Meeting Minutes

July 17th 2025

Ron East – Secretary

The Meeting opened at 9:45 AM, 58 members in attendance

The meeting was presided over by Warren Gregg – President

Warren asked for a moment of silence to remember those absent due to illness/death and their spouses

Then Warren introduced and welcomed our guest Speaker – Phil Alt

Warren acknowledged Nigel, our Tech specialist, and thanked him for his efforts on our behalf

Announcements:

Tour de Guelph – Charlie headed the team. They raised $130,000.00 – the largest single donation!

Julia Sale reported that the Tour de Guelph raised $220,000.00 in total, donated to the Hospital.

Activities Committee – Ken Marchant: trip to the rail museum was a great success

The axe throwing competition (real axes) is on August 20th

There is one ticket left for Jesus Christ Superstar – contact Warren

Membership committee – Martin Alderwick welcomed new members

Ron East introduced Phil Alt as our guest speaker

Bio: Phil Alt was born in Guelph. He attended western Guelph, McMaster Toronto universities. For a short time, he studied some theology at Conrad Grabel college at the university of Waterloo. He taught philosophy at Kitchener collegiate along with history and politics
Upon retirement, he was urged to run for city council. He has served three terms representing Ward three. Currently Phil lives a half kilometre from where he was raised and a kilometre from where he was born at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Topic: "So you want to be a city councillor? The workday world of a municipal politician. Issues, responsibility, and patience."

A life-long citizen of Guelph, Phil taught Philosophy, politics and history at Kitchener Collegiate Institute. When he retired, a friend suggested he run for city councilor for Ward 3. He is now in his 3rd term and also sits on the Police Board. Why become a councilor?
To counter the bureaucracy at City Hall
His priority is providing a good quality of life in Guelph for everyone, and that means getting out into the community.
The transport (bus) system is dysfunctional, and he wants to prioritize change
The budget is the main responsibility of Council

Under the current Strong Mayor's Powers Provincial legislation, the budget is the sole responsibility of the Mayor. While input is provided by Council, the Mayor retains sole control of the budget. He can only be overridden by a 2/3 majority of Council. Phil believes that this is anti-democratic. The Mayor also oversees zoning changes.

In the downtown area of Ward 3, there are re-development issues, issues with poverty, and organized crime.
With housing, we need 6 to 7 thousand new units
The City is the "creature" of the Province. We need 3 billion dollars in new investment.
Phil talked about the involvement of the County of Wellington – responsibility for social services.
There are problems in Guelph with marginalization, and poverty. Must work with the County on solutions. Use a ground-floor approach.
The police are underfunded.
Students are a liability with regards to taxation revenue as opposed to expenses in services.
The City is now dipping into its reserve funds to balance the budget

Phil then talked about Breezy Corners – started together with James Gordon to 'shoot the breeze' on issues in Guelph with the local community. Been going for over 8 years. Have guest speakers as well.
Then there were questions
Warren thanked our speaker. The meeting ended at 11:10 AM