

September 26, 2017 – CHCA President's Report for AGM and general distribution.

I can feel the chill in the Fall air, as I settle down to write this summary for 2016/2017 since our last AGM in October 2016. As customary at this time of the year, like those in the generations before us, I think the CHCA has a lot to be thankful for. Our financials are strong, our board of volunteer directors are settling into position (or “norming” as they call it in management parlance), and we are gaining clarity of the future challenges facing the Crescent Heights Community Association, its members, and our community residents.

Sadly, many of our past volunteers have moved out of our Community as time has gone by. Many more long-term residents have passed before us but like I, the CHCA, has been privileged to have learned from their wisdom and kindness. In January 2017, we were all shocked to learn that our long-time volunteer on the CHCA Traffic and Planning Committee – Brian Smith - had passed away. I have learned so much from Brian, benefited from his kindness and tremendous wisdom. His collection of stories on the history and development of Crescent Heights provides the historical context necessary to focus our changing Planning Committee members onto the development proposals at every meeting, and his infinite wisdom helps us all to balance the interest of the Community versus those of the developers. As I have shared many times with those who know me, Jim Prentice gave me the inspiration for public service, and Brian Smith gives me the knowledge and local context on which to guide us all at the CHCA in evaluating the intricacies of issues in our community. We are honoured for having the opportunity to learn from our senior member of the Community, and privileged to have benefited from the wisdom shared with us all by those who have left their marks – in their own unique ways – in our Community, City and Society. It is in this spirit that we are motivated to give back, and contribute what we can, to make Crescent Heights a better place for everyone.

The CHCA needs to recognize the tremendous contributions of its volunteers. Starting from those who committed to delivering the beloved **Crescent VIEW** for the many years before we switched to delivery by Canada Post – (Thanks Tony for the very enlightening chat about your VIEW carrier stories for the past 15+ years) – your contribution, and those of other VIEW carriers are much appreciated by all of us. This same appreciation also applies to our volunteer **VIEW editor, Elizabeth Stady**, who has held the post for as long as I can remember, since I joined this board so many moons ago. **Jonathan and Alison Martin** had contributed so much as Membership Coordinators over the years, before leaving the position this past year. Their tremendous contributions to the CHCA Membership and hard-work on this file is so big, that this volunteer position remains unfilled today. We thank our volunteers for stepping up to help make the job a little bit easier for my fellow CHCA board members

Past CHCA board members also need to be recognized. **Kellee Grounds** has spent countless hours in organizing and coordinating the Crescent Park playground re-build; **Michael Jankovic**, who stepped up to the plate to as Treasurer in late 2015 had also cycled out in January 2017; **Amanda Bishop** had to leave us for other commitments in Eastern Canada, but not before leaving Crescent Heights a better place with her help in the Communications portfolio. **Darlene Jones** who had chaired the Planning Committee for as long as I can remember, have also left of our CHCA board during this past year. Her gentle style of leadership, and countless hours in advocating for a better Crescent Heights through new buildings and developments, is admired by all of us. The swelling ranks in membership of the Planning Committee is a testament to her ability to build consensus in achieving a better solution for many proposed developments in our Crescent Heights. She continues to be of assistance to the CHCA board through her vast knowledge of the issues that had came up over the years through the Planning portfolio. Thanks, Darlene, for your friendship and principled decisions on board matters. Thanks,

also to anyone else whom I might have missed, for helping to make the task of working within this diverse and changing CHCA board easier and more interesting for your colleagues.

The excitement over a constantly changing CHCA board composition has also provided tremendous challenges to our various new board members. Many have risen to the challenge and performed admirably over this past year.

Isabelle Jankovic had taken over the Treasurer position, after Michael's resignation. She had previously been board Secretary, where her organizational skill has helped us in formalizing a central repository for CHCA related documents that can be accessed by all members of the Board. In her short tenure, since, as Treasurer she had taken on the admirable task of filing our AGLC expense reports – which was accepted as filed without deficiencies. She is now working on the 2015 and 2016 financial audits with our auditor at the FCC. As someone who had occupied the Treasurer's position for a number of years, I can attest to the amazing effort that she has put forth behind these achievements. On behalf of the CHCA board and its members, I thank Isabelle Jankovic for her work for the board, and the community activities. I also thank Isabelle for finally looking at the expenses which I have incurred on behalf of the CHCA activities during these recent difficult years when we were typically short of bank signing authorities to sign off on my expenses – with ever-rotating Secretary and Treasurer volunteers. I am therefore optimistic that this long outstanding issue will be closed off soon after this AGM. You can get further updates on the CHCA financials from Isabelle's financial report.

Dennis Marr, your CHCA Director of Planning (and Developments) has nicely settled into this highly demanding role this past year. Dennis has a sense of the big picture of the community issues, complemented by his many years' experience as a committee member, has helped to build consensus on building and development issues and, charted the course of CHCA's response to the tremendous pressure to intensify land usage in our Community. Dennis was instrumental securing CHCA's participation in an industry leading **UrbanLabs & CHCA Virtual Reality Project** to gauge the effect of various level of densification may have on our beloved Crescent Heights. Look for the release of this grounds breaking study in the coming months!

Lisa Dare deserves another big thank you from the CHCA board for stepping up to the plate and performed admirably as Special Events Director this past year. Lisa took the time to settle into her role, assess the various marquee events that had come to represent the CHCA, and took on the task to organize our highly successful 2017 edition of the *CHCA Stampede Breakfast*. Since then, she had also organized the CHCA's recent *40th Anniversary Party*. Lisa has helped to bring out the CHCA, our membership, and Community residents together to celebrate our community diversity and, through these events, provide the tremendous opportunities for us all to know our neighbour, and neighbourhood, a lot better. Job well done, Lisa!

Chandra Thomas joined our Board at the last AGM, and had expressed her interest in traffic issues around our Community. She took over the Traffic Director position from Kellee Grounds, who had vacated the position in the year prior. Like Kellee before her, Chandra faced the maze of bureaucracy at City Hall in advancing our CHCA concerns to the right department. She was the CHCA contact person for this past year's July 1st, Canada 150 Celebration, as well as coordinating with the City's staff in the execution of the massive Fireworks show. In her current role, she has taken on a keen interest in Urban Tacticalism as a way to generate conversations between neighbours and to unify common interests in making Crescent Heights a little better for everyone. Read her Traffic Director's report, and please come out and participate in the upcoming Cone-versation this Saturday, September 30, 2017 on 1st Street NE, adjacent to Rotary Park Playground. Thank you, Chandra for your work at the CHCA.

At our last AGM, our board was joined by a spirited team of **Kyle Mitchell and Jenifer Black**, who believed that the CHCA would benefit from having a paid “Community Engagement Consultant,” hired to improve the process of getting in touch with CHCA membership and residents, and to develop a list of community events and programs for the Board to implement. This new line of thinking was a very clear departure from the manner in which this role of the “Community Communications” position has traditionally been handled in all Calgary Community Associations – in that Community Association Volunteers bring forth the energy and enthusiasm and directly engage / contact their friends, neighbours and residents, through their own effort to personally engage with the residents. Recently, Kyle and Jennifer’s proposal was approved by the board with an amount of seed capital to start this project, and the CHCA board is hopeful that this concept gets developed further. Watch for their *Engagement Term of Reference*, and a coming RFP for the “Community Engagement Coordinator” in and around our Community.

Lastly, but is most important, our board also welcomed the team of **Victor Gallardo and Kirstin Blair** into the role of Secretary of the CHCA Board. Victor had to step aside recently due to conflicts with schooling commitments, and we were thankful that Kirstin recently stepped in to take over the position. Being an executive position on the board, the Secretary’s role is essential to keep the proper functioning of the Board, and also to keep track of all meeting minutes and record all board decisions. We are thankful for Victor Gallardo, and Kirstin Blair for helping us all out in this critical position.

The marked improvement in appearance and utilization of the CHCA hall is the result of the CHCA board’s decision to hire a new hall rental and administrative coordinator – **Shannon Kelsic** – in late 2015, early 2016. This decision has also resulted in a different, and higher cost structure to operate the facility. **John McDermid**, our long-term board member, past-president, and steward of CHCA community issues have re-joined the CHCA board as the Facilities Coordinator. With his direction, and Shannon’s help, the CHCA has benefited from an increased utilization of the hall, and a much better overall appearance. Thank you’s go to John McDermid, and Shannon Kelsic.

A president’s review at the AGM must include an update on our financial position. The CHCA has faced the tremendous challenges of volunteer turn-over in the key position of Treasurer. Since I relinquished that position back in 2013 to take over the President’s role, our successive list of volunteer Treasurers included **Dan Shield, Stephanie Ho Lem, Josh Workman, Michael Jankovic** and, now, **Isabelle Jankovic**. Our Treasurers’ task was even more difficult when the FCC closed their book-keeping department, which we contracted to do our book-keeping for the year 2014. Since the FCC’s auditors were not allowed to do our book-keeping – it is against professional guidelines to do so – we faced the delay in getting the 2014 audits done, as reported at the last AGM. I am pleased to report that the audit has been concluded, and those financial statements are available for distribution at this AGM.

The two clarification notes that I will make for the readers of those **2014 Financial Statement** is that those statements misclassified the handling of the funds for the Rotary Park Playground renewal during this period. The amounts advanced to the Calgary Parks Foundation are not donations to the Parks Foundation, but rather they were advances to them as the project’s financial managers to facilitate the construction of the playground. The remaining funds in the account - \$64,500 - was subsequently returned to the CHCA in 2016. Secondly, these financial statements also did not show the cash donations that the CHCA has received from the many residents of our community towards this playground. They include – the HASKAYNES, PRENTICES, Stephanie HO-LEM – amongst many other. A sign had been posted on the east side of the new Crescent Park Playground recognizing these contributors. Clearly, these financial contributions need to be recognized by the CHCA in our financial

records of the relevant period. Other than these two points, and I have made the FCC Auditors fully aware of these facts, I believe that the financial statements fairly captures the activities of the CHCA board during 2014. On behalf of the CHCA Board, we thank everyone for their contribution towards this significant investment in our Crescent Heights!

With Isabelle's monumental effort, 2015 and 2016 audits will soon be at the FCC Auditing department, and bring a close to this chapter of the rotating Treasurer's role at the CHCA. It is often said that the Treasurer's position is the most critical in all volunteer boards, and we are working hard to secure a stable working environment, and to attract financially informed, community resident to fill this key position. Volunteer, if you can, and join us!

Looking into the future, Crescent Heights is undergoing constant changes, forced upon us by our location, convenience and tremendous amenities available within walking distance from our front doors. We pride ourselves of the unique residential and commercial developments, diverse back ground of our residents, and the fine balance of the vibrancy of our commercial hubs versus the tranquility of the residential side streets. These are the characteristics and values we hold dear as Canadians, Calgarians and proud long-term Crescent Heights Resident. However, we must manage the challenges of densification and urban growth while preserving the unique features of Crescent Heights.

The SouthEast corner of our community has seen significant developments. The Minto Project, the Assisted Living facility developed by the Calgary Homeless Foundation – opened this past year, and other coming projects will help bring new energy to this area. A suitable proposal for the use of Bud's Office Furniture building will also bring additional vibrancy to this developing commercial hub. A proper balance of new residential units to the additional commercial activities will help to achieve this.

The SouthWest corner of our community has seen significant increase in visitors over the years. We proudly share the amazing view and mountain vista (on a rare clear day this past year) and our local residents have been very accommodating over the years. However, the recent deterioration trend of late-night gathering, loitering and revelling, even reported incidents of speeding vehicles, stunting etc in the middle of the night – especially between 11:00 pm and the next daylight – has caused some of our long-term residents to have moved out of the community. These activities are not acceptable anywhere else in residential communities, and Crescent Heights should be of no exception. The CHCA needs to advocate for those affected residents and seek workable solutions to curb these activities.

The NorthEast corner of Crescent Heights have welcomed the opening of the Affordable Housing project this past year. Across the lane, the Marque has recently completed construction and is slowly filling up with residents and, soon, commercial tenants. These projects and others will surely bring additional interest and energy into our community.

The pending construction of the GREENLine LRT will bring both challenges and opportunities to Crescent Heights. If the construction process is not managed properly, the potential closure, or traffic disruption along Centre Street may cause the demise of many businesses along this commercial hub in our community. In the late 1990's, when the City shut down the Centre Street Bridge for renovation for about a year, Centre Street businesses decimated, property values sunk and this caused a significant change in the composition of our business community and resulted in a significant change-over of the land ownership along this core. Additionally, the closure of this key transportation artery caused significant change in the residential make-up of our Crescent Heights. Traffic circulation, pedestrian access and mobility, and residents' quality of life can be severely changed through this process.

Therefore, we must be mindful of these potential challenges. The CHCA will continue to advocate for open discussion and effective management of the construction process over the coming years!

The opportunity for Crescent Heights to significantly influence the public realm of the GREENLine through this construction is also immense. Thoughtful features (eg. to facilitate Centre Street crossing) and designs can improve the walkability of our community, and enhance the attractiveness of our community to both residents and businesses. Additionally, City Administration has been directed to incorporate the **Mainstreets** ideas and proper urban design principles into this project. Who knows, Crescent Heights may get to refresh our **Crescent Heights ARP** and bring a renewed sense of community oriented developmental values as it has been passed on to us by successive prior generations. It is exciting time for us all at Crescent Heights, and please come out and take part in community building activities!

In preparation for these coming projects, the CHCA and its Planning Committee has committed significant resources into projects with urban planning professionals and in association with **UrbanLabs** – an accredited **University of Calgary** entity in the **Department of Environmental Designs** – to provide the foundational studies to help guide us through these impending changes. How do we keep the unique features and highlights of our community, like mature trees, quiet residential streets, character homes and streetscape while embracing the pending wave of Traffic Oriented Development? Please take part in the discussion, talk to your neighbours, exchange ideas, and let your CHCA board know what you like and what should be improved. Be a participant in this time of change!

Those are my thoughts for this year's AGM. I will not be at the AGM, due to recent developments with my personal health conditions. I am hopeful that it will be a temporary disruption, and not enough to keep me from continuing to work with the amazing and dedicated volunteer CHCA board for as long as I can.

With warmest wishes,

Daniel Dang
President
CHCA.