

Old Ottawa East Community Association meeting

December 10, 2019

7 pm, Old Town Hall

Attendance: Jayson MacLean, Councillor Menard, Courtenay Beauregard, Peter Beaman, Monica Helm, Phyllis Odenbach Sutton, Heather Jarrett, John Jarrett, Richard Cundall, Taylor Marquis, Christian Pupp, Tina Raymond, Tom Scott, Joyce Scott, Jamie Brogham, John Dance, Paul Goodkey, Brandan O'Kelly, Dan Byrne, Catherine Pacella, Bob Gordon, Jaime Girard

Motion to approve agenda: moved by Phyllis, seconded by John

Motion to approve October 2019 minutes: moved by Don, seconded by Tom

Chair's report – Jaime

- Had a great AGM, will be having AGM at church again for 2020, will look at format
- Motion to move November 10, 2020, AGM at the Church of the Ascension: moved by Jayson, seconded by Don

Councillor's report – Shawn Menard

- Holiday party for the ward – December 19 at Bandito's restaurant in the Glebe
- 417 bridge replacement – letter from the city to the MTO, response from MTO was fairly dismissive. Head of planning will be sending a second letter. Shawn has concerns that land will be left bare after expropriation, wants to see it return to commercial so it can be a traditional main street.
- OCSB/Footy Sevens – met recently to look at them using Lees field (turf field) during certain hours.
- Climate change master plan and tree bylaw – coming to environment committee meeting on December 17, 2019.
- Transportation master plan – city has just initiated community consultation, first round is open to comments until late January 2020
- Springhurst Park – have chosen a nature theme after feedback from community residents
- Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan – to be looked at as part of Official Plan review
- Question – will the city commit to showing us exactly what is being proposed in OP? Shawn raised it and was told they will share information/maps but not until draft is ready. Shawn is advocating for information/maps to be shared sooner rather than later.
- Question – what expectations do you have for timing of new Official Plan? City is saying OP will be in place in draft by October 2020, and voted on in 2021.
- Question – is the plan to snow clear entire Rideau River western pathway? Shawn's office has asked for this to happen regularly.
- Question – what is happening with the Lansdowne consultation and what are your goals? Shawn met with three community associations recently, no consultation dates set yet, nothing likely until new year. Two auditor's report expected on Lansdowne, but not

expected until after June decision. Shawn has raised concerns that this information needs to be released before decision.

- Question – any thought toward enhancement of green space along Rideau River? It's all brownfield so it would require some work, it's about prioritization of things.

Treasurer's report - \$24,432.53

Committee report:

- Planning – Jeff absent
- SLOE – Jayson – **report attached**
 - o Oblats history sign along the river, sign will be moved to new pathway
 - o December 16, Royal Oak – 7p – gathering to discuss ideas for SLOE on sustainability
 - o January 23, Old Town Hall, 7p – brainstorming session for more concrete plans
 - o SLOE looking for some representatives on a few different groups active in the city, including some groups focused on the official plan, Greenspace Alliance, CAFES
 - o Rotating series of authors from the community writing about environmental issues in the Mainstreeter
- Transportation – Tom – **report attached**
 - o Have received an interim response re: sound barriers – no real answer, just spoke about the process again
 - o Lack of handrails on Lees Avenue bridge – haven't received a response yet
 - o Truck bans on Colonel By – still being used, not enough enforcement – letter sent
- Parks and Greenspace – Alexandra absent – **report attached**
- Communications – Bob
 - o Had a few discussions about moving forward – need to put into place a process so that committees can contribute their own material directly
 - o Brief discussions about contributing money toward the project, likely in excess of \$2000 so it would require a special general meeting
 - o Also want to look at branding
- Corners on Main & Greystone Village – no report
- Health & Safety – absent
- Membership – Suzanne – **report attached**
- Lansdowne – Richard – no report

Community Activities Group – Tina

- work on back porch continues
- winter programming available
- Looking for volunteers for winter party in the park – January 26, 2020

- Question raised about not being able to post information in the eUpdate about the appeal fundraiser because city says it's not allowed, still an ongoing discussion for CAG and it's on the agenda for their next meeting

New Business

- Tom - Shared story about apple tree in neighbourhood, was able to pick apples and make jam
- Ontario has a heritage tree program, Ottawa only has a few
- Important to preserve this in our community
- Protect trees from encroachment by development

- Tree knocked over in Ballentyne Park, needs to come down
- Ariela will follow up

Motion to adjourn: moved by John, seconded by Phyllis

Attachments:

*** Parks and Greenspace chair's report, Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay**

1. Adopt-a-Park

- The Springhurst Park "adoption" had expired in 2017; the adoption has now been renewed for 5 years.
- The adoption for Brantwood Park will be up for renewal in June 2020, and we'll follow up with renewal at that time.
- Ballantyne Park has now been adopted for a five-year period. Since the park likely will be used as a staging area for 417 bridge replacement works, it seemed important to bookmark the space as a community park.

All park adoptions are in the name of Old Ottawa East Community Association (Parks Committee).

2. Junior Playground Rehabilitation – Springhurst Park

- Following community consultation, and voting between two design options: nautical or nature, the winning design for the new junior playground at Springhurst is "nature"

<https://engage.ottawa.ca/springhurst-park>

3. Cash-in-lieu of Parkland projects update

- City staff have reviewed our CiLP requests, and have indicated which projects are eligible for CiLP funding, and also, have revised some (most) of the community cost estimates

- These responses will be reviewed and discussed with the councillor's office with a view to presenting the revised priority list at the January board meeting

*** SLOE report, Jayson MacLean**

Item 1 — News concerning ongoing projects

- River pathway: Oblates History sign
 - Vicki Davis alerted SLOE (via Rebecca Aird) that the placard along the river in behind Greystone needs to be moved closer to the new pathway. Rebecca set up a meeting with Regional representative Erin O'Connor which took place on Friday, November 29, and Erin has agreed to have the sign moved to a more appropriate placing.

Item 2 — Recruitment — SLOE needs people!

- SLOE and the OOECA need representation on:
 - **CAFES: Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability:** this is a forum for representatives of community and residents associations to engage with the City of Ottawa on environmental issues
 - **Ecology Ottawa's Council Watch:** this initiative has team members attending relevant City committee meetings and monitoring the City's media and online reports and reporting on the news via blog posts
 - **The People's Official Plan:** this is a coalition of organizations including Greenspace Alliance, Ecology Ottawa and CAFES which is pushing the City to adopt climate solutions within the new Official Plan
- Interested folks can contact Jayson at sloe@ottawaeast.ca

Item 3 — Brainstorming for community projects — SLOE needs people again!

- SLOE is now collecting ideas from the community on projects to tackle related to environment, sustainability and climate change. Building on the amazing successes already achieved by community members through SLOE, we are aiming to connect with people from all parts of the neighbourhood to find out what concerns folks might have, where their interests lie and what issues they're passionate about.
- Outreach channels:
 - SLOE mailing list
 - Mainstreeter notice (more on this below)
 - **December Meet n' Greet:** Monday, December 16, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Royal Oak on Echo Drive. SLOE welcomes you to the Oak for a chat on environment and sustainability. Come for ten minutes or stay for an hour and a half! The aim is to connect with each other and to get the ideas percolating.

- **January Brainstorming session:** Thursday, January 23, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, main floor room, Old Town Hall, 61 Main Street. We're looking to nail down new and/or revived projects for SLOE and to spark community interest in pursuing them!

Item 4 — New SLOE initiative: Mainstreeter ongoing column

- Spearheaded by Judith Kennedy and Peter Croal
- Each article is to be penned by a different community member
- The purpose is to give space for community members with either expertise or interest in a particular environmental issue to speak to that topic in a local and/or personal sense, with an overall aim of inspiring community discussion and action on environment, sustainability and climate change.
- SLOE will help with recruiting authors and will include a blurb at the end of each piece requesting interested folks to contact SLOE about volunteering, sharing ideas, etc.

***Membership Report, Suzanne Johnston**

The membership drive for 2020 is now finished and last few memberships kits have been returned. Our preliminary numbers are showing a record number of members and we will have a final tally, shortly.

I would like to give a huge thank you for all that participated in this year's drive. Without the dedication of the many canvassers and captains this drive would not happen. So, thank you for being involved in the only fundraising activity for the Old Ottawa East Community Association.

As a community we are fortunate to have an engaged community and many long time volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers for their many years of work in the community and on the membership drive.

Behind the scenes, Wendy McRae continues to ensure the kits and lists are updated - a huge undertaking and time commitment. Wendy has managed this job for many years and we thank you.

Jan D'Arcy and Vicki Davis – also long time community volunteers and zone captains continue to ensure each street in their respective zones are canvassed and deliver and pick up kits from their canvassers. Their zones are always well canvassed and their ability to recruit new canvassers never ceases to amaze.

This year we have a new Zone with the many new residents in the Domicile and Greystone Development. Heather Jarrett a long time Old Ottawa East resident has done an outstanding job at recruiting new canvassers, organizing and welcoming the many new residents to the Old Ottawa East Community.

As always, we are looking for new canvassers and as our community continues to grow, so does the need for additional canvassers. If your street or building has not been canvassed, it is most likely that either the canvasser came when you were not home, or your street or building may be one of the few that does not have a canvasser. If you or anyone you know would like to get involved, please contact myself, Suzanne Johnston at suzanne.johnston@sympatico.ca

The time commitment is quite minimal, usually 1-2 hours and involves the following:

- Picking up canvassing kit from your Zone captain over the next few weeks
- Go door to door on a sunny day on your appointed street to hand out notices for the Annual General Meeting and either renewing or signing up new households for \$3,00.
- Handing back our canvassing kit with information to your Zone Captain around the end of October
- Attending a get together for all the Canvassers and Captains held by the membership chair the first week of November – Best part!!

Although canvassing in Condo or apartment buildings continues to be a challenge, we have had some luck in a few of the buildings this year thanks to dedicated residents. We invite residents of the OOE who live in apartments or Condos to get involved and help us spread the word about community involvement within your apartment building or Condo.

***Transportation Committee report, Tom Scott**

A. Transportation Committee Report

1. MTO bridge reconstruction projects

Nicholas

- Request to City and Province was submitted for noise barrier improvements now not later
- Interim response received from MTO on December 9, but didn't answer the question directly
- Concern about a lack of handrails on the Lees Avenue bridge was also noted to MTO as an urgent safety concern , but no direct reply on that matter

Main/Rideau Canal/Elgin/Metcalf projects

- Now added to this list are O'Connor and Bank
 - Planned start at Main in 2025
 - Concerns about the to-be-expropriated properties and Ballantyne Park to be discussed with Councillor's office in the New Year
2. Lack of enforcement of heavy-truck bans on Colonel By Drive and King Edward was noted to Minister of Transportation and to the City; general lack of enforcement of "No Engine Braking" also highlighted, but notably on Nicholas approaches to the 417
- No reply from either City or Province

B. Planning Report

3. A “Notice of Commencement of Transportation Master Plan Update Environmental Assessment Process was posted by the City on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Inputs on the City’s website-based questionnaire are requested before January 24, 2020.
4. On December 9, 2019 the City held a joint Planning and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting to review the Official Plan process:

That Planning Committee and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council:

1. **approve the recommended population, household and employment projections as the basis for the new Official Plan in Document 1;**
 2. **approve the Preliminary Policy Directions for the new Official Plan in Document 2;**
 3. **direct staff to bring a report to a joint meeting of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and Planning Committee, and Council in March 2020 outlining the land budget and detailed expansion area criteria that will be used to inform the growth strategy in the new Official Plan;**
 4. **direct staff to prepare a draft Official Plan to be tabled in October 2020 based on the Preliminary Policy Directions in Document 2 and the land budget and detailed expansion criteria approved in March 2020;**
 5. **direct staff to initiate preparatory work in Q1 2020 to implement the new Official Plan in the Zoning By-law and bring a work plan to Council by Q4 2020, using current staff resources;**
 5. **suspend the distribution and delivery requirements under Subsection 29(3) and 34(1) of the Procedure By-law to consider this report at its meeting on December 11, 2019.**
- The question of the expansion of the urban boundary was deferred to the March 2020 meeting by a subsequent motion from the Chair of the ARA, in part because of a request from the Algonquins of Ontario
 - The preliminary report is based on an approach that staff titled Five Big Moves:
 1. Growth: Achieve, by the end of the Plan’s planning period, more growth by intensification than by greenfield development. This growth will provide for complete communities and a variety of affordable housing options.
 2. Mobility: By 2046, the majority of trips in the city of Ottawa will be made by sustainable transportation (walking, cycling, transit or carpool).

3. Urban Design: Improve our sophistication in urban and community design, and put this knowledge to the service of good urbanism at all scales, from the largest to the very small.
4. Resiliency: Embed public health, environmental, climate and energy resiliency into the framework of our planning policies.
5. Economy: Embed economic development into the framework of our planning policies.

There were also five preliminary policy directives put forward by staff, which the general manager of planning summarized as follows:

1. Integrating land use, environment and transportation: planning for context
2. Intensification strategy that relies more on low-rise buildings
3. Integration of public health and climate
4. “tactical” economic development
5. New opportunities for rural Ottawa (growth-related recommendations are deferred to part 2 of these discussion in March of 2020)

There were five hours of firstly the City’s presentation and then secondly, over twenty representations followed thirdly by Councillors’ questions to staff and consideration of the motion.

My own input on behalf of OOECA was second last among the representations.

“Thank you to the two Chairs. I heard the word PREDICTABILITY used a number of times in both the staff presentation and in community inputs. I had a hard time convincing some of my colleagues to have any input to the Official Plan renewal, given Old Ottawa East’s recent history with the outcomes of the planning process – notably on the former Oblate lands. Nevertheless, we appreciate the opportunity to participate and look forward to community engagement especially for the renewal of Secondary Plans and Community Development Plans.

In that sense of predictability, I have two questions:

- Have the Chairs of these committees or any member-Councillors received any briefings or other information about the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor in the context of this Official Plan renewal, or the associated Transportation Master Plan renewal, or its Environmental Assessment update process, the notice of which was just posted in the Citizen?
- If the answer is no (and indeed the Chair, Jan Harder interrupted to say just that – no) should the Chairs or any other members subsequently receive any such briefings or information concerning the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor would they immediately share those with the Councillors in the affected Wards (not being members of either of these committees)?

The Chair then asked why I hadn't simply asked the Councillor to present this but I deferred saying that "I had not intended to pose such a detailed question at this stage in the development of the new Official Plan, except for the City's announcement of the Environmental Assessment process – what is in and what is out are certainly not clear at all, and the Community Association doesn't want to hear – "well you should have provided input before January 24!" So, that is the main reason why I am intervening today."

I have to trust that our Councillor and City staff heard the message clearly and will take it to heart to ensure informed and open dialogue. For our community, a lot of other dominoes would fall based on decisions about AVTC. Some of you may recall that Jan Harder remarked, when concerns were raised about the Main Street complete street plan and possible traffic congestion, that now the Alta Vista Expressway was back on the books. She later tried to explain to Councillor Chernushenko that was a joke but it really was a jarring comment. The ultimate status of AVTC and possible use of the associated reserved lands are both still pretty opaque.

I recommend that you all go to the City website and look for the New Official Plan – Preliminary Policy Directions documents that are attached to the Committee agenda:

<https://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=7850&doctype=AGENDA>