

Chair's report April 9, 2019

OOE CA Board

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Seebaran for his participation on our Board for the past 3 1/2 years; in addition to being an active participant at our monthly planning committee meetings, he was our Health and Safety rep from November 2015-17 & then took over the Federation for Citizens Association (FCA) file in November 2017
- please note that we are hoping that someone else from either the current board or the extended community might be interested in taking on the FCA role for at least the remainder of this board's term
- we are also going to move a motion at our next meeting for Joan and Alexandra to switch duties; Joan will become a member at large while Alexandra will become the chair of SLOE; this is a change that better fits both of their schedules

Collaborative Justice Program (CJP) follow-up

- Amber Montgomery, a caseworker for the CJP, has offered to attend our May 14 board meeting to present information about the CJP process and restorative justice in general, as well as the specific Archville vandalism case
- the sentencing date in relation to this case has been set for May 7, 2019; Amber has agreed to provide an overview that includes the final outcome of the case and all of the Judges recommendations
- note that the Investigating Officer of the Archville incident, Elizabeth Hull, is also interested in being a part of this conversation, so we are hopeful her schedule will allow her to attend this meeting as well

Deschatelets - community centre, gym, affordable housing

- the Councillor has convened a meeting of Regional & city officials as well as community association & CAG representatives for April 24 for a general update about the building

Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est - plans for Deschatelets

- we have received a request from Mr. Sirois, Director of Education of the CECCE to meet with some parents of the elementary school in the heart of Ottawa to discuss CECCE's intentions regarding the Deschatelets Building on Main Street
- the timing & location still need to be worked out
- if anyone would be interested in also attending such a meeting, please let me know

Snow clearing & snow removal community forum

- although it seems that spring may now finally have arrived, I thought the community might be interested in a few of my take aways from the March 20 event organized by our Councillor and his urban councillor counterparts

- this was a well attended event, with staff providing information on current winter maintenance quality standards (first developed in 2003 & have not been updated since then) & then responding to the many questions posed
- I believe that a summary is being prepared, so for now I'll just make a few observations:
 - * the city recognizes the impact of high buildings & shading on pedestrian accessibility;
 - * the current maintenance standards do not consider population in the designation of sidewalk (which determines nature & speed of snow removal);
 - * there are no funds allocated in this year's budget to review the current maintenance quality standards - the plan is for funds to be allocated in 2020/21
- thus it could be many years before standards change

Immaculata sports field

- I met with Sean Power, the new principal of Immaculata High School (IHS), on March 25; this was a precursor to a meeting on April 3, which included 2 IHS coaches + representatives of the Footy 7s
- at the 1st meeting, Sean outlined a few issues from the school's perspective (i.e., illegal parking in their lots & bike/ pedestrian conflicts in bus loading areas) & I responded by outlining some concerns from the community's perspective (most of which got covered as well in the broader meeting - see below)
- prior to these meetings I canvassed both residents who live close to the field & some members of our board to get a better understanding of issues; thanks to everyone who provided info
- the April 3 meeting covered a lot of topics; the most important to us were the discussion of traffic issues, field maintenance, lights & landscaping + scheduling, including the potential for community use
- note that IHS uses their school website to show planned weekly field usage [<http://imh.ocsb.ca/home> & check calendar - bottom of middle column]; generally the community should have access to the track between 7:00-8:20am
- IHS hopes to have their students on the field as of the week of April 8
- the Footy 7s will start maintenance very soon, with some rental groups already booked for next week; they expect that there should be 7/side games on the field most nights after Easter
- the Footy 7s noted that the track is open to the public while they operate (i.e., after 6:00pm on weekdays & when they have opened the gates on the weekend); however caution is advised when running beside active games
- they do not expect to use the field themselves on Saturday this season; rentals will be their focus on this day
- I also made a number of requests for additional information: data re the amount of additional rubber crumb added throughout the season (the Footy 7s followed up with some additional info), monitoring of the temperature of the field versus the ambient temperature on hot days (IHS agreed to look into the feasibility of doing this)

Lansdowne vision

- as many of you may already be aware, Lansdowne was in the news this week when a report was tabled for discussion at the city's FEDCO committee
- our councillor released his own document on April 2: https://www.shawnmenard.ca/lansdowne_a_place_for_people
- & subsequent to this report being released, the Glebe Community Association approached Shawn & pressed for more discussion with the surrounding communities (the Glebe, OOS & us)
- the councillor's office has indicated it will be organizing a meeting with community representatives

All candidates meeting for federal election

- The Centretown Community Association (CCA) is in the process of gauging interest in organizing an Ottawa Centre all-candidates meeting for the federal election scheduled for October.
- the plan is to build on the success enjoyed in 2018 with the all-candidates meeting for the provincial & municipal elections
- Jaime and Ron led these efforts on behalf of OOE in 2018; we are looking for some new volunteers this time

Rideau canal walls at Echo Drive, construction update

- on March 14, I received an update with information concerning next steps for construction as well as a detour map
- briefly: the cofferdam is to be completed by the end of March, so that canal wall reconstruction can continue during the navigation season; pumps will be operating to ensure a dry work area is available; the contractor will then begin excavating and removing the lower section of canal wall to allow for the installation of anchors for the new wall, which will require the installation of steel piles
- This project is expected to be completed in spring 2020.
- For up-to-date news on infrastructure work along the Rideau Canal, please visit the website: www.pc.gc.ca/rcInfrastructure. If you would like to be added to their community engagement list to receive updates on this project, please e-mail RideauCanal.info@pc.gc.ca and include "Rideau Canal walls" in the subject heading.