

# ERLTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION JUNE 8 MEETING MINUTES

Held via Skype: <https://join.skype.com/JUc7fFxiXleF>

Meeting begins 7:02PM

Member Attendees: 4

Community Attendees: 14

## 1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved

## 2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Approved

## 3. OLD BUSINESS

- **Chevra Kadisha Cemetery Demolition**
  - Update from Shirine Lund regarding demolition that took place on May 11-14, 2021 at address 32 30 Avenue S.W.
  - See Appendix A for presentation text
  - Motion to form a sub-committee approved
- **Vacant Board Positions:**
  - Debra volunteering for Treasurer
- **Pop-up Garden Committee**
  - Status - Authorized by Anthem to proceed
  - Location: Erlton Road & 24th Avenue SW
  - Looking for volunteers with construction experience to help set up garden - can be reached via Nicole at [ecavicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:ecavicepresident@gmail.com)
  - Setup will be with pallets or lumber, looking for pallet donations currently
  - Motion to approve funds of \$500
- **Volunteers and Gardeners needed**
  - Please email Nicole at [ecavicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:ecavicepresident@gmail.com) if you are interested in securing a garden plot and/or volunteering with the Pop-up Garden Committee.
- **Appeal status of DP 2020-5250 (4-unit Development at 69 31 Ave SW)**
  - During last month's meeting, there was a discussion regarding a motion requesting that the ECA to be formally removed as a co-appellant in the appeal materials filed with the SDAB about the above-noted application.
  - Following that discussion, the motion was revised as follows:
    - ECA to send letter to SDAB that they would like to speak as an affected party pursuant to section 687 of the Municipal Government Act and not be a co-appellant.
  - Revised motion to be voted on during the June 8, 2021 meeting.
  - 2 votes to pass the motion
  - 13 votes against the motion
  - Motion does not pass

## 4. REPORTS

- **President's Report (Andrew Maxwell):**
  - ECA Development Committee TOR
  - Flood Preparation Toolkit
  - Transition from PayPal to Interac for membership dues
- **Vice President's Report (Nicole Bakker):**
  - Please see Pop-up Garden Committee updates above.
- **Treasurer's Report (Paul Bergmann):**
  - In connection with closing the PayPal account for membership payments, the ECA's 2020 financials have changed by \$47.05.
  - The remaining PayPal balance will be accounted for in the 2021 financial report
- **Secretary Report (Brigitta Catinean):**
  - No update.
- **Parks Report (Vacant):**
  - No update.
- **Membership Committee Report (Nicole Bakker):**
  - Please see notes above regarding transition from PayPal to Interac for membership payments.
- **Erlton Planning Committee Report (Bill Fischer):**
  - - All the latest information on current and past development activities in Erlton is available here: [http://erltoncommunity.com/?page\\_id=12](http://erltoncommunity.com/?page_id=12)
- **Traffic Report (vacant):**
  - No update.

## 4. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Motion to adopt the Public Office and Election Policy - Attached**
- Leave of absence is recommended and common for board members participating in public office
- Motion passes to adopt public office and election policy
- **Motion to have ECA to sign on to the opposition of the letter regarding North Hill Communities Local Area Plan**
- Motion does not pass
- Letter will be distributed to the membership for comment to keep future discussion open
- **Motion to have the ECA continue involvement as a co-appellant in the appeal against Development DP2020-5250**
- Motion passes

Meeting adjourned 8:46pm

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*The Erlton Community Association hosts monthly meetings every second Tuesday of the month at the Repsol Sport Centre except for July and August. Meetings provide an opportunity for community members to receive updates on the status of projects from the ECA and bring any new issues to the attention of the community and executive.*

## Appendix A

Subject: **Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, Jewish Memorial Chapel**

Prepared BY: Shirine Lund for ECA monthly meeting June 8, 2021

On north side of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. there is a cemetery belonging to the Jewish faith and it is managed by the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, Jewish Memorial Chapel. In the late eighties they had approached the City of Calgary indicating that they want to expand into the full block tucked in between 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. This subject is more than 30 years old, there are only hand full of people from that era still residing in Erlton. I am one of them and I felt it is important for the current residents of Erlton that joined in post 1980's to know the history. Particularly in light of the demolition that took place on May 11-14, 2021 at address 32 30 Avenue S.W. If they wish to make a decision it will be an informed decision. In late eighties Chevra Kadisha had made a proposal to the City of Calgary to expand the cemetery by purchasing homes on address 51,53,55 29 Avenue S.W. and 2804 Erlton Street S.W. In the proposal they had designated the corner house on 2804 Erlton Street S.W. as the cemetery care taker's house. The reference was made to my house. None of the home owners knew about this proposal and found out in directly and not through Chevra Kadisha. After their plan was reviled they made their offers . The offers were far below market price and unattractive. Thus no one wanted to sell. And we decided to go against the expansion. We got the whole community and ECA supporting us we went to our Alderman (Councilor) the late Mr. Barry Erskine.

Mr. Erskine listened to us and said that Chevra Kadisha is a powerful organization and we stand no chance of winning if we took our case in front of City Council. He suggested we go through a mediation process to resolve our issue. That is what we end up doing and after three mediation sessions the following agreements were reached and signed off.

- 1) City of Calgary will sell at a nominal price the boulevard along the north side of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. allowing the cemetery to expand in that space.
- 2) Chevra Kadisha will commit to no further expansion in Erlton. Particularly in light of the new Erlton LRT station and the requirement of establishing high density living areas.
- 3) Chevra Kadisha will build a new house for the cemetery care taker on the lot at 32 30 Avenue S.W. This house will provide a buffer between the cemetery proper and edge of Erlton Street and maintains the residential continuity in Erlton. That was important for our small community that was segmented with large parcels of cemetery.

This process took few years and it was legally finalized in 1995.

Fast forward to May 10, 2021 that I received a letter from Chevra Kadisha announcing the demolition of the care taker's house. I immediately contacted Chevra Kadisha, Councilor Farkas office, 311, demolition permit office and technical city planner to ask for a pause to the demolition and find out what happened to the mediation agreements. In less than 24 hours the house was demolished and all traces removed. Despite their current claims, I am certain that Chevra Kadisha intends to expand the cemetery in to the vacant lot. Another word, after 30+ years Chevra Kadisha has reneged on two of the three mediation agreement points. I consider this act an assault to Erlton, ECA, City of Calgary and it has to be stopped in its track minimizing the damage. For that I need you support. If you are busy with other development a sub-committee can be formed to deal with this matter only and I will sign up to it.

I have reviewed documentation issued by the city post 1995 and they contained glaring errors. First the city has to be approached and held accountable for operating outside the mediation frame work. Prior errors have to be corrected and brought to attention of Chevra Kadisha. Meanwhile city has to ask Chevra Kadisha to halt all operations in the vacant lot until matters are resolved. Second Chevra Kadisha has to be held accountable for deviating from the mediation agreement points. Once again actions must be taken to stop further expansion in Erlton and it has to be made ironclad.

It is imperative to recognize that any future works has to be conducted with in the mediation frame work. This subject has to be dealt with as a whole and cannot be broken into separate parts. For example, the city cannot pay 30,000 to Chevra Kadisha, reclaim the boulevard and allow Erlton to have the boulevard back along 30<sup>th</sup> avenue. Similarly Chevra Kadisha cannot break away from their end of the bargain. This is the true meaning of mediation.

I thank you for your time and will be happy to answer any questions.