advertising and promoting the Association and keeping the members informed of community activities.

The Assistant Secretary will be required to work closely with the Secretary and Executive in documenting the Association's business.

So, again, there is an appeal for recommendations and/or volunteers for these roles.

○ **Neighbourhood watch:**

The start of the neighbourhood watch is being hampered by the lack of Street Reps. We have been asking for persons to volunteer to become Street Reps because they are essential in being the liaisons for the citizens. The Executive has 11 persons and cannot monitor over 13,000 residents without some help on the street. As such Street Reps are needed to assist.

A Street Rep would have integrity and display a high level of confidentiality because they may be privy to private and personal matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Executive body. The Street Rep would be required to talk to the residents and note concerns and issues that the Association can action.

The process of setting up the Neighbourhood Watch committee involves communicating with the police at Elletson Road. We were working with Sergeant Campbell but he is now on preretirement leave so now we have Inspector Brown, who is advising us. We have set up a Crime Panel and a Victim Support Panel as required. So, we now need to sensitize the community and have a launch which will entail a church service and invite the MPs, the Councillor, and the Mayor among others. We also need to ensure that all the streets have street signs.

A preliminary decision has been taken to use whistles and telephones as the alert tools. If there is suspicious activity, the whistle, which has been used as a successful way of driving the perpetrators away, is blown and then calls can be made to the police and other designated persons.

We are still in the planning stage and need to finalize getting the buy-in of the residents through sensitization sessions and getting them involved. Additionally, there are plans to acquire T-shirts for the new Street Reps. This is being organized by two members of the Street Rep group, Kaylin and Colleen, who are responsible for leading and guiding the street reps. As soon as this is done, there will be a walk-through of the community to sensitize and to get persons on board with the Neighbourhood Watch project. Street Reps are still needed so please volunteer.

At this stage a suggestion was made by Maxine Solay-Williams to have a town-hall meeting to sensitize the community. President Hall said this was a good suggestion but expressed concern that even when we used to meet face to face, only a handful of persons would be present. So to try and reach the bulk of the residents, the thought amongst the Neighbourhood Watch group is that going door to door and giving out flyers might be the best way to go. However, this could be complemented with the town-hall meeting

To an invitation for comments, the following were received:

- Calene Clarke suggested using the town-crier like a day before so that people can hear about the neighbourhood watch and so that on the day the Street Reps go out, there will be no surprise and the residents will come out to meet and greet them and not necessarily stay inside.

President Hall commended the idea and promised that it would be discussed at the executive level because of the cost associated with using the town-crier and the membership advised on updates. She added that with approximately 200 persons on the members' page, if each one tells one it would help to send the message.

***** Speakers *****

○ Social Development Commission (SDC):

Mr Timothy Matthew Marks, SDC Representative assigned to the Harbour View division presented the following:

SDC is primarily known for supporting sporting initiatives but operates across six other programmatic areas to include governance, local economic initiative, project proposing, proposal writing, and data collection, as well as educational programs and community centres. Under governance is an advocacy plan

which seeks to identify one or two pressing issues that a community may be facing at a particular moment.

The issue of the illegal burning of garbage is the remit of the SDC as well. Therefore, the burning in and around the riverbed and in areas such as Melbrook and near Caribbean Terrace has been brought to our attention. Although it does not appear that the burning is not being done by the residents of Harbour View, the smoke still affects the community. The SDC process, in dealing with such issues, includes identifying all the stakeholders with SDC being the primary stake holder. SDC then makes contact with the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to determine if there is a problem with garbage collection which may result in the burning. The Police, Member of Parliament and the Councillor may also be included in arriving at a resolution.

With regards to this issue, SDC has completed a document with the help of the respective agencies and members of the Association and the President who spirited the initiative and was successful in making contact with Mr. Right from the NSWMA. Following this, a tentative date was set to write the advocacy plan and the implementation process which is to educate and sensitize. Persons from the Crusher, Melbrook and Bayshore areas will be directly targeted and thoroughly sensitized on the adverse and negative impact of burning garbage. The Police will also play a crucial role in this as well.

With regards to the renovation of the community centre, discussions will be had with members of the Association to identify areas in the centre that need to be addressed so that the necessary proposal for assistance can be drafted and submitted.

President Hall gave a background to the reason for extending the invitation to SDC.

The sensitization session is planned for April 16, 2022 with a town-crier announcing the event prior to that date.

The President indicated that the plans for the sensitization and education sessions were not yet final. She gave opportunity for questions and welcomed suggestions and comments. With none forthcoming, she thanked Mr. Marks for accepting the invitation and the information he presented and expressed the intent to work with him on other projects in the community.

Mr. Wright from National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) who was invited to address issues with garbage collection did not attend the meeting.

***** New Business *****

- Dr. Peat indicated that the Constitution which was edited in 2020 and 2021 needs to be an agenda item at a general meeting so that the membership can be made aware of the edits and vote on the changes. She also noted there is still the need to

update the bylaws based on those edits; the last ones being done by her in September of last year.

President Hall made note and stated that the edits would be considered and agreed on at an Executive meeting before being presented to the general membership.

- Sharon Williams questioned how long the daily water lock-off would continue and highlighted that the water was dirty when it came back.

A promise was made by President Hall to make contact with the NWC representative, Mrs. Campbell-Francis, regarding the issue and share her findings. She also pointed out that NWC advisories were posted on the members' page.

- Calene Clarke questioned the ongoing nightly lock-offs.

Madam President stated that it seems to be the norm not just for Harbour View but other communities as well based on information she had garnered from friends so there wasn't much that could be done. She also encouraged members to use the social media sites, on which NWC advisories are posted, to get information and help to share with the seniors who might not use or have access to these sites.

- On the issue of fundraising activities that had taken place, Dr. Peat requested that a report on the funds garnered from each of these activities be made available to the general membership. She said that by so doing it could engender more transparency and spur individuals to be more supportive of future events.

President Hall promised to ask Mr. Mike Murray, Treasurer, to prepare a formal report as soon as possible that will be posted.

- Andre Hew requested an update on the outcome of the discussions with Mr. Clue regarding the flooding of his yard and the water from the hill. He went on to describe how the run-off had changed the topology of his yard; dumping so much dirt so that he is now able to easily look over the 10-foot wall which was previously too high to look over.

The President indicated that during the drive-through with NWA and Dr. Uter that took them behind his house and unto the hill, it was recognized that major work will be needed and as such the MP has to be involved. A suggestion was made for the erecting of other retaining walls. She promised that the issue will be put on the agenda to arrive at possible solution.

Mr. Hew's comments generated a very lengthy discussion surrounding houses being negatively affected by the run-off from the hill. The general consensus was that residents need to become more aggressive in trying to get the accountable parties to fix the problem. There is also the need for urgent and drastic actions, including the planned demonstration at Jamaica House. The call is however, that the citizens fully support whatever is decided. The encouragement from the

President is that there is strength in numbers, unity is power; “We are for the vision, we're not for division”.

- Carol Harris reminded the meeting of the man who was going around the neighbourhood doing ‘genitalia displays’ to unsuspecting women. She suggested that persons document time and place if they were so harassed so that if there is a pattern to the occurrences, it could assist the police in arresting the perpetrator.

President Hall informed that the inspector is aware of the incidences but cannot apprehend the man unless formal reports are made. There have been two sightings on Riverside Drive but it is unsure if it is the same person because some time ago there was another pervert who was eventually arrested but is now out of prison. A picture was taken of the current pervert and it was sent to Inspector. She went on to advise that no resident must try to apprehend these persons but all must remain vigilant and make formal reports so the police can act accordingly.

- An update on the status of the sidewalk that was dug up by Seashore Place was requested by Lorna Harris.

President Hall pointed out that the work is part of the renovation of the shopping centre. However, the work stopped on an order from KSAMC because they had not gotten the requisite permission. The plan is to plant trees along that side which is still in effect. She promised to make contact and update the membership in short order.

***** Adjournment *****

With thanks from the President to all in attendance, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm on motion moved by Beverlyn Wong and seconded by Garth Daniels.