

Mississauga Residents' Associations Network (MIRANET)

1st Annual General Meeting Wednesday, February 3, 2010

MINUTES (Approved March 2, 2011)

The meeting was called to order by Meeting Chair John Briers shortly after 7:30 p.m.

After the Welcome and Introductions, Secretary Dorothy Tomiuk presented the report: MIRANET's Year of Building the Network and Future Plans, which gave an overview of MIRANET's beginnings, mission and website. Also itemized were 'The Top Ten things we've learned' including the first: '1. We have to pick our issues'. Future plans include developing best practices, fostering liaisons with other community organizations, promoting voter turnout in the 2010 municipal election and conducting our own workshop on the City's new Strategic Plan in order to identify and advocate for our priorities.

Treasurer Raya Shadursky presented the Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2009, and noted that existing funds are presently based solely on a one-time \$50.00 donation from each new member group. The main expense for the group is website domain and software charges related to the website. The closing balance in the bank account is \$528.76.

The Governance Subcommittee Report was presented by member Don McVie, who summarized the origins of the Subcommittee and the structure and purpose of MIRANET as defined by the Terms of Reference.

MOTION: The Governance Subcommittee proposes a slate for the roles of Secretary and for Treasurer for the next year. We propose that Dorothy Tomiuk continue in her position as Secretary to MIRANET and that John Briers from Churchill Meadows RA take over as Treasurer.

Moved: Don McVie; Seconded: George Podbereski

With no other nominations received from the floor, and no discussion brought forth, the vote was called. *Carried unanimously*, with one abstention by the prospective Treasurer.

The Clean Air Subcommittee Report was presented by member Mike Douglas, who began by thanking the Mayor and Councillors for their support of clean air in Mississauga as shown by their unanimous resolution to prohibit new industrial polluters from operating in the already over-polluted Clarkson Airshed. Councillor Mullin was cited for her bold and resolute leadership in the ongoing power plant fight in the Airshed. A variety of well-attended events throughout 2009 highlighted the strong opposition to any power plant being sited in the Airshed, including Oakville. The assistance of activist Julie Desjardins and Dr. Boyd Upper was described with appreciation. Of note was the largest political rally ever held in Mississauga, which took place June 24, 2009 in Clarkson, and the largest Petition (17,000 signatures) ever presented to the Mayor, which she in turn presented to the Premier of Ontario.

The Municipal Finance Subcommittee Report was presented by member Chris Mackie, who referenced the Subcommittee's deputation to the Budget Committee of Council on January 13, 2010, and the series of meetings attended by the Subcommittee which informed MIRANET's resultant recommendations. The Subcommittee will be meeting in future with staff to discuss these recommendations and it is hoped there will be an ongoing dialogue with the City's Finance Dept. Given that 48% of the Mississauga property tax bill is allocated to the Region of Peel, MIRANET should consider expanding the mandate of the Subcommittee to include the Region's budget-setting process.

The Liability Insurance Subcommittee Report was presented by member Alex Banks, who reviewed the results of the subcommittee's research into the need of RAs for liability insurance and what the possible options and costs were. The recent Lake Simcoe case, where a RA was at risk for a developers costs before the OMB was used to explain possible exposure that RAs might have in speaking out against inappropriate development, even though such participation is encouraged under The Planning Act, and by the municipality. The recommendation of the subcommittee was that RAs should apply for Affiliate status with the City of Mississauga, with the option to purchase Directors & Officers insurance at reduced rate.

MOTION: To mandate the Insurance Subcommittee to liaise with the City of Mississauga for the next step; to clarify and streamline the process for Ratepayers' Associations to apply for such affiliation status.

Moved: Alex Banks; Seconded: Don McVie

Carried unanimously.

Guest speaker Mayor Hazel McCallion was introduced by the Secretary, and began by commending MIRANET on its success in such a short period of time. The Mayor provided insights into both the past and future of citizen participation in the City of Mississauga and touched on the most important current issues, for example the City's new Strategic Plan and the citizen impetus needed to get it implemented. Also noted was the need for citizens to communicate directly with other levels of government on policies that are detrimental to the City in which we live, with examples including the short-term infrastructure funding and downloading of provincial costs onto the municipal property tax bill. The Mayor concluded by commenting that citizens should not be afraid to criticize, as government needs to know what they think.

AGM Subcommittee member John Sabiston thanked the Mayor for her remarks and presented her with a token of appreciation on behalf of MIRANET.

Meeting Chair John Briers called for the vote on the following Motions:

MOTION: That all Reports presented during the 1st Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Peter Walton; Seconded: Michael Spicer

Carried unanimously.

MOTION: That the 1st Annual General Meeting of MIRANET be adjourned.

Moved: Don McVie; Seconded: Sue Shanly

Carried unanimously at 8:45 p.m.

NOTE: All reports referenced above are available in full text on the MIRANET website.