

SIR JOHN'S HOMESTEAD NEWSLETTER May 27, 2009

an update from your review committee

On May 15, 2009, I sent out a brief email message about the appeal and promised a more complete update after our next review committee meeting – which we just concluded. Here it is.

- **The Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment Appealed:** The zoning by-law amendment - definitions of Lodging House and Lodging Unit was passed by City Council on April 8. See web page http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/2009councilagenda_april8.pdf This introduced the definitions of Lodging House and Lodging Unit into Zoning By-law # 0225-2007 and the requirement that any Lodging House requires a Zoning Certificate. The deadline for filing an appeal to the O.M.B. with the Clerk of the City of Mississauga was May 12, 2009

The amendment was appealed to the City of Mississauga & the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) on May 12, by Edwin B. King of St. Catharines, Ontario, acting on behalf of Westmillway (II) Limited Partnership [owner of 3182 SJH], Canaway Limited Partnership [owner of 3073 SJH], and Joey Santiago of the Coalition for Affordable Student Accomodation and a UTM student.

The OMB is required to give 35 day's notice before hearing the appeal. Because we have standing in this matter, we are required to be notified.

- **Placing the Amendment and Appeal in Perspective:** The proposed by-law amendment is considered a temporary measure by the City as it is preparing an Affordable Rental Housing Strategy which will include the issue of student housing. Thus your committee feels we need to be prepared for both the upcoming appeal and development of future housing strategy.
- **Legal Advice:** Thanks to your monetary contributions, our lawyer, Virginia MacLean, has been reviewing the existing bylaws, the proposed bylaw amendment and future possible bylaw amendments. She has recently provided us with an updated and more comprehensive version of the zoning bylaw. This provides us with useful information for the long term (e.g. for the upcoming Affordable Housing Strategy initiative).
- **Planned Input to City:** We are in the process of taking two actions.
 1. We will be providing, to the City, a new and more detailed text regarding the zoning bylaw amendment that was produced for us by our legal counsel (Virginia MacLean) with the hope that this new version will be of assistance to the City in further refining their zoning bylaws as we together move to the next stage of planning (i.e. the upcoming Affordable Housing Strategy).
 2. We are contacting specific City staff to determine how we can best assist them in defending the current zoning by-law amendment which has been appealed.
- **SJHRA – our Association?** Will there be an association to represent our neighbourhood? Your current committee members hope so. This will depend on the level of interest and willingness to share the workload. One person responded to my April 15 email message in which I indicate our committee was looking for additional members. He asked what would be involved in joining the committee. Let me try to answer - both to him and others who might have a similar question. I will also try to bridge the transition from our ad-hoc review committee to the association executive committee.

First is a time commitment ; (a) to attend committee meetings – perhaps two hours, once a month on average, and (b) another two or three hours each month to work on committee activities.

Second is an interest to take on an activity – demonstrating leadership by acting as the president, looking after funds for association expenses, taking minutes for all committee and the annual general meetings, being our representative or liaison with MIRANET and attending their meetings, working on specific committees to interact with City staff and Ward 8 Counsellor/staff, and with our lawyer. Most neighbourhood associations evolve over time to reflect the interests of the neighbourhood – currently our focus is with the student housing issue. Does our neighbourhood want to have any social events – perhaps an annual BBQ. Does a group want to become involved with the Historical Society now located in the Grange (formerly used by the Scouts)? – perhaps some of us might want to volunteer to create some lovely gardens to compliment a local historical house.

- **Planned SJHRA Formation Meeting:** We are planning to hold a general meeting for everyone to discuss the formation of the SJHRA, where we will vote to approve a constitution and elect the officers of the association and the other members of the executive committee. We are looking at a time frame of early September on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, and likely located in the "South Common" area where we understand that Counselor Mahoney can arrange a room at no charge for us. The draft constitution and call for nominations will be circulated ahead of the meeting.
- **Website:** Our web website is www.sjhra.ca and contains useful web links, an introduction, a news/upcoming meetings section, an archive of documents distributed to residents, and a committee listing with email addresses so we can be contacted. Your suggestions for improving this website are invited.
- **Thank You** to the many of our residents and those of neighbouring areas for attending the March 2 public meeting at City Hall – your physical presence is always valuable
- **Email List Additions:** *If you know someone in our area who is not receiving this update electronically and would like to be added to our electronic distribution list, please email their name, address and email address to: webmaster@sjhra.ca. Electronic distribution is the most effective and timely way to alert homeowners to relevant issues that affect our neighbourhood.*

We thank you for your support and will keep you apprised of all developments. We also appreciate the comments and the \$50 cheques that we continue to receive. These are really appreciated as the need to continue our fight to protect our properties is not going away in the near future.

Sir John's Homestead Area Review Committee (alphabetical)

(If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact any one of the committee members. Note: the email addresses used below show the structure for the proposed association – the current volunteers will be replaced during the formation of the association by those elected at that time.)

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