

**DRAFT**  
**Bridlewood Community Association**  
**Eva James Memorial Centre**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**February 17, 2026**

**Board Members Present:**

**Executive Directors:** Erin Coffin, President, Eric Sonogo, VP Finance, and Deb Sonogo, VP Communications, John Roach, VP Development

**Neighbourhood Directors:** Mo Saleh, Sharon Leal and Larissa Chambers

**Neighbourhood Directors Absent:** Vicky Cleary Terri Gabatt and Dave Westbury

**Vacant Positions:** VP Social

5 members in attendance

**1. Call to Order**

With quorum being established, the meeting was called to order by the President and Chair at 7:10 pm.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by E. Coffin and seconded by D. Sonogo  
That the agenda be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**3. Approval of Minutes, January 17, 2026**

Approval of these Minutes were deferred to next meeting.

**4. Membership Sales**

Coffin reported that approximately 140 memberships have been sold to date which is substantially more than was sold during the same time period last year. More memberships will be sold during the Spring Sports registrations. Board members were reminded that they have been asked to sell 10 memberships each. She added that the Home Hardware store on Eagleson has been wonderfully supportive and have allowed us to sell memberships in the store. They have indicated that they are willing to have us do this again. Home Hardware also provides us with a small rebate of sales if the buyer mentions the Bridlewood Community Association. Sonogo reported that none of the local grocery stores, including T & T, have responded back to similar requests to sell memberships at their store despite emailing and contacting them in person. o manager has agreed to discuss this with her.

**5. Financial Update**

E. Sonogo reported that there is approximately \$6,600 in the chequing and \$25,000 in the savings accounts. GICs are \$90,000 with \$1,647.77 in earned interest. The Park Fund has \$76,733. Total income to date is \$11,711.67 and with a total program expenses of \$5,085.12.

**6. Website Update**

Coffin reported that she is working with our IT support provider, Ryan Whyte, to update the website. This is a substantial amount of work. D. Sonogo committed to following up with Ryan re: Block Party information so that it can be posted. As well both, Coffin and D. Sonogo will

provide him with questions and answers for the Frequently Asked Questions section of the website.

## **7. Rinks**

Coffin recognized the dedicated crew of volunteers who have made sure both the hockey and puddle rinks remain open and operational throughout a very snowy and long winter. She said that the Chair of the Rink Committee, Danny Lee, has been pivotal in finding, guiding and retaining the volunteers remarking that that none of this would be possible without him. She also thanked Kodiak Snowplow for helping out with the occasional rink clearance. The City of Ottawa provides the BCA with funding and checks that the rinks are established and maintain before forwarding payment. She reminded the membership that is this this money that supports many of our events. The city requires the BCA to maintain the rinks until the season ends on February 28, 2026 but given the weather, our volunteers may choose to continue maintaining them.

## **8. Block Party**

D. Sonogo reported on her work regarding the set up of the Block Party on June 20, 2026. She noted that a venue permit has been received from the city and that the noise permit is pending. Medvent has been contacted to provide first aiders. Other suppliers that have been contacted are Toddy's Potties and Full of Beans (children's activities). Scratch Box and Fun Days food trucks have indicated that they will be able available on that date. D. Sonogo agreed to follow up with Coffin's request to reestablish a previously levied charge on these vendors. She will also follow up with Gabriel's Pizza who will be able to set up a sale table for free due to their ongoing support for the BCA. Full of Beans offered to set up a climbing rock for young children that includes a safety harness and Coffin asked Sonogo to contact the Sara Carraro at Eva James Memorial Centre.

## **9. Food Drive**

Gabbatt will be once again leading up the BCA Food Drive that will take place on April 25. The bags will be put on the doorsteps of residents in the BCA neighbourhood catchment area from April 11 to 17. The bags will have a QR code that will hopefully encourage residents to register for a BCA membership.

## **10. Spring Sports**

Coffin introduced and thanked Meredith Charbonneau who has agreed to be the new Spring Sports Coordinator. She also thanked Kassandra Bizewski for once again volunteering to be the Spring Sports Registrar. Because of their involvement we will once again be able to offer a great and affordable Spring Sports for the children in our neighbourhood. The charge for BCA members is \$55 and nonmembers \$80 for each sport. She reminded members that team coaches and assistant coaches will be reimbursed their registration fee for their child's sport at the end of the season, providing they remain coaching for the complete the Spring Sport session

## **11. Valentines Day Winners**

Coffin reported that there were numerous entries and that the selection panel ended up choosing two rather than one entry to be the winners of the contest. Amuse Kitchen and Wine owner was on the selection panel and offered to supply both winners with a \$200 gift dining certificate. The other prize was a gift certificate from Ginestra Flower Shop so the BCA has provided the other winner with a \$50 gift certificate. A letter from the Desk of Lady Bridlewood went out to the membership announcing the winners.

## 12. Upcoming Easter Contests

The BCA annual Easter Egg Hunt through the community will be held again with a prize of a \$50 gift card from Mort's Pizza for the winner.

## 13. Canada's Bug Quest

D. Sonogo reported that she has had no word back from the University of Guelph's program and will attempt to get in touch again.

## 14. Paint It Up Application

D. Sonogo reported that she has been in touch the city's Paint It Up program that was established to prevent graffiti vandalism and attended their virtual presentation. She noted that no neighbourhood in Bridlewood or the larger Kanata has been targeted by the city for this program as graffiti has not been as significant problem in our community as it has been in other neighbourhoods. She has determined that both the storage units at Deevy Pines Park and Blue Grass Park are city properties and would need the city's permission to proceed. The program's supervisor has encouraged the BCA to apply for the available grant even though they are encouraging youth at risk to be involved in the project. The youths that have approached the BCA are not deemed to fall in this category. She added that the entry process is complex and would include providing financial statements supplied by an accounting firm and a commitment that the BCA ensure that the murals be upkept 5 years.

Sonogo presented the membership with the murals that Kai Mac that her Merivale High School artists have developed for the BCA-owned TransCanada Trail kiosk. Members agreed that the mural with only the deer present based on the work of Emily Carr was both stunning and acceptable. With respect to the second mural, although also beautiful, was problematic. Sonogo stated that the city provided artist who was the expert involved with the existing murals advised that having people in the mural was problematic due to representation issues. They were told that it might invite noxious graffiti. She felt that religious symbols, were to be avoided as well especially given that, based on the latest Canada census, the symbol wasn't representative of our population. Over 50% of those surveyed reported as being Christian, 35% were secular/nonreligious, leaving just 13% of residents declaring they were members of other religions. Members agreed with the removal of religious symbols and that Sonogo would ask the artists to provide a replacement suggestion.

## 15. Aging in Bridlewood

Coffin reported that a palates studio operator has volunteered to hold injury prevention palates for seniors for free. Coffin will see if either Venvi Retirement Home, Stonehaven Community Church or the Pine Hill can provide a free space for the activity that will be held once a week for a month.

It was agreed to resurrect the BCA Seniors Committee under Saleh's leadership and to develop a seniors' survey to determine what activities they are interest in.

## 16. Round Table Discussion

### a) Brian Parsons Off Leash Dog Park

Several members at the meeting asked that the BCA support them in their effort to have Brian Parsons Park designated as an off-leash area for dogs. Roach reported that current by-laws have restrictive rules that would prohibit this but that if other Ottawa parks have been allowed to have this designation even though they did not meet all the criteria, that it would help to get an exception. It was noted that Deevy Pines Park currently has no

restriction and could also be included in any ask of the city. D. Sonogo stated that some parks have been able to get this designation by limiting the hours that dog walkers can allow their pets off-leash.

Moved by J. Roach and seconded by D. Sonogo

That the BCA will establish a subcommittee to look into seeking a designation from the city for an appropriate park for a fenced or unfenced off-leash dog area.

**CARRIED**

**b) Memorial for Bus Crash Victims**

Coffin indicated that she is looking into setting up a memorial in Deevy Pines Park for those Bridlewood residents who died or were injured as a result of the 2019 OC Transpo bus crash. She added that putting a sitting area near the memorial would benefit residents who walk in the park. D.Sonogo has emailed the city in regard to this.

**c) Follow Up**

- **Deevy Pines Main Path**

D. Sonogo has been in contact with Ottawa Parks and Recreation employee, Curtis Lyle in regard to applying stone dust on the main paths.

- **BCA Volunteer Recognition Bench**

D. Sonogo suggested that the Board determine the criteria for which volunteers would be recognized.

- **Water Fountains**

Coffin has contacted the city to request that 2 seasonal travelling water fountains be installed with up to \$10,000 of the cost being paid by the BCA. It was agreed that the Crown Ridge Park would be one of the settings and as it is dangerous and too far to walk along Acres Road to access water at a the nearest retail store.

**17. Adjournment**

Moved by E. Sonogo and seconded by S. Leal

That the meeting adjourn at 9:15 pm

**CARRIED**