MEETING TITLE: Kingsmount Bell Park Community Action Network - Final General Meeting 03-Oct-2026

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Mike Penwarden, Co-Chair	Anna Marcuccio	Pat Falter
Paul Haynes, Co-Chair	Bill Crumplin	Ryan Dumas
Alice Haasdyk, Secretary	Chris Hendsbee	Mike Smith
Karen Haynes (Communications)	Joanne DeMarco	Mel B
Paul Stopciati (Ward 10 Candidate)	Gillian Schell	Tony Lapienes
Derek Young (Ward 10 Candidate)	Kyle Vine	Jose Calabrese
Suzanne Seiling (Ward 10 Candidate)	Maria McRae	Ruby Boileau
Cora DeMarco (Ward 10 Candidate)	Paul McRae	Ryan Mariotti
Cathan Pasanen (Ward 10 Candidate)	Julie Boissonneault	Susan Becker
Trinity Mary Hollis (Ward 10 Candidate)	Kevin Despot	Susan Darling

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AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME AND ATTENDNCE – Meeting called to order 11:02

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – moved by Mel B and seconded by Julie Boissonneault

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AGENDA ITEM 3: INTRODUCTION OF EXCECUTIVE AND GUESTS – Councillor candidates introduced themselves.

AGENDA ITEM 4: OPENING REMARKS AND CAN STATUS UPDATE

DISCUSSION: Mike Penwarden welcomed attendees to the 3rd or 4th general meeting in this format and noted it will be the last under the current Community Action Network structure. The city is disbanding the CAN program and shifting to a micro-level community engagement model with project-based funding through an affiliate registry program. The CAN system has had some challenges with issues with civility at meetings, low attendance, and unspent funds being banked year after year. The Kingsmount Bell Park CAN was described as the "gold standard" among CANs and did not experience these challenges. Only two or three other cities in Ontario operate similar CAN programs. The new system will launch in January 2027, with project proposals evaluated in March for annual funding. Key projects with volunteer champions will continue under the new affiliate registry system, and existing projects can be grandfathered in with continued city staff support. The main loss will be the democratic forum for community discussion, regular councillor presence, and police attendance at meetings.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Community members interested in leading projects should prepare proposals with budgets and submit through the affiliate registry program by March 2027
- Residents should use 311 for municipal service requests going forward

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AGENDA ITEM 5: TREASURER'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: Opening bank balance was $3,592. Revenue included $1,150 from the tree planting program (charging $50 per tree, one homeowner donated $100) and $2,500 in annual city funding. Expenses totaled $1,381, including Heritage Committee expenses for February 2026 Heritage Week, $277 for office and telecommunications, $75 for hall rental (up from $55), and $410 for the Caruso Club

lunch. Closing balance is $2,210. The majority of remaining funds will be directed toward the community garden expansion, with some earmarked for Heritage Week 2027 operating expenses.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Allocate remaining funds primarily to community garden expansion
- Reserve portion for Heritage Week 2027 operating costs

AGENDA ITEM 6: COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – deferred

AGENDA ITEM 7: COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM 7.1: TREES AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

DISCUSSION: The Trees and Community Garden Committee has been working with St. Peter's United Church, which operates a benevolent garden behind the church. All produce is donated to the women's shelter or food bank. CAN volunteers assisted with planting, harvesting, and delivering produce. The city has approved use of 0.2 acres of land behind the church for an expanded community garden. The first phase will include five raised garden beds with topsoil, funded by the CAN's remaining balance, $1,000 in donations already received, and a United Church of Canada food security funding application by the church. The plan is to expand over time with additional raised beds, fruit trees, and community plant contributions.

Mel B requested that community members with fruit trees that have fruit they will not be using contact her so she can harvest the fruit for distribution through community organizations. Mel can reached at melb.can10@gmail.com.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Proceed with five garden beds and topsoil as the first phase of the community garden expansion
- Church to apply for United Church of Canada food security funding
- Community members with fruit trees available for picking to contact Mel at melb.can10@gmail.com

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AGENDA ITEM 7.2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DISCUSSION: The community engagement committee was responsible for building awareness of the CAN through door-to-door newsletters and a website. The CAN is one of the few to have its own website, which serves as a transparency tool housing minutes, receipts, and bookkeeping. The subscriber base reached approximately 260 people out of a neighbourhood population nearing 5,000. The 2021 census showed significant in-migration and out-migration of nearly 2,000 people, creating ongoing challenges in maintaining community awareness and engagement. The website will be taken down following the CAN's dissolution, and subscribers will need to be redirected to new platforms. Privacy rules prevent transferring subscriber lists to other organizations. The committee has not been active recently given the impending closure.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Plan for orderly shutdown of the CAN website
- Notify subscribers and redirect them to successor organizations

- Welcoming newcomers identified as a potential future project for interested community members

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AGENDA ITEM 7.3: HERITAGE COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION: The Heritage Committee conducts monthly heritage walks through the neighbourhood, highlighting the architectural, cultural, natural and community history of the area. Recently a walk was held focusing on architectural trends spanning from 1895-era homes on Worthington and Marion Street to Arthur Townend's Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired flat roof houses in the newer area. The committee led the petition to save Bell Mansion, delivering 1,000 signatures to the city clerk's department. The committee noted that 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Bell Park, and the CAN was active in celebrating this milestone. Events included two "Walk the Bell Gift" heritage hikes, coordinated walks with Rainbow Roots, and a heritage cruise on the lake. The committee is transitioning to Heritage Kingsmount Bell Park under the affiliate registry program, with a new website at www.heritagek-bp.com. A first project under the new structure will be installing a proper Ontario Heritage Trust plaque at Bell Mansion to educate the public about William and Katherine Bell. Heritage Week, launched by this committee in partnership with the Sudbury Arts Council, Sudbury Genealogical Society, and Sudbury Public Library, is being expanded into a standalone organization with year-round programming. A planning meeting this week at the library drew about a dozen organizations and individuals. The Heritage week organization will have a website at www.heritage-week.com.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Transition Heritage Kingsmount Bell Park to the city's affiliate registry program
- Launch website at www.heritagek-bp.com and invite current subscribers to join
- Pursue Ontario Heritage Trust plaque for Bell Mansion
- Expand Heritage Week into a standalone organization with monthly meetings and community-wide programming
- Email subscribers inviting them to join the new heritage organization

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AGENDA ITEM 7.4: PLAYGROUNDS

DISCUSSION: The CAN completed projects at the York Street tot lot, including planting 12 trees (maple and other species) which are doing well, and installing a bench. Work was also done at the Worthington playground area.

ACTION ITEMS:

- None identified; projects complete

AGENDA ITEM 7.5: TRAILS AND NATURAL PARKLAND

DISCUSSION: The neighbourhood contains over 18 hectares of natural parkland including the mountain and Dead Man's Canyon area (a ravine and hill). The area has rough paths that are not universally accessible, fire pits (8-10 counted), and beautiful vistas. Re-greening efforts have transformed formerly bare rocky knobs used for skiing and tobogganing into treed areas, creating new fire risk concerns. The city is reluctant to commit oversight resources as it would set a precedent for similar green spaces citywide. Fire management plans for re-greened rocky knobs were identified as a concern.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Interested community members encouraged to take on trails, wayfinding, and green space cleanup as a future project
- Heritage Kingsmount Bell Park may incorporate natural heritage aspects of these areas
- Fire risk in re-greened areas flagged as needing attention

AGENDA ITEM 7.8: URBAN MOBILITY

DISCUSSION: The urban mobility committee never fully launched. The South End CAN has an active urban mobility program dealing with traffic issues. Topics previously raised include a potential stop sign at Riverside and Winchester, traffic calming, underpass safety, and the Nelson Street pedestrian crossing for downtown access. Multiple 311 calls on these issues have gone unresolved. The strength of collective advocacy was noted as important for moving these issues forward.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Urban mobility concerns identified as a potential project for community members to organize under the new system
- Residents encouraged to continue 311 calls and connect with neighbours sharing similar concerns

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AGENDA ITEM 8: TRANSITION TIMELINE AND CLOSING REMARKS

DISCUSSION: The CAN operates on a January-to-December calendar year. The city budget cycle runs to March. The CAN will not be officially dissolved until March 2027. Breakout organizations need to have projects ready and costed by March to be evaluated for annual funding. Candidates for the Ward 10 election were invited to stay for lunch and networking. Candidate information was made available on a table for community members. The meeting concluded with lunch provided by the Caruso Club.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Successor organizations to finalize project proposals by March 2027
- Candidates and community members to network during lunch