

FOA AGM October 29, 2015

Diane Dent, President, welcomed members and guests. She then, introduced the FOA Executive including its two new members, Bob Gill and Richard Allen.

Eric Lootsma read the minutes from the 2014 AGM.

Diane Dent gave a summary of the on goings and work that the Executive has been engaged in over the past year. Some highlights include: members meetings, current work at Auchmar, Environment and Heritage Conference, Concession Street Fest, heritage association events, Norris Podetz's artwork, ongoing efforts to preserve and protect not only Auchmar but also other heritage buildings, RFP submissions and continued meetings with the City of Hamilton to keep abreast on issues with Auchmar.

Diane Dent then welcomed Martinus Gelenyse as MC for the AGM. Martinus, introduced the speaking panel, Alexandre Temporale and Julie Mitchell with regrets from Lalita Goray.

Alexandre Temporale gave an informative talk about the Bell-Gairdner Estate in Mississauga. He explained the history of the building and cultural landscape that surrounded the estate. He outlined the restoration of the estate to its current use of a public property that is the hub of community activity. He specifically noted the juxtaposition of holding private functions in a public realm accessible to all. Lastly, he talked about the legacy of the building and grounds in terms of continuity, perpetuity, and relevance.

Alex and Julie answered a number questions from the audience.

Ward 1 Councillor, Aidan Johnson, thanked Alex and Julie for their informative talk and vowed to work with the FOA to preserve Auchmar.

Carolyn Samko provided an update on the projects occurring at Auchmar including the chimneys, roof, walls stucco and painting.

Alan Stacey gave an inspiring speech as to why we need to save Auchmar as other municipalities have. He is currently working on restoring the windows at Auchmar.

Peter Stewart gave an update on the work of the walls at Auchmar. He explained that there were three methods used to shore the walls including in situ reinforcing, buttressing and natural restructuring.

Brenda Head provided a historical background to Heritage Hamilton Foundation. It was founded as a for-profit company but has morphed into a charitable organization. She gave examples of how the Foundation has helped preserve buildings around Hamilton including the Pigott Building and St. Mark's Steeple. She explained how and why the Auchmar Challenge Fund was founded.

Bill King announced his soon to be published book about Auchmar and Isaac Buchanan.

John Kajaste encouraged people to sign the petition to keep Auchmar in public hands and to read the first edition of the Auchmar Advocate Leader.

Rob Leverty, President Ontario Historical Society, congratulated FOA on the work we have done and the work we are doing. He also encouraged us to relay to the Province that history and heritage should be a part of Ontario's first Cultural Strategy.

Terry Whitehead thanked the presenters from the Bell-Gairdner Estate. He explained although it has worked for Mississauga it may be different for Auchmar as a result of the number of Easements. He gave an update on the most recent history of Auchmar including the secret bidder and numerous decisions the council has recently made.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.