



Massey Victory Heights Residents' Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021

7:00pm - Virtual meeting via: ZOOM

Present executive members:

- Kathleen Carlsen - VP, interim president
- Deb Thomas - Secretary Treasurer
- Kaleigh Johnston – Director-at-large
- Terry Tomcko – Director-at-large
- Sherry Messenger – Director-at-large
- Leona Zheng – Director-at-large
- Gail Conzatti – Director-at-large
- Danielle Karlsson – Director-at-large

Regrets:

- Jason Lesage – Past-president

Attendance: 47 members

1. Called to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. *Introduction and attendance*

Kathleen introduced board members who were present, took attendance from the list of registered members and included a land acknowledgement. She also acknowledged Kathleen Stevens, from the City's Planning Department, and John Cooke, current sponsor of the MVHRA.

3. *Approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2020 AGM* – Moved by Kaleigh, seconded by Sherry and passed.

4. *Vice President's Report*

Kathleen thanked everyone for logging onto the first Virtual AGM , talked about the challenges of keeping connected during the pandemic, her commitment to transparency and ensuring we continue to communicate and connect with each other by other means – like the newsletter and the Halloween House Decorating Contest. She assured the members that meeting minutes would be taken and posted on the website in a timely manner. She also noted that the list used to communicate with members included past members and has resulted in some confusion as to who is a paid member and who is not. She said that, going forward, communications would be to members only and she asked members to encourage their neighbours to join the MVHRA.

5. *Treasurer's Report*

Deb reported on the ways in which funds were expended in 2020 and outlined potential expenses for 2021. She reported on the current bank balance. The current paid membership is 112 members – 50 new members and 62 renewals. She thanked our sponsors, John Cooke of KW Realty and the City of New Westminster.

6. *Secretary's Report*

Deb outlined her role as secretary - taking and posting meeting minutes - and as the editor of the newsletter, two issues of which were issued in 2020. She noted that the only personal information of members captured in MailChimp, the bulk email service used to communicate with members, is their email address.

5. *Police Committee Report*

Gail reported that crime generally is down in the area but she cautioned that there have been thefts from unlocked cars and persons seen testing doors of houses and cars. Police advise ensuring that valuables are not left in vehicles and that they are locked when not in use – and that house doors are locked.

7. *2020 Update / Review*

Kathleen reviewed the activities of the MVHRA in 2020.

- Due to the pandemic, there was no garage sale or block party
- The newsletter was revived in the summer of 2020 and includes a section advertising young people in the neighbourhood willing to be hired for small jobs like lawn-mowing, weeding, and snow-shovelling. She thanked the willing youth and those who hired them.
- The first annual Halloween House Decorating Contest took place in the fall with 14 houses participating and four prizes being awarded. Thanks to Sherry, Kathleen and Deb for their work on this initiative. John Cooke was thanked for funding the cost of the flyers. Pictures of all homes that participated are on the MVHRA website.

- *Holiday card with membership form*

Thanks to Leona for her leadership with this initiative and to all of the members who helped distribute the cards to residents.

Kathleen ended with thanks to all of the executive team for their work over the past year with special recognition to those who support our online presence – Terry Tomcko, our webmaster, and Kaleigh Johnston who looks after Facebook and Twitter

7. *Election of Officers* – administered by Kathleen Stevens on behalf of MVHRA

President – Dale Bradley

Vice President – Kathleen Carlsen

Secretary – Deb Thomas

Treasurer – Kaleigh Johnston

Directors-at-large:

Ron Bain

Gail Conzatti

Danielle Karlsson

Sherry Messenger

Terry Tomcko – Webmaster

Leona Zheng

Continuing as past president – Jason Lesage

Dale gave brief remarks, thanking Jason for his years of work on the executive, and stating his intention to increase communications with the City on issues of concern and interest to local residents. He also thanked Kathleen for her professional facilitation of the AGM.

8. *Open forum for residents*

Members were encouraged to share their thoughts. Lively commentary and discussion followed among those attending. The main themes were as follows:

- Surrey Street intersection and other traffic control concerns
- Concern about 2-way communication with City - loss of committees that included residents and largely online communication tools that do not work for those who are not connected. More consultation wanted.
- Concerns were raised about preservation of original architectural elements in homes from the 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s and the difficulties of navigating City requirements to preserve these elements when renovating.

- Suggestion for the City to do more street cleaning and sweeping on 8th and 10th Avenues
- Concern about the look of the new LED street lights as they do not fit with or reflect the heritage look of the existing street lights.
- Support for sharing concerns with the City that their communications and consultations may not reach all residents if they are chiefly online.

10. Next Meeting – Spring. Date to be determined.

11. All members were thanked for attending and being part of the great community discussion. *Meeting was adjourned at: 8:38pm.*

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