



**Meeting of the Ottawa East Community Association Board
Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:15 p.m.
Old Town Hall, 61 Main Street**

Board Members

John Dance - President
Jaime Girard – Vice President
Don Fugler - Treasurer
Vicki Davis - SLOE
Catherine Pacella – Communications
Jim Strang – FCA
Leslie Kirk – City Centre Coalition
Barbara Hicks – Membership
John Baglow – Member at Large

Regrets: Jill Wherrett, Nick Masciantonio,
Stephen Pope, Ron Rose, Bill Baldwin

Other attendees

Bonnie Wepler
Lyse Morisset
David Haddon
Geoff Cooper
Wendy McRae
Jan D'Arcy
Christian Pupp
Alex Keatley (?)
Paul Goodkey
Shawn Menard
Ian McRae
Phil Legault
Josh Kardish
Constable Khoa Hoang
David Chernushenko

1. Call to Order @ 7:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Approved as amended (added proposed parking/staging area at 160 Lees Avenue).
Moved – John Baglow, 2nd – Don Fugler

3. Approval of October 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Approved. Moved – Don Fugler, 2nd – Jim Strang

4. Chair's Report – John Dance

- **Brantwood Rink Leveling** - The City has begun the leveling of the field for the Brantwood Rink. This work has been long sought by "hosers" because it will allow easier creation of the base ice and it will save huge quantities of water. Originally OECA had sought to include the work as a cash-lieu of parkland project but it wasn't eligible.
- **History CD on Site** - Thanks to the generosity of Rick Wallace and the efforts of Jan D'Arcy and Catherine Pacella / John Arthorne, the OOE History CD will be available on the OOECA site. Remaining CDs may be purchased at Singing Pebbles for \$5.
- **Footbridge Progress** - The approved City budget includes \$2M for the detailed design work for the Clegg-Fifth footbridge but it is not clear when this work will begin. Getting a contract in place can be a lengthy process and the Association may need to press the City to not delay in order to complete the work in 2013. Detailed design work for the Rideau River Footbridge was budgeted in 2012 but will not be completed until next year. Meanwhile construction on the Coventry - Train Station - Queensway Footbridge is well

underway despite the fact that it has a much shorter history than either the Rideau Canal or the Rideau River footbridge.

- **200 Lees Pathway (uOttawa):** The pathway is now open along the river and behind the new uOttawa stadium. Also, the university has moved the stinky composting facilities so they are farther away from the unfinished portion of the pathway on the western half of the university property. An official opening will be held in the spring - ideas of who should participate in the ribbon-cutting would be welcomed. (Are there any OOE families that regularly use the route?)
- **Noisy Student Brochures:** The Councillor's office has provided post-card-like notices which can be given to noisy neighbours, particularly students. Heather Jarrett is providing some of them to neighbours in the northern part of OOE who have had issues with students' parties.
- **Immaculata Principal:** John, along with CAG, will meet the principal of Immaculata High School to introduce ourselves and to discuss issues of mutual interest.

5. Treasurer's Report – Don Fugler

- Don reported some expenses from the Annual General Meeting and for the membership canvas "thank you" party.
- **He asked that Jill provide the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting to the OECA website.**

6. Community Safety in Old Ottawa East – Constable Khoa Hoang

- Constable Hoang introduced himself as the Community Officer for the "central west" district which includes 80,000 residents from Parliament Hill to the canal and the Rideau River. Old Ottawa East is noted for being a "quiet" neighbourhood. There have been some violent attacks (Alpha Foods), and some recent break-ins. He encouraged residents to notify police of any concerns with specific details – date, time, place and names.
- To protect vacant homes, residents are instructed to draw the blinds and lock all doors and windows, especially at the back.
- Stolen bicycles should be reported as should abandoned bikes. (A suggestion was made that the bike dump could pick up abandoned bikes).
- Drinking in parks should be reported. There is a fine of \$110 for drinking alcohol in a park.
- Graffiti is usually done by young teenagers seeking self esteem. It is escalating and will be a police focus in 2013. It should be reported to police.
- There is a 24 hour reporting centre. Call 613-236-1222 and dial "0" to reach an operator to report any crime at any time. The call can be transferred to Officer Hoang.
- Crimes should be reported to develop accurate statistics and so that appropriate funding may be allocated to the area which needs it.
- **Jaime Girard agreed to work on security issues in Old Ottawa East.**

7. Proposed parking/staging area at 160 Lees Avenue – John Dance

- There is a plan to pave 160 Lees Avenue (presently used as a park by many people) and add 362 parking spaces for University of Ottawa and a staging area for the construction equipment for the Light Rail Transit station for Lees Avenue. John circulated a plan dated August 13, 2012, however, the news of this development was only released to councillors and the community association in the past week.
- Councillor Chernushenko confirmed that he had only been informed in the past week. The project could take 4-5 years.

- The staging area will be required, but many at the meeting wanted to find an alternative to the parking lot and wanted proof that parking for that many cars would actually be needed.
- The development would most likely begin in the spring of 2013.
- Ian McRae, Wendy McRae, Shawn Menard, Don Fugler and Christine Loth have agreed to help John Dance prepare materials to protest this development.

8. Councillor's Report – David Chernushenko

- Harvey development – conversations are proceeding
- Archville zoning – there is a dialogue ongoing about urban infill.

9. Procedures for OECA Board Reports and Meetings and Annual General Meeting Improvements – John Dance

(a) Board Meetings

- The new procedures introduced at the beginning of the year appear to be working well in terms of providing better information and proposing motions in advance of meetings. This leads to less paper, more informed and efficient meetings and should allow clarification of some issues before actual Board meetings. The effectiveness of the process depends on Board members submitting brief reports on a timely basis.
- Rather than reading the reports at the meetings, it might be better if committee directors simply highlighted the key issues or a few key issues (like planning issues - they seem to generate the most discussion). A summary would encourage people to read the reports in advance, while also still generating some public discussion. (It's been pointed out that: "We can't assume first that everyone has read the documents in advance (especially if we are going to encourage active participation - someone attending might be new to the community, or at their first meeting).") And, of course, the chair/committee director would provide any new information that came up since the report was submitted (or that s/he forgot to include in the report).
- Questions: Are Board members actually reading the reports before they go to the meetings? Would it be best in terms of a full discussion to try to get these reports onto the OOECA website before the meeting? (Catherine is already putting up the draft agenda in advance of the meetings.) If we did this then all OOECA members would be able to review the reports.

(b) AGM

- While there was excellent attendance at the joint AGM, once the constitution discussion began numerous people left.
- Suggestions for improvement included:
 - all Board members should be introduced at the beginning of the meeting
 - that there not be individual committee reports from all committee directors. Rather, the chair cover the key points in his/her report. Board members would assist in answering questions on particular topics. The only exception would be if there is a really hot/major topic that we want a Board member to address.) This would also leave more time for questions from the membership.
 - the secretary and maybe the vice chair be up at the front beside or near the chair to assist in meeting management (e.g. ensuring that the items that need a vote get voted on), and to facilitate taking the minutes (e.g., ensuring that record of movers and seconders is correct). "Chair is busy trying to chair and present, so I think this could be

helpful."

- the amphitheatre be booked now because the SPU auditorium is less accessible.
- did we have the correct quantities and types of beverages/snacks?

- ***It was agreed that all Board meeting reports should be sent to Catherine Pacella for the OECA website in advance of a Board Meeting.***

10. Proposed Plan for the Nature Trail through Brantwood Park – Vicki Davis

- In 2011 Sustainable Living Ottawa East received a grant of \$2,000 from Fido/Evergreen. We decided to use it to plan a trail through Brantwood Park as a means of encouraging the City of Ottawa to implement its “Western River” pathway.
- 16 volunteers met in November 2011 to examine the park and to make suggestions about the location of the trail and its features. A herpetologist helped us to identify key areas for herpetology habitat along the river in the park.
- After we had compiled the suggestions of the two groups who had done the survey, we gave them to noted landscape architect, Martha Lush.
- In April, 2012, Martha Lush presented her proposed plan for the trail to interested SLOE participants and other community members. The plan is for a “soft” surface, pulls back from the river at important locations and provides accessible connections to both Brantwood Drive and the Oblate property. It also proposes a boardwalk over the shore close to the wading pool. (SLOE members consider that not only would a boardwalk be very expensive, but that it might disturb sensitive herptile habitat). Based on discussion when the plan was presented by Martha Lush, and on subsequent input, the proposed design -- with the exception of the boardwalk -- does an excellent job of reflecting community interests and input, and carefully addresses site opportunities and constraints.
- This proposal is available in paper format and as a pdf file. It may be seen on the SLOE website under “Rideau River Nature Trail”.
- We would now like to give this proposed plan to the City of Ottawa staff so that they might consider implementing it in 2013.
- Also, in the interests of expediting the completion of the trail, SLOE would like OOECA to request that the City begin efforts to acquire the Oblates' property's 40 meter strip of land along the river, as described in the approved CDP. The land is to become public property at some point so it would be worthwhile to have the transfer made within the next year or two to expedite the design and construction of the Rideau River Nature Trail / Rideau River Western Pathway. If the City waits for the lands to be fully sold to developers it could be a lengthy wait, thus delaying the provision of the pathway along the river as described in the City's Official Plan. Further, the transfer of the 40 metre strip and the development of the pathway and landscaping will enhance the value of the lands to be developed.
- ***Motion: Moved that the OOECA provide the City of Ottawa with the proposed plan for the design of the Brantwood Park component of the Rideau River nature trail ("Rideau River Western pathway" in the City's terms) and seek the City's finalizing the plan and begin construction of this portion of the pathway; and OOECA request the City to begin efforts to acquire the Oblates' property's 40 metre strip of land along the river, as described in the approved CDP.***

Moved: Vicki Davis, 2nd Leslie Kirk. Carried

11. Committee and Representatives Reports

11.1 Planning Committee – John Dance (for Stephen Pope)

- *44-46 Concord Street North*

The project went to Committee of Adjustment December 5. OECA supported the requested variances (in the form of not raising any objections and saying so when asked – we did not send a letter of support).

- *73-75 Harvey Street*

The project is still in development. Heather Jarrett, Bob Parkins and Stephen Pope met with the developer November 20 for a potentially productive meeting. The project will create a condominium where owners will be on site, not a rental building. The issues discussed were modulation of the mass and scale, directing the views from the rear balconies up into the trees rather than down into neighbours' yards; inseting the balconies and stepping back the top floor. In subsequent correspondence we have advised him that the community would support a reduction of a proposed 2 lane driveway for a 7 car garage in exchange for more front yard landscaping. The double wide garage door has been requested by City transportation staff. The developer seemed very receptive to requested changes, but the action by his consultants is not as creative as one would want. The discussion continues.

- *Development in Archville*

Monday November 25th Stephen Pope met with Councillor Chernushenko, his assistant Michael Quaqish, and "Planning Consistency Team" lead Alain Miguelez to discuss actions that could be taken in defense of Archville.

Positive actions are a city wide review of the "converted dwelling" clause that has been permitting triplexes to be expanded to 4-plexes one year after the triplex has been completed. There was a general acknowledgement that the clause was resulting in overbuilding of properties. In addition, legal services are completing the necessary work to have the back lanes identified as public thoroughfares and title conveyed to the city. This will return the lanes to a functioning status that can assist the removal of cars from the street.

Less positive aspects are the opinion that the current zoning is appropriate, and that there is little in zoning or heritage terms that could defend the status quo. Stephen raised the question of reducing the height for that area. That question prompted a return question of what should the height be? There was a concern that an 8.0 m height as was achieved in Carson's Woods would block 3 storey developments (which was the point). OECA will have to push this harder to see any action.

- *Front yard averaging under the new infill by-law*

A first test of the averaging provisions under the new infill by-law has been completed. Looking at 619 and 623 Echo, the City advises that the location of the front wall of the new house at 621 Echo is in conformance with the by-law. This interpretation is based on the opinion that the street face of the extended front vestibule for 619 is the "front wall" of the house for the purpose of zoning (the actual setback requirement is 3.0 m from the property line on Echo). The vestibule is enclosed on more than 2 sides, and as such not considered a "projection" into the front yard.

- *Other:*
 - We have two new persons who have expressed interest in joining the planning group arising from the recent AGM. Stephen will be in touch with Kristian Ewen in a few weeks. Gabrielle Schaeffer has assisted the Canal Footbridge and Main street reconstruction by doing some research. Thank you to the new volunteers.
 - On December 17 OECA will attend a press conference initiated by the Hintonburg Community Association Planning Committee lead by Jay Baltz. Mr. Baltz is an active participant in City planning matters and has been advocating strongly for an increase in transparency and consistency for city planning.

11.2 Sustainable Living Ottawa East – Vicki Davis

- All of the gardens have been put to bed and await next spring's growing season.
- Co-chair of the Children's Garden, Sue McKee has resigned. Katie Breen will continue as Chair.
- Main Farmer's Market closed at the end of October and will re-open next May.
- The project between Carleton University and SLOE to develop proposals for long-term sustainability in the development of the Oblate lands has 8 community members including Geri Blinick of Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.
- Rideau River Nature Trail work on invasive plant removal has ended for the season with cutting back burdock in Brantwood Park in October.

11.3 Transportation – John Dance (for Ron Rose)

- Speed bumps on Hawthorne to be installed in spring
- Still requesting reinstatement of #16 bus to General Hospital with no results
- Brantwood gates to be reconstructed as part of the Main Street renewal
- Underground wires – City refuses to pay
- “Complete Street” supportive of bicycles and pedestrians our goal for Main Street renewal
- Profiles of the new Main Street to be shown by developers at January 16 2013 meeting.

10.4 City Centre Coalition – Leslie Kirk:

- Met Wednesday, November 28, 2012
- Transportation budget: John V. reviewed the transportation budget and noted that there is no funding to build Clegg/Fifth Avenue or Rideau River bridge in the 4 year capital forecast
- Main Street: Leslie gave overview of initial thoughts on Main Street, including “complete street” idea. John V. concerned that this will impact the development of the Alta Vista Transit Corridor (that is less traffic on Main will lead to pressure to build AVTC).

11.5 Federation of Citizens' Associations – Jim Strang

- Attended his first meeting as OECA representative November 21. Christian Pupp introduced him to the group and provided guidance.
- Items discussed included: intensification, Community Design Plans, Public and private transportation, importance of clear and unambiguous regulations re planning and zoning, and what is a Community Association. FCA includes some diverse and special interest groups.

11.6 Communications – Catherine Pacella

- She received a volunteer to help with graphic design for an OECA brochure as a result of the Annual General Meeting.
- She will put police information on the website
- There have been 3700 visits to the OECA website. Planning and transportation are the most popular sections.

11.7 Membership – Wendy McRae (for Barbara Hicks)

- The 2013 Membership Drive netted 552 members, with one file outstanding.
- There are two areas which are not well covered. North of the Queensway needs help. While Kings Landing takes the prize for the largest percentage of members per household, most of the other streets have no canvassers. The area west of Main Street, north of Clegg to Immaculata H S is almost entirely not canvassed.
- Our aim is to have an area captain for each of the 5 areas in OOE. This person would try to find canvassers for the streets in their area, deliver kits and collect them at the end of the drive. Each canvasser would be responsible for his or her street or, as with Marlowe, half of the street. We are trying to make the drive as simple as possible with as little work required from each volunteer as possible. The areas are: North with 8 streets; North East with 11 streets; Central with 8 streets; South West with 11 streets; South East with 15 streets
- Currently the South East and North East areas are fully canvassed, and each have an area captain. Thanks to Jan D'Arcy and Vicki Davis.
- The South West (south of Clegg) does not have an area captain, but has many canvassers. Mutchmor Rd and McGillivray and Main (in this sector) have no canvassers.
- North and Central need area captains and canvassers.
- Barbara and Wendy would accept any and all help with this matter.

12. Community Activities Group (CAG) – John Dance (for Nick Masciantonio)

- *Update on skateboard park:* Carol Workun submitted a Better Neighborhoods Project application on behalf of the community for funding/support through the consultation and design phase of the project. Decision is anticipated early 2013
- *Update on patio:* Remaining funds from the field house revitalization fund are being used towards a patio at Brantwood. Patio will be built with stone donated from community resident and will include a seating wall and climbing boulders. Bike racks will also be installed at that time. Anticipated work will be completed in June 2013.
- *Registration:* slow, most likely due to the delay in getting the Mainstreeter out. CAG flyer is circulated with the paper and is yet to print (was due Nov 19). A poster campaign has been implemented to direct people to the website. Volunteers to poster in the following areas would be appreciated: Lees and Hawthorne; area behind Green Door (Mac to Clegg); area around Mutchmor (south of Clegg, west of Main); area south of Elliott and east of Main.
- *Winter party:* volunteers needed – direct people to website. In particular need a coordinator. Coordinator would tag team with experienced volunteer this year to learn the ropes. Party is Sunday, January 20.

13. Date of Next Meeting – January 8, 2013

14. Adjournment at 9:10 pm

- Moved – Jim Strang, 2nd – Don Fugler