Queenswood Heights Community Association (QHCA)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Time: 7:01 p.m. – 8:58 p.m.
Location: Queenswood Heights Community Centre
Meeting livestreamed to the community via YouTube.

Participants

In Attendance

- Denis Vaillancourt – President
- David Brown – Vice President (joined shortly after the meeting began and participated through the YouTube chat)
- Krystle Holmes – Treasurer
- Dan Kingsley – Website Administrator
- Alex Kernick – Communications
- Suzanne Clendinning – Social Media Administrator
- Toni Hermkens – Member at Large
- Tracy Vitello – Special Events Coordinator
- James Maxwell-Barillas – Office of Councillor Matthew Luloff
- Carole Ouellette – Community Care Access Centres (CCAC)
- Jayson Fergus – Special Events Coordinator with SoapLadz (participated through YouTube chat)
- Joshua Warren – Community Member
- Additional community attendees and guests.

Not in Attendance

- Jeanine Mader – Secretary
- Charlotte Brett – Social Media Support
- Sarah Washburn – Member at Large

- Sherry Vaillancourt – Member at Large
- Craig Holmes – Member at Large
- Suzanne Legault – Member at Large
- Dan Holmes – Member at Large
- Matthew Luloff – Councillor, Ward 1 – Orléans East-Cumberland
- Scott Norris – Office of Councillor Matthew Luloff
- Christopher Porter – Outreach Chair, St. Helen's Anglican Church

Attendance is based on introductions, participation during the meeting, and individuals specifically referenced during discussions.

Key Discussion Topics and Updates

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Denis Vaillancourt at **7:01 p.m.** Following introductions, Denis welcomed attendees to the fall season and emphasized community safety, neighbourliness, and increased awareness of children returning to school. Particular concern was expressed regarding pedestrian safety on Prestone Drive and throughout Queenswood Heights.

2. Approval of Agenda

A request was made to add discussion regarding the Chatelaine Village municipal election questionnaire initiative. The amended agenda was approved following a motion by Dan Kingsley, seconded by Alex Kernick.

3. Approval of June 2026 Minutes

The June meeting minutes were reviewed. Minor attendance clarifications were discussed. The minutes were approved following a motion by Suzanne Clendinning and a second from a member present.

4. Treasurer's Report

Krystle Holmes presented a financial update.

Highlights included:

- June activity consisted primarily of sponsorship deposits and routine banking transactions.
- July included deposits related to Spring Fling and Canada Day.
- Current bank balance was reported at approximately **$8,900.98**.
- August financial statements had only been released on the day of the meeting and had not yet been fully reviewed.
- Most Canada Day expenses had been settled.
- A small number of Music Festival reimbursements remained outstanding.

Discussion followed regarding financial transparency, sponsorship growth, comparative community association finances, and the association's commitment to reinvesting funds into community programming.

5. Queenswood Heights and Councillor's Office Updates

Sue Guarda Memorial

James Maxwell-Barillas reported that discussions continue regarding a memorial for the late Sue Guarda. Due to municipal election blackout restrictions, public promotion of the project has been temporarily deferred. Current concepts include:

- A commemorative mural at Queenswood Ridge Park.
- A memorial plaque on an existing park bench.

The Councillor's office expressed support for recognizing Sue's contributions to the community.

Queenswood Ridge Park

Updates included:

- Completion of pathway and parking lot improvements.
- Installation of the new parking gate.
- Ongoing contractor responsibility for grass establishment.
- Approval, through the Cash-in-Lieu fund process, of outdoor fitness equipment for the park.
- Future public consultation opportunities regarding equipment design.

Additional concerns were raised regarding dog park drainage and park lighting.

Duvernay Drive Development

Developers advised that they remain in the building permit process. Construction is now expected no earlier than late November 2026 and may be postponed until spring 2027.

360 Kennedy Lane East

Construction continues. Residents were encouraged to direct concerns to the Councillor's office, which continues regular communication with city project staff and the developer.

Brisebois Crescent Proposal

The Planning and Housing Committee referred the proposal back for additional work following concerns regarding parking and traffic impacts. The Councillor remains opposed to the development in its current form unless meaningful changes are introduced. Discussion focused on parking deficiencies and potential transit assumptions underlying the proposal.

6. Municipal Election Engagement Initiative

Joshua Warren introduced an initiative being developed jointly with the Chatelaine Village Community Association.

Key points:

- Community members will be invited to submit questions for municipal candidates through an online form.
- A candidate question-and-answer forum is planned for **October 14, 2026**.
- Additional outreach methods beyond social media were discussed to maximize participation.

QHCA agreed to participate in the initiative.

7. Website Update

Dan Kingsley reported that the website remains stable and fully operational.

Plans were discussed to publish a Music Festival summary together with photographs from the event.

8. Facebook and Social Media Update

Suzanne Clendinning reported that Facebook activity remains steady.

Discussion included:

- Sponsor recognition policies.
- Challenges associated with maintaining a closed Facebook group.
- The possibility of creating public-facing social media channels.
- Continued difficulty recruiting volunteers to manage Instagram and related platforms.
- The need to attract younger volunteers with social media expertise.

9. Queenswood Heights Improvements and Pedestrian Safety

A lengthy discussion focused on community safety and park enhancements.

Topics included:

- Additional lighting in Queenswood Ridge Park, Constellation Park, and the dog park area.
- Repairs to basketball infrastructure.
- Equal access to lit recreational facilities for basketball and hockey users.
- Pedestrian safety concerns along Prestone Drive.
- Safety concerns at Prestone/Amiens, Tompkins/Prestone, and Kennedy Lane East.
- Crosswalks, stop sign warrants, school bus access, and traffic-calming measures.
- The need for residents to submit concerns to both the City and the Councillor's office.

The Councillor's office reported ongoing reviews of several locations and encouraged continued feedback from residents.

10. Community Grants Program

Information was shared regarding a community grant program with approximately **$400,000** available citywide.

The association discussed the possibility of applying for funding to support future Queenswood Heights projects, while acknowledging that any application would require a clearly defined project scope and delivery plan.

11. Movie Nights

Tracy Vitello reported that the next Movie in the Park is scheduled for **September 19, 2026** and will feature **Spider-Man**. The event will be held outdoors at the community centre, with the movie moved indoors if weather conditions require. Organizers are also exploring the possibility of having a Spider-Man character appearance for children attending the event.

Members discussed attendance at movie nights held throughout the year. While the traditional September Movie in the Park event has historically attracted strong attendance, several additional movie nights introduced during 2026 experienced lower-than-expected participation despite extensive promotion efforts. Members noted that the annual September event continues to perform well and remains a valued community activity.

A detailed discussion followed regarding whether the QHCA should provide financial support for concessions or other event enhancements. Several options were examined, including providing complimentary popcorn, subsidizing concessions, or funding additional family-oriented attractions. During the discussion, members noted that popcorn is typically sold for approximately **$3 per bag**. Examples were discussed in which the association could fund **100 bags of popcorn (approximately $300)**, reimburse larger quantities of popcorn distributed free of charge, or provide a broader event-support budget in the range of **$500 to $700**. These figures were discussed as examples only and were not presented as finalized proposals.

Krystle Holmes expressed concern that providing free concessions could create an expectation among residents that similar items would be provided at future events, potentially creating ongoing financial commitments for the association. Similar concerns were raised through the YouTube chat by David Brown, who questioned how any subsidy would be tracked and suggested that additional discussion was warranted before adopting a long-term policy regarding free items.

Members also discussed alternative approaches for increasing attendance and supporting families. One suggestion was to use association funds for a face painter rather than free concessions. The idea received favourable discussion because it was viewed as a potential attraction capable of increasing attendance while still providing value to residents. Through the YouTube chat, Jayson Fergus advised that a Spider-Man and face-painter package could potentially be arranged at a favourable cost.

While members generally supported providing some form of assistance for the September movie event, **no final quantity of popcorn, dollar amount, concession subsidy, reimbursement formula, or event-support budget was formally adopted during the meeting**. Further work was left to event organizers to determine the most effective use of any support provided by the association.

12. Canada Day Wrap-Up

Attendance was estimated at approximately **1,500 people**.

Highlights included:

- Significant weather-related disruption.
- Strong food sales despite storms.
- Positive feedback from participants.
- Successful involvement of community organizations and vendors.
- Support from sponsors and volunteers.

Members agreed that the event was successful and worth repeating.

13. Music Festival and Family Fun Day Wrap-Up

Attendance exceeded **2,000 people**, making it the largest festival to date.

Key observations included:

- The event finished approximately **$689.65** below break-even on operating figures, but effectively finished in surplus after accounting for the dedicated **$1,000 DT HVAC Services Inc. sponsorship** supporting the beer garden permit costs.
- More than **$800** in beer sales were achieved.
- Wine sales significantly underperformed expectations.
- Food service operations experienced challenges with cooking consistency and staffing.
- Interest was expressed in expanding food truck participation.
- Additional ideas included evening programming, local artist participation, and stronger food bank integration.

- Parking arrangements remain a challenge due to redevelopment of former overflow parking locations.

Meeting participants and online chat contributors discussed food vendors, event logistics, electrical power coordination, and opportunities for future growth.

14. CCAC Update

Carole Ouellette provided updates from the Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres.

Highlights included:

- Development of election-related resident question cards.
- Continued operation and funding of the Neighbourhood Support System (NSS/PINS) program.
- Availability of limited funding to support emergency preparedness and community engagement activities.
- Successful community garden operations with increased volunteer participation.
- Significant harvest yields, particularly cucumbers and tomatoes.

Carole also announced her upcoming retirement and advised that recruitment for her replacement is underway.

15. Closing Remarks

Denis Vaillancourt reiterated the importance of neighbour engagement and pedestrian safety.

He also reported preliminary exploration of a daytime social games program for seniors and other residents using community centre facilities.

The next meeting was confirmed for **Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting adjourned at **8:58 p.m.**

Next Steps

- Denis Vaillancourt to obtain additional information regarding the City community grant program information session.

- QHCA representatives to begin coordinating with Joshua Warren regarding participation in the municipal election candidate questionnaire initiative.
- Tracy Vitello to investigate face-painting options for the September 19 movie night.
- QHCA to prepare promotional materials for the September 19 Movie in the Park event.

Risks

- If community input on municipal election issues remains low, it could cause incomplete candidate engagement, resulting in reduced resident participation in the election process.
- If pedestrian safety concerns are not addressed, it could cause ongoing safety hazards, resulting in increased risk for residents, children, and seniors.
- If future Music Festival food operations are not improved, it could cause service quality issues, resulting in reduced attendee satisfaction.
- If volunteer recruitment for social media and community activities remains difficult, it could cause reduced outreach capacity, resulting in lower community engagement.
- If overflow parking solutions are not identified for future festivals, it could cause access and congestion issues, resulting in reduced attendance and visitor satisfaction.

Action Items

- James Maxwell-Barillas to continue providing updates regarding the Sue Guarda memorial project.
- James Maxwell-Barillas and the Councillor's office to continue monitoring reported pedestrian safety concerns and traffic-calming requests throughout Queenswood Heights.
- Denis Vaillancourt to prepare and provide Music Festival summary material and photographs for publication.

- Dan Kingsley to update the QHCA website with Music Festival content once received.
- Denis Vaillancourt to work with Joshua Warren and Chatelaine Village representatives on the municipal election engagement initiative.
- The association approved providing financial support for enhancements to the September 19 Movie in the Park event, subject to implementation details being finalized by organizers. Discussion included concession subsidies and alternative family-focused attractions such as face painting.
- Denis Vaillancourt to investigate food truck and catering options, including Meatings, for future Music Festivals.
- Denis Vaillancourt to explore overflow parking opportunities with Christopher Porter and St. Helen's Anglican Church for future Music Festivals.
- QHCA Executive to investigate potential Community Grant Program applications and identify suitable project opportunities.
- Denis Vaillancourt to continue evaluating the feasibility of a daytime community games program.

Issues

- Long-standing pedestrian safety concerns remain unresolved at several Queenswood Heights intersections.
- Additional park lighting requests remain under review.
- Social media outreach capacity remains limited due to a lack of volunteers.
- Future funding models for community events require further discussion to balance affordability and long-term sustainability.
- Music Festival food service operations require refinement before the 2027 event.
- The Music Festival requires a better-integrated strategy for food bank fundraising and awareness.

Decisions Made

- The September 2, 2026 agenda was approved with the addition of the Chatelaine Village election questionnaire discussion.
- The June 3, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.
- QHCA will participate in the Chatelaine Village municipal candidate questionnaire initiative.
- The September 19 Movie in the Park will feature Spider-Man.
- The association approved funding support for the September movie event, with final implementation details to be determined.
- The association approved providing financial support for enhancements to the September 19 Movie in the Park event, subject to implementation details being finalized by organizers. Discussion included concession subsidies and alternative family-focused attractions such as face painting.
- The next regular QHCA meeting will be held on October 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Decisions Needed

- What long-term form should the Sue Guarda memorial project take?
- Should QHCA submit an application under the Community Grant Program, and if so, for which project?
- What level of financial support should QHCA provide for future movie nights and community events?
- What long-term policy should QHCA adopt regarding subsidized or complimentary food, concessions, and activities at community events?
- Should future event support prioritize free concessions, reduced-cost concessions, entertainment enhancements, or other attendance-building initiatives?
- Should future Music Festivals transition toward greater use of food trucks, caterers, or external food vendors?
- What additional pedestrian safety measures should become formal QHCA priorities for advocacy with the City and Councillor's office?
- What strategy should be adopted to expand QHCA's public-facing social media presence and recruit volunteers to manage it?