



**South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Toronto Lawn Tennis Club
Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 1900h**

The President, David Townley, took the Chair and minutes were taken by the SRRA Administrator. The Chair announced that a quorum was present and that the Meeting was properly constituted.

Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting ("AGM")

The Secretary summarised the Minutes of the 2009 AGM held on November 11, 2009.

- *It was **MOVED** by William Phillips, **SECONDED** by Ross Reynolds and **CARRIED** that the Minutes of the November 11, 2009 AGM be adopted.*

President's Report

The President gave the following Report:

I have had the pleasure and good fortune of living in South Rosedale for over 47 years and on the Board of the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association ("SRRA" or the "Association"), for the last 9 years as President and the previous 8 years as Treasurer.

The SRRA may be considered one of Canada's oldest ratepayer groups and certainly one of the most active. Formally incorporated in 1931, the Association's Board is committed to providing South Rosedale's residents with a strong voice relative to the area's unique position as one of Toronto's most desirable residential communities. The Association is pro-active in such functional areas which impact South Rosedale as: the environment including trees, parks and ravines; heritage matters as they relate to South Rosedale being a designated Heritage District; both commercial and residential development and the resulting Committee of Adjustment and Ontario Municipal Board Hearings; policing and neighbourhood security issues; and roads and traffic matters.

To many of you, the face of the Association is our seasonal Newsletter, the Fall edition which you should have recently received in the mail with additional copies being available at tonight's Meeting. I am also very pleased that the Association once again has a presence on the Internet with a completely redesigned website, example of which is being demonstrated here tonight, including the highly informative Heritage Section. Our intent is to provide the most up-to-date neighbourhood and city information relevant to the residents of South Rosedale and we will be seeking to increase the functionality of site in the future with such features as the ability to pay annual dues online. Redesigning the website has been nothing short of a herculean effort and for that I would like to extend my personal thanks to Directors Mary Lamon, Yvonne Catty and Barb McGregor who along with our Administrator Steven Trowbridge who really brought it to life.

I am particularly proud of the level of membership in the SRRA which stands at close to 50% of the single-family homes in the South Rosedale community and in addition, virtually all of the multi-unit condominium and co-ownership buildings in South Rosedale. Notwithstanding the current economic climate, in a perfect world, every household in South Rosedale would be a member of the Association, however I can confirm that the membership in total has remained relatively stable on an annual historical basis which is a testament to people's interest and pride in this community. That being said, we would love to see an increased level of membership participation and in that regard, I would ask that current members reach out to their neighbours who they know are not members, as well as recent newly arrived residents of South Rosedale to encourage them to join the Association.

While we obviously focus on issues within the geographic boundaries of South Rosedale, as part of a much larger downtown residential community, opportunities continue to arise where the SRRA can work more closely with our fellow and adjoining neighbourhood ratepayer groups including North Rosedale, Governor's Road, Moore Park, Summerhill and ABC. Beyond our traditional joint efforts including federal, provincial and municipal all-candidates meetings held during election years and public meetings held to discuss community policing and security issues, we are increasingly finding areas of common interest where it makes sense for us to be either one voice, or to pro-actively work together on issues which affect us all as Toronto downtown residential communities. These would include issues such as the Don Valley Transportation Master Plan, Evergreen's plan for the Toronto Brickworks, the Jarvis Street Streetscape Project (and associated lane closure), the Rosedale Park Playground Project as well as the reforestation issues and community clean-up and tree and plant remediation of our inter-connecting ravines.

Since our Annual General Meeting held a year ago, I would like to report on a several of the issues that the Association has dealt with during the year past. In no particular order, they are as follows:

- **Heritage Matters and the Monitoring of Development Issues**

The Board under the leadership of Alex Murray with support from fellow-Board Member Mary Lamon and myself, continues to work closely with the City's Preservation Services Department Staff to ensure that major residential renovations are in keeping with South Rosedale's District Heritage Designation. This has now become a seamless process that works very well with the Board playing a consultative role to the City as ultimate decision maker.

In addition, Alex continues to monitor all noteworthy development and redevelopment issues that may come before the Committee of Adjustment and often acts in a liaison role between Applicants and concerned immediate neighbours.

- **Newsletter**

The SRRA publishes 3 Newsletters during the course of the calendar year and they continue to draw compliments from South Rosedale residents as to their content and design. Director Barb McGregor has recently been acting as the overall coordinator for the Newsletter and I would like to thank her for her attention to organizing the content, production and mailing under what are often tight deadline circumstances.

- **The Continued Efforts to "Green" South Rosedale**

The mature tree canopy of South Rosedale is one of its most attractive features however it is just that, old and in many respects near the end of a natural life. Under the leadership of SRRA Director Don Hogarth, a survey study was undertaken during the Summer past to determine the condition of trees and where new trees could be planted on both public boulevards and private property. The response to this has been very positive and numerous tree planting opportunities have been identified and arranged.

- **Playing an Active Role in the Municipal Election Process**

In advance of the October Municipal Election, Directors Sheldon Hellin, Jon Venutti and myself sought to meet with what we believed to be the best qualified Councillor candidates to understand their individual visions for the City and what they believed they could do for South Rosedale. The candidates we interviewed ultimately formed the basis of the selection of candidates to participate in the Candidates' Debate jointly hosted by the our neighbour Associations held at Rosedale United Church immediately prior to the election in October.

- **Improving Neighbourhood Security**

Under the direction of Jon Venutti, the SRRA has taken a strong interest in community policing and associated security issues. This includes participation in the Community Police Liaison Community relative to 53 Division. Additionally, Jon has focused specifically in working with Police Services to improve the security around the Glen Road Footbridge and associated access to Howard Street and the Sherbourne Subway Station as well as access into South Rosedale. Police Services have been extremely receptive to this initiative and have committed to an increased visible presence in the area and are working with Toronto Hydro to improve the quality of the lighting in order to deter criminal activity.

- **Rosedale Subway Station Park**

Through membership in the Crosstown Parks Group, a consortium of geographically bounded neighbourhoods, the SRRA has taken an active role in an ambitious project which would ultimately see the existing bus-turning loop in front of the Rosedale Subway Station turned into parkland such that there would be continuous greenspace from Bud Sugarman Park north to Crescent Road. Given the fact that the Crosstown Group has had to deal with a wide variety of stakeholders in the process, it has been somewhat of a slow process however recent developments would suggest that the project is finally starting to gain momentum. This project has been coordinated by Directors Jennifer Wardrop and Alex Murray and also includes retired SRRA Directors Valerie Schatzker and Tanny Wells.

Issues Outside of Rosedale which Evidence Community Leadership

- Actively participating in the North St. James Town Redevelopment process which will see a City-lead planning and redevelopment of the area bounded by Bloor Street, Howard Street, Sherbourne and Parliament Streets.
- Making a contribution of \$5,000 towards the displaced residents of 200 Wellesley Street following the fire there through the auspices of the Yonge Street Mission plus Jon Venutti's additional stellar efforts which resulted in an additional 2 tractor trailer loads of food being donated by Smuckers Foods and Uncle Bens, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mars Canada. For this I would like to personally thank Jon as well as Metro Inc. and their retail outlet, Food Basics on Wellesley.

While he could not be here this evening, I would like to give a special thanks to retiring Councillor Kyle Rae and the members of his office, particularly his executive assistants, Mark Wilson and Ryan Lahr. Kyle and his office have provided a very effective and sincere interest in the South Rosedale community for over 18 years, especially when his larger constituency cases him to face and deal with many more serious social issues. He has always been available, is a great facilitator and certainly knew what buttons to push at City Hall to wade through bureaucracy and get results.

We look forward to establishing a similar strong relationship with Kristyn Wong-Tam who successfully led a winning electoral campaign to be our new Ward 27 Councillor.

While Kristyn could also not be hear this evening, we wish her all the best and offer our congratulations. We trust that she will provide the attention to South Rosedale that she promised in our pre-election discussions.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Directors and Officers of the SRRA Board for their keen level of support and dedication to the Association. In their volunteer capacity, Directors generously contribute their efforts and time to ensure that South Rosedale remains a unique and special area within Toronto.

I would now like to ask the SRRA's Treasurer Mary Lamon to provide a presentation of the audited financial statements of the Association for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2010, and a more specific commentary on the financial health of the Association.

Financial Statements

The Treasurer, Mary Lamon, presented the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2010.

- *It was **MOVED** by Mary Lamon, **SECONDED** by David Kerr and **CARRIED** that the financial statements and Auditors' Report be accepted as presented.*
- *It was **MOVED** by Mary Lamon, **SECONDED** by William Phillips and **CARRIED** that Adam & Miles LLP, Chartered Accountants be appointed auditors of the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2011.*

Nomination Committee Report:

David Moore presented the Report of the Nominating Committee.

- *It was **MOVED** by William Phillips, **SECONDED** by David Kerr and **CARRIED** that Barbara McGregor be re-elected, and David Sharpe, Gina Brannan and Heather Senst be elected as Directors of the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association for three-year terms, ending 2013.*

Approving Acts of the Directors:

The Secretary, Yvonne Catty, requested a motion to approve the acts of Directors.

- *It was **MOVED** by George Fells, **SECONDED** by William Phillips and **CARRIED** that all acts done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Corporation on its behalf since the date of the last Annual General Meeting be approved.*

Other Business:

The following question was raised by a member from the floor:

- How does the SRRA see the new mayor? David Townley responded that the Board of the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association traditionally works more closely with the Councillor rather than the office of the Mayor and welcomed building a solid relationship both with the new Councillor and Mayor.

Recognition:

David Townley recognized the contributions of the departing directors John Stewart, Jennifer Wardrop and Yvonne Catty. Special recognition went to Mary Lamon for all her efforts in redeveloping the SRRA website.

Termination:

The President thanked everyone for attending and invited Members to stay for the talk by Catherine Nasmith and enjoy the refreshments.

- *It was **MOVED** by Mary Lamon, **SECONDED** by Yvonne Catty and **CARRIED** that the meeting be terminated at 2050h.*

/slt