

Notes made during the general meeting of the Harmony Residents Group Inc. in the evening of Wednesday, August 11, 2010 in the Virgil Arena Mary Snider Room.

This meeting began at 7:04 PM with 20 people present (14 women, 6 men) including 3 members of the Group Board of Directors.

R. Busbridge asked attendees for comments on how to advance the Group concept for an Historic/Nature park in the Parks Canada (PC) lakeshore properties, referring to advice from Professor Eagles and Arlene White to put more emphasis on the historical aspects of the Group proposal, and make it more interesting to younger people and more recent immigrants. He reviewed the activities of Group Board members since the July General meeting for which information, refer to the Minutes of those Board meetings. He has met with MPP Craitor and plans to meet with MP Nicholson and Regional Council Chari Partington regarding interests they have expressed in providing public access to the lake through the PC Lakeshore lands. He plans to meet also with the local Horticultural society. His introductory remarks ended at 7:25 when he asked for questions and comments from those in attendance, and there were many.

Elizabeth Olive Malone referred to the serious erosion of the shoreline of the PC Lakeshore property. Graia Janes of the Conservancy stated its opposition to any relocation of the local sewage treatment plant because relocation would result in greater disruption and damage to the PC lands. Val O'Donnell commented that structured wetlands, a proven technology that could be created at the present sewage plant site, would serve as an important educational facility.

At 7:40 PM R. Busbridge referred to the options that seem to exist for the group to advance its Historical/Nature park concept which are (1) lobbying all government levels to undertake the task, probably a long term and dubious effort (2) establishing a Trust to raise funds to accomplish the work (3) discover substantial financial supporters like the Weston Foundation. Options 2 and 3 would proceed, necessarily, in partnership with PC.

R. Busbridge offered his opinion that whichever option might emerge as possible, it would be necessary for the Group to prepare a business plan to satisfy PC. He said also that the Group project should evolve gradually rather than follow the Project Niagara (PN) proposal to begin on a grand scale. Gracia Janes offered to contact Toni Weston because of her interest in preserving Carolinian forest remnants. David Eke suggested that the Group proposal need have no more factual information that appeared in the PN proposal, but that it is essential to put a proposal before PC quickly. He said that governments are an essential partner in the success of any project, and must be shown how it would benefit them.

R. Busbridge asked attendees to continue their search for information and statistics about comparable parks, which would be useful in the preparation of the Group proposal. He mentioned that the September 8 Group General Meeting would be in the Platoff Street Community Centre when mayoralty candidates would have the opportunity to speak and would be asked to answer questions prepared by the Group Board members. Region and town council candidates will be invited to the Group General meeting in October.

Thus meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Cliff James, Secretary