

SIR JOHN'S HOMESTEAD NEWSLETTER July 22, 2009

an update from your review committee

Your review committee met with Mississauga City officials recently to discuss how we could help the City in defeating the appeal to the zoning by-law amendment. This newsletter brings you up to date on that meeting and what the committee is doing on your behalf.

- **Meeting with Counsellor Mahoney and City Hall staff (June 16):**

The city lawyer, Michal Minkowski, advised that the OMB is focussed on the "planning aspects" of the zoning by-law amendment and the resulting appeal. The OMB is not concerned about human rights, noise and other nuisance incidents because these are dealt with through existing by-law control mechanisms. The OMB is influenced by recognized experts (lawyers, planners etc) who offer their professional opinion as to how the by-law amendment relates to good planning practices. Mr. Minkowski also advised that our group would be advised to become incorporated if we wish to present at the OMB and/or be represented by a professional planner. The City provided us with names of several planning experts that we might consider retaining.

- **Review Committee Actions:** We are investigating the feasibility and likely cost of retaining a planner and have sought advice from our lawyer with regard to the planners proposed by the City. We have been in contact with several planners to assess their opinion on this matter and the likely cost. We discussed incorporating for the purpose of supporting the proposed by-law at the OMB and the nature of the body to be incorporated.

- **Review Committee Recommendations:**

- 1) That we move ahead and support the City to the best of our ability when it defends the proposed zoning by-law amendment at the OMB hearing.
- 2) That our proposed association be incorporated before the end of August so we are ready to support the proposed zoning by-law at the OMB hearing – which may be held as early as September. [The OMB is required to give 35 day's notice before hearing the appeal. Because we have standing in this matter, we are required to be notified; we have not yet been notified.]
- 3) That our proposed association be a "ratepayer association" as opposed to a "residents association" for the following reason. We are opposed to the viewpoint of the parties appealing the zoning by-law amendment. These parties include the owners of the townhouses and the two converted houses and UTM students (some of these are renters in the converted houses and the townhouses and others are students at UTM who live elsewhere). A "residents association" would include the several hundred students who are renters in our neighbourhood. A "ratepayer association" would include the owners of all the houses in our neighbourhood. We would not be registered with the City because the City requires that all "residents" be included if the association is to be registered with the City. [Note: a ratepayer is defined as a person who pays local property taxes – especially a household owner].
- 4) That a general meeting of all ratepayers will be held on Wednesday August 12, 2009 starting at 7 p.m. in the Arbour Green Room at the South Common Community Centre. Thanks to Councillor Mahoney there will be no

room rental charge. The purpose of this meeting will be to get feedback from our community, elect the Executive Committee of the Sir John's Homestead Ratepayer Association, and approve a draft constitution which will be circulated by email and posted on our website by July 22, 2009.

- 5) That Alina Zogala, the current Treasurer of our committee, arrange to open a bank account in the name of the Sir John's Homestead Ratepayer Association, for future activities that the ratepayer association may approve in future.
- 6) That based on input from Virginia MacLean and several planners, we do not proceed with the hiring of a planner to represent us at the OMB hearing due to the anticipated high cost (about \$6,000) and the marginal benefit anticipated. The input we received indicates that the City of Mississauga lawyer is well respected and considered to be highly capable of defending the zoning by-law amendment.

- **Your Feedback on these Recommendations Please:** We ask all ratepayers, receiving this newsletter, to respond by email to webmaster@sjhra.ca by July 31 to indicate your support for these recommendations. Please use "Feedback on Recommendations" in the Subject field of your message.
- **New Members of the Review Committee:** In response to our appeal for additional volunteers to help share the workload, we are pleased to announce three new members of your committee. Please welcome Craig Finlayson - 3248 SJH, Margaret Morrow - 3171 SJH and Dave Weldon - 1771 SC.
- **Report on Status of Funds Previously Contributed:** All of the previous cheques were made payable to "Virginia MacLean in Trust". Approximately 60% of these funds have been used to pay Virginia for her services to date (reviewing the existing by-laws, the proposed by-law amendment and future possible by-law amendments), leaving about 40% remaining for future services – such as representing us at the OMB hearing.
- **Draft Constitution:** A draft constitution, dated July 22, 2009, is attached for your consideration. Please see item 4) above.
- **Possible SJH Golf Outing:** We would like to see if there is sufficient interest in arranging a Golf outing for our community. If you are interested, please send email to webmaster@sjhra.ca and use "Golf" in the Subject field of your message. Please tell us if you are interested in a 9-hole game or a 18-hole game, and whether your participation is male, female or both. Details will follow if sufficient interest is demonstrated.

Sir John's Homestead Area Review Committee: If you have any questions, suggestions or would like additional information, please contact any one of the committee members – listed on our website <http://.sjhra.ca>. Note: the email addresses used show the structure for the proposed association – the current volunteers will be replaced during the formation of the association by those elected at that time.