



RMRA Meeting November 26, 2013

1. Attendance and Notes on Attendance:

4 exec members, 2 presenters, 12 residents. Good weather (snow forecast but did not materialize).

2. Special Guest

Joe Fiorito, Toronto Star, and Erin Hatfield, Metroland Media Toronto (Parkdale Villager).

3. Community Updates

383 Sorauren

Developer has appealed to OMB because the City had not approved their application within the statutory time frame.

The local residents were not supportive of the development, too dense. Norman also raised traffic and infrastructure concerns (water, power, sewage, etc.). The City also had objections. The OMB hearing will be 5 days in early January.

Any written submissions must be made by Friday November 29th. The neighbours will be observers and not active participants in the hearing. Norman will be observing and reporting on results.

Metrolinx walls

Waiting for word on Metrolinx will bring forward.

Youth Attacks in Sorauren Park

Police have been notified about a group of youth attacking other youth in Sorauren Park at night.

Wabash Town Square

Will be rolling out an adopt-a-tree program to replace and maintain the Manitoba Maples removed for construction.

Local Development

Granowska's will become a Tim Horton's. A meeting will be held at St. Casimir's on Thursday November 28th.

4. Main Event – PANEL DISCUSSION – WRITING ABOUT THE RONCESVALLES AREA

Joe Fiorito and Erin Hatfield.

Joe moved here from Montreal in 1997. Found Roncesvalles after much house-hunting. Wanted to live in walking distance of community and neighbourhood services. The transit accessibility is an added bonus. It is a model of the Jane Jacobs model, where you can walk, you don't need a car, know your neighbours, storeowners know you by name, etc.

Erin moved from New Brunswick after her paper announced that it would start a paper in Parkdale. At the time the neighbourhood was very arts-heavy, lots of music. She had never lived anywhere else for more than two years, felt that she belonged in the neighbourhood and a part of the community.

This "template" or model for urban living is common in a number of Toronto communities.

Stories are motivated to educate, engage and seek out neighbours, get to know them – this creates a neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood has been changing, but it is not at risk to change completely. A lot of organizations have laid roots here that will always be part of the community – PARC, local food networks, community groups – this will remain despite gentrification. However, the Polish character is fading. People outside the city don't see that we live the lives of small towns in the neighbourhood. Places like PARC are creating support and acceptance for all members of the neighbourhood.

There was a discussion about the perceived dichotomy between Parkdale and Roncesvalles in terms of two neighbourhoods – it's a real estate label and there are some class differences based on real estate prices, but many people feel that the people are very similar. It is still a community that cares for its neighbours. The wealth and poverty and immigration will ebb and flow.

There are many shared issues between Parkdale, Roncesvalles, High Park – the Ossington Community Association is looking to create a larger west end association.