

The Riverwood Conservancy
Minutes of the Annual Members' Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 7:00 pm
Chappell House



Members: (38)

Brian Packham	Heather Shaw	Peeter Poldre
Elinor Laffey	Kathy Poldre	Swaroop Dogra
Suzanne Roy	Trishia Kluge	Christina Woodward
Sripathi Sankaranarayanan	Alan Lytle	Kathy Lytle
Janice Ekeland	Sue Richards	Doug Richards
Juan Nakasoke	Olive Hanna	Mauro Di Meo
Pam Johansson	Bob Paton	Clement Mbulu
Marilyn Ballentyne	Pema Hou	Amy Tjen
Carolyn Sherk	Mary McAllister	Douglas Markoff
Joe Horneck	Linda Morris	Peter Newsome
Derek Stone	Xiaoyan Wu	Tim Pickering
Imdad Junejo	Jonathan Davis	Kathy Gallagher
Francine Martin	Mo Snobar	Sara Wilbur-Collins

Non-Members: (9)

Rasheed Clarke	Erin Farrow	Liz Jankowski
Lennox Toppin	Marc Hogan	Judy Opar
Pat Kelly	Nicky Kelly	Taya Kehler

Proxies: (1)

Gail Krantzberg

Regrets: (1)

Monica Jako

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Shaw called the 2025 Annual Members' Meeting to order by acknowledging the land and noting that the required quorum were present with 38 members, 9 non-members, 1 proxy and 1 regret. Heather also introduced Pat Kelly, Marc Hogan and Lennox Toppin as special guests attending this meeting.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

MOTION: A motion was made by Elinor Laffey and seconded by Suzanne Roy to accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on April 15, 2024. The motion was carried.

3. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Heather Shaw acknowledged our successes and challenges from last year. Riverwood continues to be a place where the community comes to connect with nature with affordable public programs and providing a beautiful place for the community to visit.

TRC was delighted to win the Not-For-Profit of the Year from the Mississauga Board of Trade. The Indigenous Network selected TRC to receive the Spirit of Reconciliation Award, Heather thanked our Ward 6 councilor Joe Horneck for his support of Riverwood and to our local MPP Natalia Kusendova-Bashta for her interest in our work.

The Ambassador's group has been rebranded as Trailblazers which meet on occasion to reunite and to help us grow connections within our community. Heather explained with fewer grant opportunities TRC is building new relationships and connections to create a base for sustainable revenue growth through focused and innovative funding.

TRC appreciates the City of Mississauga's annual grant which continues to constitute our largest source of revenue. TRC is revitalizing our membership program which is part of the discussion at this meeting.

The Great Riverwood Hike is the new and highly successful fundraising event which will take place for a second year in the fall.

Our Executive Director, Sara Wilbur-Collins has successfully navigated an operationally challenging year to ensure a successful upcoming year at TRC.

4. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER:**

Tim Pickering reviewed the financial reports for 2024. Tim noted that with grant revenues down significantly, TRC had to dip into the reserve fund to help offset costs. There is still a healthy balance in the reserve. The goal for 2025 is to increase revenue including more effective fundraising. The 2025 budget is planned to have a much smaller deficit (-\$33,590) due to operational restructuring.

MOTION: A motion was made by Susan Richards and seconded by Swaroop Dogra that the report of the Treasurer be accepted as presented. The motion was carried.

MOTION: A motion was made by Elinor Laffey and seconded by Peter Newsome that the firm of Glenn Graydon Wright be appointed auditors for 2025. The motion was carried.

5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Sara Wilbur-Collins highlighted that 19,000 people visited TRC in 2024 and that about 300 regular volunteers and 650 part-time volunteers felt connected to TRC through a volunteer survey that was distributed to them.

Outdoor education continues to be very important to the health of children. The new pond restoration and boardwalk installation at the MacEwan Pond has been a highlight this year and Sara thanked Alan Lytle in particular for all of his assistance.

In 2024 there were about 6,500 students in the Education Naturally Program. The LEADS secondary program was discontinued in 2024.

TRC's payroll was decreased by 23% in late 2024. to reflect a more sustainable operational model.

A video was shown to highlight the events in 2024.

6. MEMBERSHIP CLASS/BY-LAW UPDATES:

Heather and Sara explained the proposed new changes to Membership, including the creation of a new Charitable Membership (CM) Class, and related By-Law updates. The following motions were made:

MOTION: A motion was made by Joe Horneck and seconded by Christina Woodward that TRC Family Membership be modified to include up to two adults and three children up to age eighteen, regardless of family relationship. The motion was carried.

MOTION: A motion was made by Elinor Laffey and seconded by Suzanne Roy that a new Charitable (Donor/Member Hybrid) Member Class be approved, to be enacted no later than December 31, 2025. The motion was carried.

MOTION: A motion was made by Carolyn Sherk and seconded by Jonathan Davis that the Life Membership Class be expanded to include donors reaching a cumulative giving threshold, to be enacted no later than December 31, 2025. The motion was carried.

MOTION: A motion was made by Imdad Junejo and seconded by Jonathan Davis that at the point when the new Charitable Class is enacted, the Senior and Youth classes of membership be eliminated. After discussion, it was determined that the Membership felt that both types of classes are important. The motion was defeated.

Sara thanked Heather Shaw for her work and dedication as Chair of TRC for three years.

7. REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

Swaroop Dogra, Chair of the Nominations Committee gave his report. The following motions were made:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mauro Di Meo and seconded by Carolyn Sherk that David Reid be appointed to the Board of Directors. The motion was carried.

MOTION: A motion was made by Elinor Laffey and seconded by Christina Woodward that the number of directors of the Board of Directors be set at 12 for the 2025 – 2026 year, beginning April 22, 2025. The motion was carried.

8. APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION:

Heather Shaw presented appreciation awards to Alan Lytle and Christina Woodward for their outstanding contributions on the Board of Directors.

Derek Stone presented an appreciation award to Pat Kelly who has been a longtime volunteer contributing to TRC's Discovery programs. Derek also presented an appreciation award to Marc Hogan who has been the Riverwood Explorers Camp Director for 15 years.

Peeter Poldre presented an appreciation award to Heather Shaw who is retiring as Chair of the Board of Directors after three years.

9. RIVERWOOD IN 2025:

Derek Stone presented highlights of the coming year including: MacEwan Pond Restoration Celebration, , Sensory Path renovations, next steps on the Berry Bush and Outdoor Classroom, the new Summer Camp Riverwood, new public Wellness Programs, the summer Bioblitz, Native Plant Sale and the Great Riverwood Hike.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

11. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS:

There were no questions.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: A motion was made by Swaroop Dogra and seconded by Douglas Markoff that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried.