



Next Meeting: January 21, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: December 10, 2025

Present (in person): Bev, Brian, Carolyn, Ash, Hannah

Present (virtual): Jacqueline, Colleen, Corrie, Karen, Marouan (Cllr Malik's office)

Regrets: Joan

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Ash, Seconded: Brian

Agenda approved.

2. Review and approval of Minutes from November 2025

Moved: Ash, Seconded: Colleen

Minutes approved, subject to an addendum correcting points in Section 3 under subheading "Health and Safety Committee".

3. Toronto Emergency Measures – Emergency Handbook

- Marouan (Cllr Malik's office): Handbook is complete.
- Resulted from bomb scare at the airport (mainland facility), when communications/practices were unclear.
- Led to creation of a handbook containing available resources; what to do in an emergency; what to do in a shelter-in-place scenario, and in an evacuation; communication and information sharing practices.
- Handbook will be in digital/downloadable and physical formats.
- BQNA is asked to advise on the best way for Toronto Emergency Management (TEM) to present it to the community.
- BQNA wants community to be able to comment on the draft handbook, given the mistakes made in the bomb scare incident. Concern that the handbook will not reflect the community's concerns. However, TEM's intention is to present it as a final product.



- Agreed that Marouan and TEM will present it to the BQNA Board at the January 2026 Board meeting, and the BQNA will provide feedback, before rolling it out to the full community. This is conditional on BQNA's receipt of the report one week before the meeting. Otherwise, will defer to the February 2026 Board meeting.
- BQNA raises concerns about increased traffic in the neighbourhood and its impact on access for emergency services. Marouan acknowledges this challenge, says the handbook will address it.

4. Atrium – proposed meeting to discuss rental lease for Homes First shelter

- Atrium is scheduling a meeting with Councillor Malik in January to discuss this, would like to open it to the broader community.
- Marouan (Cllr Malik's office): General safety and homelessness measures:
 - Since November 15, winter services plan in place: adding 1,200 shelter spaces, 2,400 winter respite sites, 5 warming centres, extending drop-in hours for indoor spaces for unhoused people.
 - Better Living Centre at Exhibition Place will again be rented by the City to provide approximately 200 shelter beds.
 - Expanded community crisis response team (responds to substance use, mental health crisis, etc.) to be on the TTC – primarily subway Line 1 but can also go on streetcars and buses
 - Call 211
 - 24/7 service
 - New SafeTTC app to report incidents directly to TTC
- Marouan: Re Homes First Shelter:
 - Capacity down from 256 beds to 150, no plans to increase it.
 - Community Safety Teams still in place, patrol the neighbourhood.
 - Police has increased attention in our neighbourhood.
 - Ongoing police investigations on trafficking, but no details can be shared.
 - Shelter lease is up for renewal in October 2026. Decision made by City staff through delegated authority, not made by the Councillors.
 - Cllr Malik's office has forwarded community concerns to City staff.
- BQNA asks if Canderel is no longer building on the site. Marouan confirms Canderel still has the right to build on the site but hasn't heard from Canderel about their intentions.
- City's new focus is on purpose-built shelters, i.e. buildings designed to be shelters. Plan to build 2 per ward in 10 wards that don't currently have them. No new shelters are planned for our ward.



- This shelter is one of the few that has spaces for couples, and allows pets.
- BQNA asks, have more people been hired to 211? Have had past experiences where it took them multiple hours to arrive.
 - Marouan: Yes, a lot more staff hired in the last year. As of two years ago it was still a pilot in a few wards, now it is an official emergency service across the City. Have been hiring and training lots of members as with police, paramedics, fire.
 - 911 remains the fastest response time.
- BQNA asks, any more information about the request for a meeting with Ausma at Atrium to discuss the shelter lease?
 - Marouan: Request is going through Ausma's office, specific date should be shared soon.
 - No decision on the lease can come from that meeting, as lease renewal is a delegated authority decided by staff.
- BQNA raises that members have had trouble getting through to the police non-emergency line.
- BQNA also raises questions about, if shelter were to close, are there spaces for the 150 people a night to get shelter elsewhere? If not, what percentage of these people are coming from this neighbourhood and likely to be in the streets and parks of our neighbourhood, versus what percentage are coming in from other parts of the city?
 - Marouan: Many people are currently working on housing options and likely would be able to move into other housing by the time of a closure.
 - Staff will be able to speak to this question at the January meeting.

5. AGM Recap

- Technical difficulties caused people to leave early. In future should ensure Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre tech support is available and present, or make it in person only.
- May be better in early fall or spring when weather is better to get more attendance.
- People showed interest in a social/community events committee; traffic management; contribution to website blogs.
- Received positive feedback that people liked the tables and interactive part. Suggestion for future to have this happen before the speeches and/or shorter agenda of speeches.
- **Action:** Secretary to review by-laws about AGM and propose process for taking and approving notes/minutes for AGMs.



- If it is hybrid in future, should have somebody who is not physically present (attending on Zoom) be responsible for managing Zoom and facilitating discussions among the Zoom participants.

6. Other Business

- Mailing address for BQNA – currently at Harbourside – a Harbourside representative will confirm with its board whether there are any issues with this continuing.

Adjourned at 8:33pm