



## Meeting of the Old Ottawa East Community Association Board

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 7p.m.

Zoom meeting

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Bob Gordon
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2021
4. Chair’s Report – Bob Gordon
5. Councillor’s Report
6. Regional Update
7. Treasurer’s Report – Don Fugler
  - Current balance is: \$17,974.13 (no transactions this month)
8. CAG report - Tina Raymond
9. Draft Official Plan – Ron Rose
10. Mainstreeter discussion – payment for column
11. Ward Boundary Review update – John Dance (\*Please see attachment after committee reports)
12. Committee reports (\*all received reports attached below)
  - Planning – Ron Rose (interim chair)
  - SLOE – Jayson MacLean
  - Health and Safety – Courtenay Beauregard
  - Lansdowne – John Dance
  - Communications – Bob Gordon
  - FCA – Ron Rose
  - Corners on Main and Greystone Village – Peter Tobin
  - Parks and Greenspace – Brendan O’Kelly
  - Membership – Suzanne Johnston
13. New Business
14. Date of Next Meeting – March 9, 2021

## 15. Adjournment

Attachments:

### **Committee reports:**

#### **Greystone Village / Corners on Main – Peter Tobin**

I have been in touch with Danielle Chatelain, superintendent with the Conseil des Ecoles Cath du Centre - Est and expect that she will attend our March 9 meeting to provide us with a progress report on the CECCE's re-purposing of the Deschatelets building.

#### **Lees Apartments**

I have phoned Cogir, the management company for the apartment building at 190 Lees re the garbage that overflows the many bins close to the MUP connecting the River trail MUP to Lees Av. I will continue to monitor this situation.

#### **Lansdowne Park – John Dance**

##### ***OOECA Lansdowne Committee***

No meeting of the committee nor of the Lansdowne Community Consultation Group (LCCG) took place over the last month.

##### ***Lansdowne Review***

Despite the review being announced two months ago, the City has not contacted community associations or their members on the LCCG to discuss the terms of reference and how community associations are proposed to be involved. Yet the review is to be completed by June.

##### ***Proposed Changes to Aberdeen Square***

As of this writing, there still has been no decision on whether to proceed with the “improvements” OSEG proposed back in August 2020 but were objected to by many who participated in the October 2020 consultation. None of the changes requested by residents or Councillor Menard has been reflected in proposals.

The legal agreement between the City and OSEG for Casino Lac Leamy’s sponsorship of Aberdeen Square includes reference to a “performance structure” measuring 20 x 24 feet, however, OSEG has proposed a stage with a maximum size 2.5 times this.

##### ***Lansdowne and the Official Plan***

The draft Official Plan proposes to make Lansdowne Park one of the new “special districts” (like along the Rideau Canal).

However, the wording included in the draft seems to give primacy to the professional sports and entertainment aspects of the Park, with community needs and interests subrogated to these (see extract below). **We would recommend that in the OOECA input to the OP it be requested that the Lansdowne wording be revised and the OP’s vision be inverted such that vibrant community life becomes the primary focus and goal, while professional**

sports and entertainment be recognized as only one of a number of components that, in their totality will make the Park a success.

This is important because in the pending review of the park possible changes should be viewed in the context of what's best for surrounding communities and users of the park who are not just there for attending events.

There are two main reasons for this: 1. Lansdowne, while being a regional asset, is also a neighbourhood feature and therefore needs to serve neighbourhood needs 2. From the perspective of the fiscal success of the park, intermittent fan or tourist traffic cannot generate sufficient income for the Park. Even the Farmers' Market vendors will remark that a fair number of visitors come for the atmosphere but not to buy. We do not want the review to be focused on what's best for professional sports and large entertainment events at Lansdowne at the expense of what is best for the community and the viability of the Park in general.

**From OP draft:**

6.6.6 Lansdowne

One of Canada's marquee urban stadium developments, Lansdowne is a contemporary demonstration of the successful integration of a large professional sports facility within an established neighbourhood, on a site that also provides restaurants, housing, retail, heritage buildings and community facilities. Its setting is within a central, mature neighbourhood that is rich in cultural heritage and geographic attributes. Lansdowne is successful because it delivers year-round spectator sporting events and major national and international events which attract residents and visitors from across the city and beyond. Lansdowne also provides local residents with services and amenities to meet their daily needs. Enhancing links to pedestrian and cycle systems, advancing transit options and innovative transportation demand management are critical.

And a Footnote

"Just for fun," Lansdowne Committee member Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay created "two juxtaposed 'wordles' that show what words are prominent in the community life section of the proposed Union Park development in Toronto compared to the language about Lansdowne in 6.6.6 of the OP." See below:

Union Park Toronto, Proposed Development surrounding Rogers Centre, Oxford Properties Group, "The Community"



Note emphasis on: community, park, spaces, include, provide, amenities, daycare



Note emphasis on: Lansdowne, sports, successful, events, facilities, residents, neighbourhood

Parks and Greenspace report – Brendan O’Kelly

The current membership of the committee is:

- Brendan O’Kelly, Chair
- Georgia Blondon
- Krista Broeckx
- John Dance
- Kristine Houde
- Rick Burrowes

The committee met in January and agreed that we want to know more about who is using our neighbourhood parks and how. The idea is to identify which parks and greenspaces in the neighbourhood people are familiar with, as well as which areas and recreational amenities may be underused. This will serve to not only highlight the importance of existing parks, but also to identify valued greenspace before it is potentially altered or reduced.

When the details are finalized, there is a plan to put out a public survey about neighbourhood greenspace use.

Given the new membership, the committee is also working on drafting a new letter reaffirming its opposition to the AVTC plans.

## **Springhurst Park**

The city has not yet announced the release of the tender package for the recreational amenities.

### **Ward Boundary Change - Removal of uOttawa Lees Campus from Capital Ward:**

#### **Update and Next Steps**

**Issue:** The City has shown no willingness to correct its mistaken removal of the uOttawa Lees campus from Capital Ward boundaries so the questions are should the community association make further attempts to correct the situation and, if so, what should they be.

#### ***Background:***

- At last month’s meeting the Board agreed to request that City of Ottawa cancel the proposed transfer of the uOttawa Lees campus to Rideau-Vanier Ward. To that end, President Bob Gordon sent the attached letter to Mayor Jim Watson. (Annex A)

- The Mayor’s office responded, “Thank you for reaching out to Mayor Jim Watson’s office. By way of this email, I am confirming the receipt of your correspondence and the attached letter. I have personally forwarded it over to the Mayor for his review and consideration. All the best.” But there was no further correspondence from the Mayor’s office.

- On January 27, 2020 a by-law was enacted that transfers the Lees uOttawa campus to Rideau-Vanier. The changed boundaries are to be in effect for the next “three to four” elections.

- Other new information pertaining to the ward boundary change is:

- the University of Ottawa did not request the change
- Action Sandy Hill (the community association of SH) was unaware of the change

- Rideau-Vanier Councillor Mathieu Fleury emailed the Mainstreeter, "I did speak about the boundaries of the University to the consultants, but as you know, their conclusions were driven by multiple consultations including with my colleagues and other residents."

- At this point the only possible way of reversing the decision is to appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, something that must be done by March 15, 2021 and would cost \$400 (\$1000 if not accepted as a non-profit).

- Ward boundary changes are supposed to improve "effective representation" yet in this case all three relevant criteria for effective representation through a ward boundary change (Annex B) are better satisfied with the Lees campus remaining in Capital Ward. For this reason, OOECA should have a reasonable chance of a successful appeal (in my opinion). For a broader perspective on Capital Ward boundaries see Annex C, Clive Doucet's recent views.

***Recommendation / Motion:***

Moved that the OOECA appeal the transfer to the Local Planning Appeal Board provided that the cost of the appeal is covered by John Dance. No lawyer will be hired should an appeal be made.

**Annex A**



**By Email**

**January 15, 2021**

**Mayor Jim Watson  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1**

**Dear Mayor Watson:**

***Poorly Conceived Ward Boundary Change (uOttawa - Lees Campus) Affecting Capital Ward***

**The Old Ottawa East Community Association respectfully requests that a change made during the course of the Ward Boundary Review be reversed before the by-law is proclaimed January 27, 2021. The change does not meet the City's criteria required for a ward boundary change.**

Specifically, on December 9, 2020 City Council approved ward boundary changes that included the transfer of the University of Ottawa's Lees Avenue campus from Capital Ward to Rideau-Vanier.

This transfer was introduced by an unknown party near the end of the lengthy ward boundary consultation process but the Old Ottawa East Community Association and the Old Ottawa East community were not made aware of the change until after FEDCO had blessed it.

Specifically, the "Recommendations Report" for Council recommended:

*"Move the Gee-Gees sports field from W6-19 (Capital) to W6-17 (Rideau-Vanier). The reasons given refer to a better boundary (the River rather than Highway 417) and the area's association with sports facilities directly to the north in Rideau-Vanier. In the recommended ward boundary configuration, the Gee-Gees sports field is moved from W6-19 to W6-17. There are no residents in this area." (p23) The report later says: "At Robinson Park and Gee Gees Field, #417 is not a big boundary; use the River instead." (p34)*

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The fundamental criterion for making ward boundary changes is to "achieve voter parity." The transfer of the Lees campus will be detrimental to voter parity because Rideau-Vanier is forecast to grow faster than Capital. So why would you transfer an area with considerable development potential (it's part of the Lees transit-oriented development area) to a recipient ward that already is larger than the donor ward and is growing faster than the donor ward?

A second criterion is "respecting natural/physical boundaries." The recommendation's argument "#417 is not a big boundary; use the River instead," is ludicrous: the river doesn't become the new boundary - the LRT line does. In absolutely no way is the LRT line as significant a "physical boundary" as is Highway 417.

The third criterion pertains to "communities of interest" and the recommendation erroneously implies that the primary "community of interest" for the Lees uOttawa campus are users of "sports facilities" that are on both sides of Highway 417. The actual dominant "community of interest" is Capital Ward's Old Ottawa East that has included the Lees campus area for more than a century.

So the poorly-conceived Lees campus ward transfer fails to satisfy the three criteria required for a boundary change. Indeed, the transfer violates what ward boundary changes are supposed to achieve. The request for the transfer was from an unknown party and is strongly opposed by the Old Ottawa East Community Association.

One final point: the "Recommendations Report" spoke of just the "sports field." Councillors were misled by this wording because, as the report's map (attached) shows, the boundary change is for the entire Lees Avenue campus of the University of Ottawa.

We do not want to have to seek correction of this mistaken transfer through an LPAT appeal. Please correct the mistake now. If your officers wish to discuss this issue with the association please have them call OOECA Board member John Dance at 613 236 0650.

**Bob Gordon**  
**President**  
**Old Ottawa East Community Association**

**Cc: S. Menard**  
**M. Fleury**  
**L. Dudas**  
**Beate Bowron**

**Attachment - Map Showing “New” Boundary**



**Enlargement of area being transferred: south of 417, west of the Rideau River, east of LRT**



Annex B

## Ward Boundary Review Case Law and the Principle of “Effective Representation”

**Representation by Population:** In a successful ward system, every Councillor will represent generally the same number of people. This is often referred to as ‘voter parity’. Usually, population variations of up to 25% above or below the average size are considered acceptable.

**Consideration of present and future population trends:** A ward boundary review must consider future increases or decreases in population in order to ensure that wards continue to meet the representation by population criterion as the City grows. The goal is to design a system that can be used for three elections.

→ Rideau Vanier already is more populous than Capital and RV is forecast to grow at a faster rate. Although at present the Lees uOttawa lands currently have no residents, they are part of the Lees transit-oriented development which will have more than 10,000 new residents

**Consideration of natural and physical boundaries:** Natural and physical boundaries shape patterns of life in cities, and so ward designs should respect these features.

→ The new boundary is the LRT line vs the previous boundary of Highway 417. Highway 417 is truly dividing, unlike the LRT trench.

**Communities of Interest:** Ward boundaries should consider settlement patterns, traditional neighbourhoods and community groupings in specific geographic locations. Where possible, ward boundaries should not fragment a community.

→ *The City argues that users of Sandy Hill's Robinson field constitute a stronger community of interest in the Lees campus than those who live just to the west of the campus. The reality is that the Lees campus has been part of Capital Ward's Old Ottawa East for more than a century and the nearby residents have a much greater interest in what happens on the Lees Campus than do any occasional users of both Robinson Field and the University's field. The City refused to divulge any information on whether there really were any such joint users.*

**Effective Representation:** Considered the ultimate goal of all ward boundary reviews, effective representation aims at achieving fair and equal representation for voters to the greatest extent possible. The primary consideration is voter parity, but effective representation also takes into account the all other criteria.”

## Annex C

### Former Capital Ward Councillor Clive Doucet's Views on Ward Boundaries

Someone was always trying to take a chunk out of Capital Ward. I remember someone went after Heron Park. Someone else went after the high rises along Riverside Drive, all in the name of efficiency.

Fortunately, I was able to fight off both. If you look at shape of Capital Ward, it's the shape of a human heart. It is also at the geographic epicentre of the city. The ward itself has more train stops, more universities, more shopping streets, more community newspapers and world famous festivals and tourist sites. Most of the historic part of the Rideau Canal flows through it and all of the festivals connected to it happen there.

The ward is composed of six distinct communities and they have always been well connected and grown more so over the years with the pedestrian bridge over the canal, restored community centres, small boat launches along the Rideau Canal and the expansion of educational facilities.

No other ward can claim three universities as residents, Carleton, St. Paul and U. of O. The communities are tight within themselves and tightly connected between each other. It's the only ward I know of with that has its own shinny hockey cup. As councillor I could visit every corner of the ward from my house in no more than twenty minutes on a bicycle because of the heart shape and the density of population.

Capital Ward has always struggled against the city's desire to chop it up from the appropriation of its principal public space and the continual refusal of the council to respect its own zoning bi-laws, Official and community plans.

Over the years, it has fought back valiantly to preserve its history, character and sense of a distinct place especially within the new amalgamated city. I love it, but don't think the current Mayor does as he has always done whatever he could to weaken it. I remember the first thing I did as a new Regional Councillor was present the case at old Ottawa's City Hall and to the present Mayor, the same one who is presiding today for not selling off a city work yard next to Windsor Park for more condos. We were successful and it was greened up and attached to the park.

This issue is no different. Different battle. Same war. The ward will be weakened if council arbitrarily slices off a piece and passes it over to another ward. It will help to break that sense of shared history, community connection and common cause. If he could I'm confident the current Mayor would dissolve the entire ward by attaching each part to another ward. This is his style. Beyond being Mayor, what he cares about I do not know.

