



## RMRA Meeting April 29, 2014

### 1. Attendance and Notes on Attendance:

6 exec members, approx. 20 residents/visitors. Quite a few new faces. A bit chilly and overcast weather.

### 2. Community Updates

1. **Membership Rules are Changing for the RMRA** – membership is proposed to be broadened to those on our email list, and the suggested membership fee remains \$10, pay when you wish. We will vote at the AGM to approve the change to our constitution.
2. **Historical Society is hosting Jane's Walk on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30** at the corner of Queen and Roncy, and will focus on all of the old movie theatres on Roncy, some of which are now stores, and places where movies were filmed.
3. **Wabash Town Square's Phase 1 timeline is to finish at the end of the summer.** June 23 is the target date for Phase 1 completion – hard surfaces and 50 new trees, as well as some soft landscaping. There will be a rope-tugging ceremony to tear down the fence (at least to the old building) and open the square to the community. SoraurenPark.org has launched an adopt-a-tree program to help water and care for the trees in their first year. The fundraising campaign for Phase 2 will be kicked off when Phase 1 is done – bake oven, park furniture, event bollards, light standards, and the trellis going the full length of the square on Wabash. We hope the community centre construction will stay on the City's capital plan for 2017.
4. **Clean Train Coalition is advocating for electrification, it is a pro-transit group.** Electrification is cheaper, cleaner, faster, can have more stops. There is an event planned for May 27<sup>th</sup> – experts discussing health, social justice, economics of the UP express, and the environment, making the case for electrification on all of these fronts. There is no funding yet from the government and the coalition will keep up the pressure especially in an election year.

### 3. Main Topic – Neighbours Helping Neighbours

#### GoNeighbour.org – Nash

GoNeighbour.org is a network for neighbours to connect with neighbours – a social network for the local community, neighbours helping neighbours, volunteerism, activities, street events, etc. Nash provided an overview and a demonstration of the website. The focus is on the block and on the neighbourhood, very locally oriented. It is a platform that is on the web, and also works over the phone for those who are not computer savvy.

40 people on 17 blocks in Roncesvalles have signed up in the first 10 days of advertising the GoNeighbour.org site

GoNeighbour.org is currently run by volunteers and self-funded, but there is much work to do and any donations are welcome.

**Toronto Tool Library** – Lawrence Alvarez

Two locations – one in PARC at 1499 Queen St. W. and one at Coxwell and Danforth. It's a not for profit organization.

Over 2000 tools are available for loan. The membership fee is \$50 for unlimited borrowing, and tools can also be borrowed in exchange for volunteering your time. Organizations can become members for \$150 and are given 5 access cards. If the value of the loan is more than \$150-200 then there is often a pre-authorization required and/or credit card stamp to cover any liability.

The library has 650 members. Most tools are donated, and volunteers undertake maintenance. Workshops and youth programs are also part of the library offerings.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm.