

MIRANET Annual General Meeting: March 2, 2011 Governance Subcommittee Report

Delivered by Don McVie: Vice-President, PCVRA

As we all know, MIRANET is a network of Mississauga resident and ratepayer groups dedicated to giving every citizen the opportunity to be informed and engaged in civic matters that affect them. We currently have some two dozen registered member associations from throughout the City.

MIRANET is committed to forging effective working relationships with all levels of government; to the sharing of information between residents' associations comprised of regular citizens and the governments that represent them; to fostering and encouraging the development of forums for community engagement and to sharing and benchmarking best practices aimed at achieving these goals.

MIRANET is a non-partisan organization and as such does not endorse any specific candidate or political party seeking public office. We are committed to promoting public participation in the electoral process and dedicated to the ideal of effective good government. During the election cycle last Fall we worked in earnest to "walk that talk". At MIRANET we believe that the best decisions come to pass based on discourse that is both reasonable and informed.

The Governance Standing Subcommittee found its origins as the original Terms of Reference Subcommittee prior to the formation of MIRANET. Our role is to continuously monitor and periodically update the structural context in which MIRANET operates.

Last year we introduced our own Code of Conduct to help clarify the way in which MIRANET plays its role in concert with the ideals, ambitions and styles of its various member organizations.

We developed and are continuing to test an Issues Screen process by which MIRANET can identify issues and rank their relevance as matters warranting broad citizen engagement beyond the scope of individual groups. This is imperative given the sheer volume of matters and initiatives around which MIRANET is asked to devote its energies and limited resources.

We are committed to an ongoing process aimed at determining the ideal structure under which MIRANET should operate. It may be appropriate to become a "not-for-profit" entity in order to more effectively pursue funding and deal with other considerations as we strive to achieve our future goals. Any change must continue to ensure the crucial balance and equality between our member organizations that is at the heart of the MIRANET vision.

We thank all of the members of MIRANET for continuing to stay the course and support this important conversation on behalf of citizens throughout Mississauga.

Don McVie
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Peter Walton
George Podbereski