



MINUTES

PCA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 12th, 2024, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Phin Park, 115 Condor Avenue, Toronto, ON

Agenda Item	Summary
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malinda acknowledged that The Pocket community is situated on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. We also acknowledge that this community is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit.
Introduction of Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malinda introduced the following two guests: Peter Tabuns MPP for Toronto-Danforth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter expressed appreciation for The Pocket's ability to come together to build a strong fabric of safety and vibrancy. Paula Fletcher, City Councillor, Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paula provided a similar tribute to our wonderful community and that we are also recognized for our environmental work.
Confirmation of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desiree confirmed quorum for the meeting and received unanimous vote to open the meeting.
Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes was tabled, supported and seconded.
Secretary's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desiree informed of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Committee met on a regular and frequent basis in 2023/24. Since the last AGM in June 2023, the committee conducted a total of 9 meetings. Minutes were recorded and are published on the PCA website, thepocket.ca.
Nomination & Election Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of election process Introduction of 2024-25 slate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to the 2024 members of the Executive Committee Desiree confirmed the return of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – Malinda Francis Treasurer – Martin Pollak Communications Coordinator – Meredith Kushnir Membership Coordinator – Leah Pollock Members at Large – Gail James and Peter Farncombe



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to Approve (vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With new members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gina Binetti – Secretary ○ Sullivan Dymment – Member at Large • Desiree thanked committee members for their hard work and dedication to our community! • The motion to approve the 2024/25 Executive Committee was tabled, supported and seconded.
Chair's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malinda informed that 2023-2024 was a growing year for the Executive Committee. This year there were a lot of first-time board members and some of our executives had to step away. We were able to work collectively and the team was able to step in where it was needed. New members: included Meredith, Desiree, Leah and Peter. • Malinda acknowledged our past Chair, Eadit Rokach, and Events Coordinator, Rebecca Ross, who had to step away, and also thanked Desiree the outgoing secretary who kept us on track throughout this year. • Some of Our highlights from our activity this year include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation of our communications committee where we were able to begin to build communication processes amongst the executive and in between the subcommittees, ○ We were able to coordinate executive duties collectively and when folks had to step away other members were able to pick up the slack. ○ Creation of our new website was completed with big shout outs to our Communications Coordinator Meredith for her persistent work that created a brand new website – url remains thepocket.ca. Also, thanks to Julie and others who helped to transition the work which helped to ensure that the new website was realized. ○ Malinda provided thanks to the work of the Phin Park and Greening Committee, co-chairs Lori and Jeff for all their work with the TRCA for the Tiny Forest along with the new signs both in Phin Park and around the Tiny Forest which is at the edge of the dog park by the TTC yard. ○ The PCA was also approached in the fall by one of our residents due to concern of the porch thefts and safety in the neighbourhood. In response the PCA held a Neighbourhood Safety Town Hall at the beginning of the year at the Wandering Spirit School, which included presentations from our Neighbourhood Police Constables and TTC Community Constables. The engagement by those who attended was excellent with many questions resolved by each Constable group. If there is enough interest, we may run this again. ○ Malinda gave a big thanks to all of the volunteers and residents in the community that often make things seamlessly happen throughout the year, and gave special recognition to Jeff Otto who



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	<p>always seems to be on call for tech set up and organizes many events as well as Donna Lee for the many events she not only supports by drives!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malinda also provided appreciation to the Pocket Change Committee for coming to present their year, with us and all the work that they have done. ○ Malinda informed we continue our relationship with the Wandering Spirit School and were proud to be able to support the school's annual Pow Wow that happened last Wednesday. ○ Lori was also thanked for her expertise, and willingness to share her knowledge when direction was needed throughout the year. ○ Others that were thanked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ellen as always for leading up the Street Captains. ▪ The executive who are returning - looking forward to working with you this upcoming year. ○ Malinda welcomed first time nominees, Gina Binetti who stepping as secretary and new member at large Sullivan Dymment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking toward 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With a lot of our executive members returning, we hope to continue to build our organizational communication processes amongst the sub-committees, especially with the growing size of the Pocket Change. ○ Hope to work closer with the Pocket Change executive to create a communication process and to ensure budgeting is coordinated between the two executives. ○ This year we were invited to Eid Iftar dinner at Madinah Masjid, the Mosque on Danforth, but unfortunately it wasn't enough time to have more participation amongst residents so the hope is to get more participation next Ramadan in February. The hope is to build a closer and stronger relationship with the Mosque towards next Eid to increase collaboration with this part of our community. ○ The Executive Committee would like to work on building more engagement with all residents and broaden our volunteer base. All of your questions and suggestions are welcome, so please do take time to fill in the suggestions form before you leave. • Malinda provided another thanks to all of the residents who worked, participated and contributed to The Pocket events in this year and informed that the PCA looks forward to continuing to work together to keep our Pocket a vibrant community towards 2025.



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Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin informed a small deficit has been experienced, which is a bit of a hangover from COVID. Donations were down by approximately \$500. • Overall, the PCA has substantial cash resources of \$14,700 as of the end of December. The previous year's cash resources were \$15,000. Some of these funds are held on behalf of a grant for which we are waiting for the city to kick it off. • Some of the Pocket Change Committee expenses were supported and they are actively applying for and receiving grants. • The Wandering Spirit School's annual Powwow project was supported again this year with the financial management of funds that were granted. • All of the PCA accounts are with the same bank, TD, which includes a GIC.
Sub-Committee Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Committee • Membership Committee • Events Committee • Pocket Change Committee • Phin Park and Greening Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communications Report was provided by Meredith, PCA Communications Coordinator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The PCA has been very busy with communications, promoting various events & activities and providing updates when events had to be rescheduled. In total this year the following were completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 email eblasts to current + past members • 38 Facebook posts • 30 Twitter / X posts • Printed and posted posters for all events • Updated the website for all events ○ The biggest thing that happened this year is the completion of the website migration. At the 2021 AGM, Daryl had outlined how the PCA's website moved from Wordpress to the NationBuilder platform. We then had a few hiccups and it took longer than expected to fully migrate all content over. ○ Meredith was proud to announce that the switch to the new platform finally happened this year. It was a tremendous heavy lift first started by Daryl, Susan, Julie, Sean and more recently by myself. If Pocket residents haven't had a look please check it out. The url is the same: www.thepocket.ca. • Meredith also provided the Events Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since the June'23 AGM the PCA has promoted a wide variety of events & activities. In addition to promoting all of them via our members eblast & social media, most of the events were supported financially by the PCA, and those funds came from membership fees & donations. The following is a run down of the events:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pollinators & Planting Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · At the end of June, we partnered with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for a very cool educational event called Pollinators & Planting. The Phin Park & Greening Committee will speak more about this. ○ Three-Musketeers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In August, we were lucky to have the Lakeside Players back to deliver three awesome performances of the Three Musketeers in the park. Thanks to wonderful local actors who donated their time, we enjoyed an afternoon of free music & refreshments. We hope to welcome them back again this summer! ○ Tiny Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In August, the Pocket had a site preparation for its very own Tiny Forest. This is a project that is led by the TRCA's Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP), in partnership with the City of Toronto, the Pocket Community Association (PCA), and the Network of Nature. · In September there was a very successful planting event, which was really well attended with many people out to plant the Tiny Forest which now is growing happily at the top of the Off Leash Oakvale Green Space. ○ Park in the Dark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In late October, before Halloween, we partnered again with TRCA on another very cool educational event called Park in the Dark. It happened at nighttime and the event was sold out. Many kids and families came in costumes to carve pumpkins and learn about nocturnal neighbours. ○ Pumpkin Parade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The day after Halloween, we had our very special pumpkin parade with hundreds of pumpkins lining the walkways of Phin Park. We had a very big crowd with countless smiling people of all ages who enjoyed the carved pumpkins, glowing on a lovely evening, while enjoying popcorn, hot chocolate & other refreshments. ○ Santa's Frozen Festival <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Resident Donna Lee and a team of local volunteers organized this December event. We had about 15 vendors participating in the Holiday Pop-Up Shops in Phin Park to sell their wares. The event also entailed another nighttime parade that included a dinosaur, reindeer, dreidel, elves & of course Santa & Mrs. Claus.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In keeping with the Pocket's community spirit, the important tradition of charitable contribution was continued with this event. ○ Indigenous Fire & Storytelling Community Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In January there was yet another very cool Pocket-Snap community event run by the TRCA. For the first time in the Pocket, we had an Indigenous fire and storytelling. Kandy Kennedy of Kennedy Indigenous Consulting and Wildlife Education came to speak and share traditional stories. ○ Phin Park Rink <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In the winter we had the Phin Park Rink. Pocket residents Corey, John, Karina, Mark, Michael, Lori, Omer, Steve and Jeff, along with a few of their kids, again formed an awesome team to create and maintain a skating rink in Phin Park. · These volunteers flooded, swept & scraped, to make an awesome place to safely skate & play hockey. · The rink was ready on January 18th. Despite all the incredible efforts to make this happen, Mother Nature didn't cooperate and the rink was thwarted by unseasonably warm temperatures which made the skating very short lived. ○ Community Safety Townhall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In February, a Community Safety Townhall event was hosted in the beautiful auditorium space of the Wandering Spirit School. This was prompted by a few concerned residents of the Pocket as a result of some recent crimes in the neighbourhood. · We had two safety presentations from our local community police offers, Officer Brittany Sunega and Joel Main from the Division 55, as well as TTC special constables, Ricky Hosein and Teresa Lui. · The event was very successful, bringing about 25 residents out to listen to the safety presentations and ask questions. ○ April Spring Fling & Easter Egg Hunt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · On March 30th the Spring Fling included another incredible Easter Egg Hunt. It was incredibly popular again this year, with hundreds of kids and families participating. To prepare, volunteers cleaned up Phin Park the day before. On the big day, there were refreshments, bunny photos, vendors and a charity raffle thanks to generous donors. · Big shout out to Donna Lee, an enormous community contributor for many years, as well as Jeff Otto and Dean Miller for doing all the heavy lifting for this amazing event. ○ Clean-Up Day



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Another terrific volunteers-made-it-happen event that the PCA was proud to sponsor. Details will be shared in our Phin Park & Greening report. ○ Street Sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Just a few weeks ago we had our annual street sale. Although the weather was rainy, the event still attracted hundreds of people to dozens of homes where treasures of all sorts were sold or given away. Many set up shop on Sunday as well when we had many more people come out to the neighbourhood. Several sellers donated what they collected to charities, including PWA (People with AIDS Foundation), Eastview and others. ○ Pocket Pride Parade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · This hasn't happened yet, but a little plug for a very exciting event this weekend. The third Pocket Pride Parade will be held. There will be a rainbow procession of two-wheeled & four-wheeled vehicles & costumed walkers. · Meredith asked attendees to spread the word to show the Pocket how much we value diversity, equity and a sense of belonging. • Meredith provided the Membership Report on behalf of Leah Pollock: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ E-blast campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Started in February 2024 · Emailed every 2 weeks to 2023 members and also completed social posts · Membership registration was available at 3 PCA events · Total Members enlisted during Phase 1: 99 ○ Door-to-Door campaign via Street Captains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A huge thank you was provided to Ellen Titus for leading the campaign, to the Street Captains for their time and diligence, to Linda Blake for all the data entries, and to Martin Pollak for managing an influx of cash flow to the PCA! · We experimented with not using street lists this year and we received feedback that this was a valuable tool for captains, so will reinstate the lists next year. · Total Members enlisted via Phase 2: 169 ○ Final Numbers were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Total number of members in 2023: 332 · Total number of members June 2024: 268 • David Langill provided the Pocket Change Report:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year was a very exciting time for the Pocket Change Project when it received front page coverage in the Toronto Star and coverage on CBC Radio and Television - in English and French! ○ The big news this year has been sparking the creation of a home retrofit service for the whole city of Toronto, with financial help from The Atmospheric Fund and Toronto Hydro. It's called Toronto Home Retrofits until a branding company can find a better name. It will encourage a community-based approach along the lines of Pocket Change. They've hired an Executive Director who is now busy learning from our pioneering work here in the Pocket. ○ The team is continuing to encourage more Pocket homeowners to retrofit their homes and get off the gas. ○ The committee received a grant from the City of Toronto to assist low-income Pocket residents to better insulate their homes and reduce their carbon consumption. ○ The committee conducted a survey of Pocket homeowners to help identify others who want to get on the retrofit road. ○ The committee will be hosting another Eco Fun Fair in Phin Park on Sunday, September 22nd. David was pleased to report that the Parks People have just given a \$1500 grant so everyone in the Pocket can be invited to a large community feast that evening. So, save the date - Sept 22nd. ● Lori Zucchiati-O'Neill provided the Phin Park & Greening Report on behalf of herself and Jeff Otto (co-chairs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This committee works to keep Pocket green spaces enjoyable & safe for people, pets & wildlife. Since the previous AGM, the committee has continued to lead a strong team. Jeff and Lori thank Barb Panter, Dan Olsen, Marco Oved, Raja Raudsepp, Richard Brooks, Roy Baskind & Trish O'Reilly-Brennan for everything from planting & watering to removing invasive plants, weeding & pruning, & even putting garbage & recyclable items that they find in Pocket park areas where they belong. ○ Lori and Jeff regularly communicate with Parks Forestry & Recreation to help maintain & improve our park areas in response to comments from this Committee and The Pocket at large. Last month, one of the priority requests was fulfilled. The rotting & broken sections of the Phin Park pergola were replaced, so it again provides a safe, comfortable and attractive place to relax and enjoy the shade. Thanks were provided to this City department. ○ Along the line of improvements, Lori found a contractor who is willing to rebuild the broken wall of the PCA herb garden in the park. Lori is confident he will provide a reasonable quote, which will be shared with the Board for their feedback.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the City's "Clean Toronto Together" weekend in April, the committee organized a one-day cleanup of Phin Park, the Dog Off-Leash Area and Oakvale Green. The day included removing invasive plants, as well as raising awareness about native plants and offering native seeds. ○ "Leave the Leaves!" Our cleanup day included education about the importance of leaving organic matter in gardens until temperatures are steady at 10 C for at least 10 days to protect overwintering creatures. Plus, Councillor Fletcher provided her annual donation of a huge pile of compost for residents. Thanks were given to Paula. ○ A few weeks after last year's AGM, TRCA staff & this committee co-hosted a small pollinators and planting event. As part of TRCA's Pocket SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan), they donated native plants for our butterfly and pollinator gardens, as well as the shade garden that we co-created last year. ○ The committee continued their native plant work with TRCA when they again partnered with TreeMobile to provide Pocket residents with free native shrubs & trees, which resulted in several dozen being delivered in April for planting in people's yards. Thanks were provided to TRCA & TreeMobile. ○ TRCA's Pocket SNAP support included the addition of four educational signs in Phin Park, which we co-developed with the approval of the PCA Board. The signage themes showcase: "pollinators" "benefits of trees", "shade garden plants" & our "herb garden" in various areas of Phin Park. ○ With regard to the herb garden, the team recently prepared it for new growth, and passersby will soon see fresh herbs alongside returning perennials for everyone's personal culinary & medicinal use. ○ Lori informed of exciting new that occurred on September 30. The Pocket experienced the culmination of about 2.5 years of discussion & planning when TRCA & our Committee hosted the Tiny Forest Planting Day! During this sold-out community-wide event, over 300 native shrubs & trees were planted. We also saw the installation of deer fencing to protect it during the first 3-5 years of growth, as well as a temporary beautiful banner designed by Pocket resident Sullivan Dymont. ○ In our agreement with the City & TRCA, the PCA Board committed to take a lead role in the monitoring and maintenance of the forest during the first 3-5 years. On June 2, several Committee members and another Pocket resident received our first training session from TRCA. All are invited



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	<p>to watch the growth of the Tiny Forest and to share comments and questions with the committee. If the team doesn't know the answer, they will be happy to find out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In closing, the Phin Park & Greening Committee would like to thank everyone who is supporting our efforts to make The Pocket a more beautiful, safer, healthier and more environmentally sustainable place to live, work, go to school & simply enjoy!
Door Prize draws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And the winners are! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gina Binetti was selected for the rain barrel that was donated by the TRCA ○ New Pocket resident Nick was selected for the Massellis gift card
Member Questions, Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Binetti asked whether there are any plans to take photographs of the Tiny Forest over the 3 -5 year incubation and growth period to show the growth. Lori welcomed the idea and Gina's offer to video the growth. Lori will inform TRCA of this effort as well in case they would like to use it elsewhere. Lori also informed that after the 3-5 year period, a new fence with a gate will be built so passersby can enter. • Susan provided thanks to the PCA and event volunteers for their hard work over the last year. Susan informed that the responsibility of the off-leash dog park was transitioned from the PCA to the Dog Owners Association. However, the two members of this Association are no longer there. Susan asked whether the PCA can reach out to the community to see if anyone is interested in stepping in. New volunteers could then request new wood chips from the city. These volunteers will be able to manage directly with the city. The PCA Board is happy to fulfill this suggestion. • Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malinda (PCA Executive Chair) is excited to continue the great community work this year and informed that committees and events are open to anyone that would like to volunteer – more hands and support are always needed. If anyone is interested, they can contact the board through the PCA email: info@thepocket.ca
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adjourn was provided – Gordon supported and Susan seconded.