

Chair's Report - April 12, 2016

Main Street renewal

All residents of OOE will be receiving a Construction Notice shortly which outlines planned work, time lines, traffic management, provides contact information and maps of bus route detours, traffic and cycle detours, and the traffic management plan.

Also note that construction newsletters have recommenced; No. 17 was posted on March 18 and No. 18 was posted on April 1. There is ongoing work for gas main installations, relocation of telecommunication cables and sanitary sewer installations. Work will also begin in some areas to remove temporary sidewalks, asphalt and the concrete road base, install Silva Cells and install temporary water services as needed.

On Main Street:

- Northbound lane from Hawthorne to Harvey is to be closed from April 7 until August 2016
- Northbound lane from Clegg to Lees is to remain closed until September 2016
- Northbound lane from Riverdale to Clegg is to be closed from May 2 (tentative date) to November 2016

Also of note is that Colonel By Drive will be closed on Sunday, April 24 from Hog's Back to Clegg between 8:30-1:30 for the Alive to Strive race.

Greystone Village

On March 31, 2016 Erin O'Connor of Regional provided advance notice of the removal of some additional trees over the next few weeks on the Oblates property:

"There are two locations identified for removal; the area that encompasses the future Deschâtelets Avenue roadway ... and a small area on the north edge necessary to additional soils testing. ... A biologist will be onsite during the removal to monitor the work."

Please note that I have asked Catherine to post the sketch provided on our web-site.

Also of note, a meeting has been scheduled with Regional on Monday, April 11 to discuss the development of future phases of Greystone Village.

The Corners at Main

Domicile has now completed the tree cutting at their site. We have not yet heard the exact date for the demolition of the row houses on Main St.

Their presentation centre is now open to the public, following a very well-attended special opening event (to which all OOECA Board members were invited).

***Meeting with Community Activities Group (CAG) Executive**

John Dance and I met with Melanie Gilbert and Carol Workun on Thursday, March 24 to discuss a number of our shared interests.

We discussed Cash in lieu of Parkland (CiLP) priorities with the goal of agreeing on a joint list that we could provide to the Councillor for action. CAG's priorities are:

- a. Community Centre design plan
- b. Basketball court resurfacing - Springhurst
- c. Basketball court resurfacing - Brantwood
- d. Tennis courts resurfacing - Brantwood Park

CAG would propose that b, c and d be completed 50:50 CiLP:City Budget as these are not new park amenities.

Other suggestions from CAG, to be discussed if funding permits:

- e. Lighting for tennis courts at Brantwood
- f. Water fountain on exterior wall of field house

There is general agreement within CAG that current facilities should be brought up to standard before adding new.

In previous OOECA discussions, we have agreed on support for community centre planning and the resurfacing of the Springhurst Park basketball court. I propose that we have a short conversation at our Board meeting to determine whether there is support for the other items on the CAG list which we would then provide to the Councillor.

We also received an update on the progress thus far for a new Community Centre; a CAG representative has agreed to speak to this item briefly at our Board meeting. We will plan for a

more fulsome discussion at our May Board meeting and it is hoped that this can include some concept drawings.

I would also like to alert the Board that we will most likely be asked to join with CAG in providing some financial backing for the development of a fundraising plan.

The final item that we spent some time discussing was the new service agreement that CAG has negotiated with the City. As a result of this agreement, CAG will take over full management of the Old Town Hall building as well as the Brantwood field house starting in September 2016 (while the City will continue to do the maintenance and snow removal). We will then be booking our use of these facilities through CAG, at no cost (as long as we use the OTH while the building is open and staffed). We expect that we will be able to also more easily access the field house as a result of this new agreement.

Geese at Brantwood Park

The issue of geese and their droppings has been raised with the Councillor's office; a small working group representing OOECA, CAG & SLOE has been working with Ian G (& through him City staff) to find some appropriate solutions. Once a plan is in place we will be sharing it with the OOECA either at the next board meeting or via email.

Secondary dwelling units in accessory structures (i.e., coach houses)

Paul Goodkey and I met with Alain Miguelez of the City's Planning & Growth Management group on March 22. Heather Pearl from the Champlain Park Community Association also joined the discussion as did Ian Grabina from our Councillor's office. The meeting was set up to review the current City proposals for Coach Houses, discuss the relationship of the current proposed framework with Infill 2, and discuss concerns raised by Old Ottawa East Community Association.

We also spent some time discussing one of the key issues for Champlain Park, i.e., the potential impact of coach houses on the urban forest. Following our meeting Heather provided some additional information to Alain re Vancouver's coach house policy and its specific provisions to protect trees and vegetation. She also proposed that Ottawa's Coach House By-law should explicitly prohibit any development that could damage trees and vegetation on adjacent properties, should expressly protect mature trees on the subject property, and be linked into the Urban Tree Conservation By-law as well as the City's By-laws protecting trees on City property.

In terms of next steps, the City has decided to slow the process down and is not likely to go to the City Planning Committee until September (the original plan had been to move this file

forward in May). Alain also indicated that it is likely that there will some changes made to the proposals released in early February.

Canoe - Kayaking Access to Canal

On March 25 I sent an e-mail to our MP Catherine McKenna to request her assistance with the NCC and Parks Canada in having some of the Canal skate way gates left open in the summer to allow for better canoe and kayak access from Centretown, the Glebe, Old Ottawa South and Old Ottawa East. In particular, we referenced Clegg, Herridge and Second Avenue as possible entry spots for access.

Included in the e-mail were recent comments made by the President of the Glebe Community Association Christine McAllister on such access and a 2012 Mainstreeter article on the same issue.

Within the next half-hour (on Good Friday) I received the following response from our MP:

"I could not agree with you more about the need for better access to the canal for canoeists and kayakers! We're also a family of canoeists and have awkwardly put our canoe in the canal and lifted our children over the fence.

I will raise it with Parks and the NCC to see if we can get better access points."

As follow-up to this exchange, the Glebe Community Association has proposed that we write a joint letter to our MP Catherine McKenna as well as the Minister Joly to advocate for better access. John Dance has agreed to be our rep on this file.

Support for Councillor Chernushenko's Road user fees study

On April 4, 2016 the OOECA sent a letter to members of the City of Ottawa Transportation Committee (TC), indicating our support for the motion to be presented by Councillor Chernushenko at the April 6 TC meeting for a study to be undertaken concerning the broad issues of user pay for roads.

Thanks to Glen for drafting our letter, to Kate for providing background and input from the City Centre Coalition on this idea and to all Board members who provided feedback re whether we should provide a letter of support.

Please note that the references to user fees were removed from the resolution. Instead the study will be on the causes of traffic congestion.

Main Event, June 18

I would like to acknowledge Regional's donation of \$200 towards the barbeque.

Queensway sound barriers

On March 8, 2016 the OOECA sent a letter to our MPP and Ministry of Transport staff on the lack of sound barriers at the far ends of Havelock, Montcalm and Greenfield.

We received a reply dated March 16, 2016 and signed by the A/Manager Engineering of the Ministry of Transportation's Engineering Office in Kingston. Minister Naqvi's office appears to have simply forwarded our letter onwards to the Minister of Transportation. The response noted in part:

"...The ministry's future plans include replacing all of the existing metal noise barriers along the Queensway, including the noise barrier on the north side of Highway 417 from the Rideau Canal to Concord Street North (facing Harvey Street).

At the time of replacement, a new noise study will be undertaken that will consider the height of the wall, material, and limits of the replacement noise barrier. The timing of the replacement of this noise barrier has not yet been established.

...The effectiveness of noise barriers diminishes significantly for receivers further from the Highway (for example, Havelock Street / Montcalm Street / Greenfield Avenue). An extension of the noise barrier north-easterly would be expected to provide little noise attenuation, due to the distanced of the proposed noise barrier extension from Highway 417."

I have asked Glen if he can think of any other possible future actions that we could pursue. Note though that he will not be able to attend the April board meeting.

On-going safety concerns on the Bank St Bridge at the canal

On March 4, 2016 the OOECA sent a letter to our Councillor endorsing the requests of the Glebe Community Association and the Ottawa South Community Association for a comprehensive road safety study of the Bank Street Bridge section of Bank Street (from Holmwood to Aylmer); our goal was that measures would be identified and implemented to address the serious safety issues that have been aggravated by the rebuilt Lansdowne Park.

On March 8, 2016 we received the following response from Ian G in the Councillor's office:

"One of the major challenges in requesting an Area Traffic Management (ATM) Study is that locations from across the City are placed in a priority queue. Those locations with significant collision and injury data are prioritized while those with less (or none) are placed in queue in

appropriate order. We are fortunate that this stretch of Bank street, albeit frightening at times for both cyclists and pedestrians, does not have a significant history of collisions or injury.

It would appear to most casual observers (including myself and the Councillor) that the major factors at play here are speed and proximity – speed of motorists on the road and cyclists on sidewalks; and the overall proximity of cars to cyclists and motorists to pedestrians. Due to the heritage nature of the bridge itself, and traffic volumes over the bridge, the City has been rather constricted in potential infrastructure changes to the bridge, the lynch-pin of this stretch of Bank.

To date, the Councillor has begun conversations with City staff on the Bank & Wilton intersection in an attempt to address illegal lefts onto Bank. Further ... the Councillor has requested that two speed boards be installed on the Bank Street bridge, one in either direction, to help identify speeds to motorists while also capturing road volumes and speed data for future use as needed. Lastly ... a series of cycling safety events will be scheduled this summer in Capital Ward. One element will see a blitz of etiquette signage go up in the Ward highlighting to motorists, cyclist and pedestrians the meaning behind some newer road markings (sharrows) and where appropriate and inappropriate locations for cycling might be.

I will move forward and request an ATM for this stretch of Bank street. I suspect that it will be delayed until at least the fall of this year, at the earliest, due to the backlog of requests in queue.”

***Sandy Hill Community Health Centre community consultations**

The SHCHC is currently conducting community consultations on their proposed model for supervised injection services within their Centre at 221 Nelson St.

We have been asked whether we would like a representative from SHCHC to provide information at a special session, which could be at their Centre or in our community; another option would be for members of our community to attend one of the community consultation sessions at their Centre (note sessions are currently scheduled for every Monday evening from 6:30-8:00pm and pre-registration is required).

***Proposed boundary changes to Elgin Street Public School**

On Tuesday, April 5, the Ottawa Board of Education altered their initial decision to move all kindergarden students to Centennial Public School. They instead will be moving the English program to Centennial. Catherine Pacella (our Communications rep on the Board + a co-chair of the Elgin Street School Parent Council) will provide feedback and an update on the latest school board decisions.

113-115 Echo Drive

Members of the OOE Planning Committee met with Barry Hobin and Uniform Development on Monday, March 21 to review the latest design plans. Uniform indicated that they would like to make a presentation at an upcoming Board meeting (possibly in May) to show their plans to the broader community. Stephen will discuss this project in greater detail in his planning report.