



Clairfields Neighbourhood Group  
Royal on Gordon - library  
Thursday April 23, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Present: Lynda Dennis, Todd Dennis, Ian Robson, Sarah Robson, Brigid Porter, Elizabeth Fabri, Scott and Morgan Dezell, and Fernanda, Alex and Stephanie Svaikauskas  
Regrets: Doug Adlam, Tyler Young (CEC)

1. March 26<sup>th</sup> minutes were not yet available.
2. Volleyball – Fernanda was approached by a group interested in having a youth volleyball night at one of our schools. They have three age categories ranging in age from 11 to 18 years. They have volunteers available to run the program. Todd will contact Tyler to see how we can link a school to this youth group. The CNG will be happy to provide logistical and promotional support to get this up and running.
3. The July edition of the Clairfields Quarterly is in progress
  - We will have articles on the history of Conservation Estates, corporate recognition awards, and \$500 Schneider Electric donation, and the SIB orientation. Brigid has a library item and possibly something on the GRCA trails to forward.
  - We have new ads confirmed for Sunlife, Brock Road Nursery.
  - The re-launch of the updated website could be the lead article.
  - We should have enough ad support and articles to run a 16-page edition again.
4. Earth Day Celebrations – 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary!
  - Everything is a go for April 25<sup>th</sup>. The weather is supposed to be nice, so prepare for lots of volunteers. Lynda has maps and “Smile” signs. Garbage and tree teams will each take a table. Ian and Sarah have the signup sheets. Drop zone stakes are ready. Todd has volunteer information sheets from the city that should be filled out. All core members should have a t-shirt. Let’s show the city how it is done!!
  - We will meet for garbage duty at Gosling Gardens. Todd picked up close to 200 yellow bags, and 100 pairs of gloves. We have a few pairs left over from last year, and Todd will see if he can obtain some more from work. No vests were available as Tim Horton’s has not provided the materials to the city yet (their clean up is May 2). We will have one pick up area at Gosling Gardens, and the city has promised to pick up sometime after noon on Saturday.
  - Fernanda has the zones designated for tree planting and mulch drop off. She will need a couple of captains (Ian and Alex) to arrive at 9 am. Buckets, wheel barrows, hoses are being donated. We have a mixed variety of 240 seedlings provided by Trees for Guelph, and mulch from the city. Also, planting zones, tips and ideas were provided by Moritz Sanio to help increase chances of tree survival.
  - Reid’s has offered to sponsor the clean up at Conservation Estates. Brigid will be coordinating bags, gloves, security and the garbage will be dumped into the Reid’s bins.
  - Bishop Mac never responded to repeated requests to coordinate Earth Day efforts.

- Borealis was contacted to be a sponsor, but hasn't got back to Brigid yet.
5. SECC update
    - The two open houses in early April seemed to be well attended. Todd hasn't received feedback from Kristen yet, but four of the core group attended and said a few others were there too.
    - ECO – Presentation scheduled to ECO committee at City Hall on May 19 at 5:00 pm. Todd will be attending on behalf of the CNG and the south end.
  6. Sir Isaac Brock orientation for incoming students
    - Scott will represent the CNG at this event on May 7 at 6:00 pm. Todd will pick up the display board that week. Sarah and Ian will update the photos, and prepare a CD (same as for the NSC presentation). Lynda has purchased handouts, and will see about coloring sheets, and maybe a bookmark with the CNG website. Lynda will provide a lap top to display website, photos.
  7. Scott attended a South End Growth Forum last week. Karl Wettstein and Leeann Piper were at Harcourt along with about 40 attendees.
  8. Speed River Clean up - Scott hasn't been contacted yet, but expects the event to be on June 6. We'll advertise via email and the website. Hopefully, we'll get a few more volunteers from Clairfields this year.
  9. Todd and Sarah will be meeting with Karl Wettstein and Ann Pappert in early May to discuss some issues in the neighbourhood.
  10. Emergency Services Centre – as mentioned in the Quarterly, the city said ground breaking will be happening in May. The group feels that we should be represented. Todd will call Karl.
  11. Nancy Kielar memento – Lynda and Sarah still working on photo and scrap book/album. Brigid has booked Borealis for May 18, at 6:30. The CNG will be paying for the guest of honour's refreshments that night.
  12. Ice Cream Social – Todd will contact Nancy regarding the Fusion contact for the fun zone on June 13 (June 20 rain day). Ian and Sarah will coordinate.
  13. Adult get together (mixer?) – Carol was not in attendance, but she emailed that she will have a date set for publication in the next Quarterly.
  14. Brigid had a few suggestions/ideas for upcoming Quarterly's:
    - Feature on Ward 6 Councilors. Should councilors have a web page? Several city councilors do, but they do them themselves.
    - An article that shows how your city taxes are spent.
    - How do we involve schools more? We have Clairfields students attending nine city schools. There should be a way of contacting the boards to get items of interest in school newsletters.
    - Translate a sentence, in the Quarterly, into other languages. Sir Isaac Brock did this a couple of years ago. It would let people know they aren't isolated in the

community. Brigid will follow up with the principal to see what responses SIB received.

- Involvement with local groups. How do we link on an individual basis, with groups that are already here, such as hiking clubs, geo-caching, etc., and make this information available? Once we have the information, we can publish in the Quarterly, and add links or items to the web, if feasible.

15. NSC – Todd has not attended the Finance Board meetings, or the new NSC board meetings.

16. The group reviewed Tyler's letter regarding his workload. The group appreciated that Tyler has been put in a tough position, and that he has to wear two hats until a new Youth Services Coordinator is hired. However, we had two issues on this. The first being, why did the city change CEC assignments prior to hiring a new YSC? Tyler has been to two of four meetings, and hasn't really been a resource to this point. This is not his fault, and we recognize this. Second, why would neighbourhood groups and specifically the CNG be so low on the priority list? Apparently, youth, skateboard parks and other groups appear to warrant more time allocation than the CNG. This again begs the question, why switch CEC's before the current one is ready to assume full duties? The CNG does not ask for a lot of time or energy, but it would be nice to get answers in a timely manner to those questions we forward through our CEC.

17. We had one new attendee tonight. Welcome to Elizabeth. She would like to add her name to the email list and has offered to deliver newsletters. Welcome.

#### Next Meeting:

Thursday May 28, 2009 - 7:00 pm @ the Royal on Gordon (Library)

*Everyone is welcome!*