

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Monthly General Meeting
April 1, 2021 by Zoom

Present: Christopher Sears (Chair), Richard Lundeen, Vandra Masemann, David Muir, Hope Humphrey, David Bridge, Teresa O'Neil, Cassandra Pollack plus WTJHS members equalling 27 in total (see list from Zoom).

Purpose of the Meeting: to inform the members about the present situation of the WTJHS and to interest members in running for office or volunteering.

Order of Business:

1. Welcome to the Zoom Meeting. Basic rules for the event – Christopher Sears
2. Land Acknowledgment – Hope Humphrey
3. Introduction to evening's program – Christopher Sears (verbatim from text)

A. WTJHS' predicament:

The chief reason for the executive's decision to hold this meeting is to address the fact that we have three elected officers from 2020 who are not standing for election this year. Unfortunately this means that we have four positions vacant: President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Recording Secretary. For over a year now I have been both the President and the Treasurer, but it is time for me to step down.

For the Executive to function according to our Constitution, we require a quorum of four Executive Committee members at a meeting to enact binding decisions. The Constitution also requires that there must be three signing officers (President, VP and Treasurer). It is not difficult to see that we cannot function in this minimal fashion for very long.

B. Brief Review of WTJHS history:

This Society was founded by concerned Junction residents back in 1980 in response to the fact that our local heritage was being slowly erased by the power of economic change. The first recorded meeting of the WTJHS took place on June 24 1980. These first steps eventually lead to the incorporation of the WTJHS in 1981. Since that time the members have consistently lobbied on behalf of preserving Junction history. Some of those efforts have lead directly to a heritage sensitive reuse of historic buildings in the Junction. Today, almost 41 years after that first meeting, we have inherited a remarkable range of achievements from the Society's founders and early supporters. We continue to benefit, including financially, from some of the more ambitious undertakings, such as our publications, *West Toronto Junction Revisited - 5th Edition* and *The Leader and Recorder: History of the Junction*.

C. WTJHS' state of health:

For the past seven years we have had to pay an increasing amount of money annually to the TPL for the use of the basement space in the Annette Library. This has made maintaining our Archives into a significant financial burden for the Society that was not experienced in the first 33 years of the Society. It is our new reality that this burden will only increase in the future.

Luckily our past leadership volunteers put into place some means for us to raise money through book sales. This year we are taking the first steps to create additional types of merchandise for sale. This

effort to create items for sale is one way we can raise the necessary money from the Junction community at large to help keep the Archives open.

The fact of the pandemic and the closure of the Archives has had one beneficial impact on the Society's finances, in that the TPL is not asking us to pay for the space as long as we can't use it. So we have a very healthy bank balance of \$13,532.99 which will enable us to reprint the Red Book next year and also enable us to explore additional merchandising efforts.

One other opportunity which our healthy finances presents to us, which the Executive would like to take advantage of, is to extend 2021 renewed or newly joined memberships to the end of 2022. A motion concerning changes like this require 30 days advance notice, so you are duly notified and we will present a motion to this effect at the May general meeting. Of course this information will be posted on our website this coming week.[Ed. Note: There was no motion proposed or voted on in response to this suggestion.]

Another measure of the health of the WTJHS is the very strong support for our activities as testified by the very large number of members who volunteer their time freely to keep the wide range of activities functioning. In the last issue of *The Leader and Recorder* I listed out the 37 people who volunteered in 2020!

I would like to now turn this discussion to describing the various roles of the elected officers. The existing and retiring members will each provide some insight into the various positions.

4. WTJHS' Elected Officers (Brief descriptions by each current member)

A. President (CS)

Is elected to serve for one year.

Chairs all Executive and public meetings.

Prepares meeting agendas with input from the Executive.

Is Ex-officio member of all committees and groups.

Presents annual report to the membership at the AGM.

Is The primary contact with external entities such the TPL and the BIA.

One of three signing officers

B. Vice-President (RL)

Fills in for the President as needed (e.g., chairing meetings in the President's absence)

Assists the President in carrying out their responsibilities

Is one of three signing officers for cheques

Carries out other responsibilities and projects as approved by the Executive (e.g., the Junction history student art competition)

C. Treasurer (CS)

Is Elected to serve for one year.

Is Responsible for maintaining the financial records of the Society.

Issues cheques to suppliers and for reimbursing members' expenses.

Issues charitable receipts for donations.
Maintains various accounts to do with electronic payments.
Deposits funds received from members, donors and merchandise sales.
Works with Accountant to prepare annual WTJHS' Financial Statements.
Is responsible for submitting Income Tax information to the CRA.
Is responsible for submitting information to the CRA for HST rebate.
Is responsible for submitting information to the Province for HOD Grant.
Is one of three signing officers.

D. Membership Secretary (DB)

Receives dues and records them.
Updates membership list on Excel sheets.
Conveys dues to the Treasurer for banking.
Prepares labels for mailing the Leader and Recorder.
Reports to the Executive and provides renewal information to the Phone Crew.
Prepares annual report for AGM

E. Corresponding Secretary (DM)

Checks and deals with all incoming email and other correspondence.
Refers inquiries to appropriate officers.

F. Recording Secretary (RL)

Prepares Minutes of general and executive meetings.
Files archival copies and preserves official documents of the Society.

5. WTJHS' Non-elected Executive members (brief commentary)

1. Nominating Committee - Hope Humphrey – sends out Call for Nominations with list of vacant offices. Heads search for suitable candidates. Receives nominations and self-nominations. Reports to Executive Board.
2. Archives Coordinator – vacant – oversees organization and operation of the WTJHS Archives
3. Editor - Cassandra Pollack – oversees the design and content of three issues a year of The Leader and Recorder, mostly in terms of graphic design and layout. Encourages contributions to the publication.
4. Editorial Group Chair - Vandra Masemann – communicates with prospective authors and coordinates proof-reading and editing of the draft articles. Coordinates timeline for production at various stages.
5. L&R Distribution - Gib Goodfellow- is responsible for receiving printed copies of *The Leader and Recorder* and coordinating the stuffing, sorting, and mailing by Canada Post and hand delivery by volunteers.

6. Immediate Past President – vacant – plays an advisory role for one year after leaving office.
7. Display Coordinator - Hope Humphrey – conceives of and creates the various WTJHS displays for events and public participation. Examples are the Junction History Mash-up, events with Humberside CI students and local Grade 5 and 6 students, Keele St. P.S. 100th year anniversary, and annual events at the Summer Solstice and the Farmers' Market.
8. Webmaster/Web Media Coordinator - David Bridge – responsible for website and web media . Updates the WTJHS website with news of upcoming meetings and events. Prepares emails for meetings. Prepares Facebook posts. Produced a set of slides for the Archives.
9. Archives Committee Chair – vacant
10. Volunteer Coordinator - Vandra Masemann – communicates with prospective volunteers and arranges for suitable role according to their wishes.
12. Social Media Coordinator - Trevor Parkins-Sciberras – oversees operation of social media links which require constant new material. Makes suggestions to the Executive for content.
13. Phone Crew - Richard Lundeen – coordinates team of volunteers who contact members who have not renewed their annual membership to remind them to pay their annual dues.
14. Fundraising - is a committee that coordinates the fundraising efforts for specific campaigns or special events. Is also devoted to raising funds to pay the annual licensing fee for space in the Annette Library. Its aims in 2021 are to raise money for publishing books, modernizing the archives and maintaining the organization. Its next campaign is planned for fall 2021.
15. High School Art Project – Richard Lundeen organized a Junction History Art Project with students from Western Tech (graphic design) and Humberside (oil paintings) to mark the 40th anniversary of the WTJHS. For each cohort there were a winner and two honorable mentions. The art is being published in two colour issues of *The Leader and Recorder* in 2020 and 2021.

6. Questions and Comments from the membership

- a) Raymond Kennedy raised the question of what would make the Archives more accessible to the public? What concrete steps could we be taking? How long would it take and how much would it cost? David Bridge replied that the first step is having an accurate record of what we do have. We need to know how we can import the collection and what the systems are for putting archival collections online. Christopher Sears asked what we can do without access to the building. David Bridge replied that some work can be done at home.
- b) Frank Remiz noted that it was great to hear about the accomplishments during the past year. He presumes this meeting had been recorded and perhaps will be on the WTJHS website. He noted that the times of speaking could be noted to avoid having to view the entire recording. He also asked what new roles there are in the Society and what other opportunities exist now.
- c) Raymond Kennedy then asked about the library “rent” ie the license fee for the space we use in the library. The reply was about \$325 a month. Christopher Sears noted that the Society raises funds to pay that fee. Christopher then suggested that we extend the 2021 membership for an extra year as members do not have to pay for Zoom meetings and do not even have to travel for meetings. He asked if higher fees were a block to members joining? A general discussion ensued about the idea of extending the subscription period, but no motion was proposed on that subject. The idea of future post-covid meetings on Zoom was also discussed. A show-and-tell session on Zoom was suggested. Or combined in-person and Zoom meetings. Raymond then asked if anyone had heard of a new Junction BIA based

on Dundas Street from Keele to Runnymede. Christopher said the current businesses had voted against it.

d) Richard Lundeen reverted back to the main point of the meeting, and said that we want to ask for members to join the Nominating Committee and to stand for office. Hope Humphrey volunteered to chair the committee, and said she would report back in two weeks. She noted that we would need to use our connections to find individuals to fill these roles.

e) There were a few final comments, ie about the topic for next month's meeting (Bill Freeman on Casa Loma). Gib Goodfellow also explained the reason for the "license" fee for the use of the library space – it is based on square footage and the cost of utilities. He noted that we need to see if we can get it changed. Some murmurs were heard on its being unlikely.

7. The motion for adjournment was made by Gib Goodfellow. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9.05pm.