



BQNA Meeting – March 13, 2024

**Diane** moves to accept minutes of last meeting; **Joan** seconds. Approved.

**Updates:**

**Jacqueline: Homes First CLC Meeting**

- for 2023, housed 92 people (found regular/stable housing for them)
- harm reduction clinic has now been operating for 10 months – has done well re: having ppl use it for their safe injections
- shelter doing well – lots of programs/supports + communal activities
- helping ppl with support for housing and employment
- have animal services to support ppl with pets – can bring pets for grooming, give pet food, spaying, etc.

- at least 40% of ppl at shelter now are refugees

- community members in condo, saying they are seeing a decrease in drug abuse and drug induced behaviours – b/c so many of them are refugees

Dawn: what will they do when they lose that space?

Jacqueline: Q was asked in the meeting but wasn't really answered. Answer was: lease extended to Sept 2026. They want to be in a position where they don't need the shelters and harm reduction, where everybody is housed.

-- answer will be discussed further at next meeting – Chris will come to next meeting

-- meetings are online, anyone can come – quarterly

Joan: Can we do a “good news” story – maybe a profile on someone who was helped, or on the animal service, etc. – or HF creates it and we help share it

**Action:** Jacqueline will draft blog post, with Ryan from HF

**Emergency Management**

- Maureen sent links via email to emergency management resources – **Action:** please share with your buildings; Maureen to prepare short blurb for Ingrid to post about this.

- **Action:** Jacqueline to discuss w/Maureen to coordinate with TEM for our AGM (see last meeting's minutes)

- would like ppl from Airport emergency measures task force to present as well

- invite Hal – CLC member with Airport – he is now on the task force

- would need moderator

- invite someone from police? – they are involved initially, before task force/TEM would become involved

-- is there a specific unit who deals with initial stages of emergency?

**Action:** Jacqueline to ask Bushra about which unit of police does this

Brian raises: tension b/w people who will want to revisit the past events of Oct 2022 for legitimate reason, because they don't feel heard and it was very harmful for them; versus ppl who won't want to discuss the past and want to focus on the future. Believe most productive is figure out what to do in future emergencies (Diane agrees; Jacqueline agrees, most important is to come up with a plan for community; but should talk about what everyone is doing now for emergency preparedness.)

Joan: if someone from these committees can speak to what's happened *since* to address these issues – what they've done and what they're going to do next – one person from airport task force, one from TEM/City, one from police

-- then the tables are for information gathering from the community

- Send FOSTRA survey out to our members
- Send housing webinar info to our members

### **Air quality update**

Joan: They are still trying to incorporate workshop input into the final reports. Subcommittee hasn't yet seen those final reports. Expect to get them by the end of the week.

- meeting to give input (from subcommittee)
- then will be finalized
- then will do public press conference
- no dates yet but expect to do press conference by mid May
- Tripartite agreement up in 2033; but airport wants to open it up earlier, b/c they need to extend the runways by Transport Canada regs; airport is asking to renew for another 50 years
- City doesn't want to rush it through; city will consider everything including the air quality study

### **Siloes project (Laurie)**

Joan: hasn't had time to contact the buildings facing it yet, or written the letter of support  
Agreed Joan will just write the letter, and notify the buildings.

OCADU has lease on the Siloes for a global centre for climate action in the arts – they want to do the same kind of thing – repair cafes, clothing swap, recycling depot, etc. near the siloes – but also want to project onto west side of siloes, and have music, interactive activities, show art from local artists – but all environmentally themed

-- OCAD would like BQNA's letter of support for a grant – all agree

Another request for letter of support – **(Arcadia – pollinator garden)** – agreed

Joan: to support these projects, community should be able to participate – e.g. community members join in planting pollinator garden

**Action:** Joan to draft all 3 letters, by end of week.

Need to update bylaws & ensure corporate NFP registration is up to date – will focus on in September – this will allow us to apply for grants ourselves

**Board Member updates**

- A few building reps resigned or not available anymore.– Jacqueline will contact them
- if ppl will leave, they should find a replacement from their building

Jacqueline is meeting with Chris Glover on March 17 (gun committee)